Assessment of Health Facility Readiness for Family Planning Services in Sagnarigu Municipality, Northern Ghana

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Abstract: Background: Ghana has an annual family planning (FP) coverage target, but achievement of the set target has become a mirage after the adoption and implementation of its national population policy for more than five decades. Provision of quality health facility FP services results in sound socio-economic wellbeing of women, families, and the entire country. Objectives: This study aimed at assessing management, consulting room, FP supplies, and human resource factors of health facility FP as well as to determine health facility readiness for FP services in the Sagnarigu Municipality in Northern Ghana.

Methods: A quantitative cross-sectional study was conducted among FP unit heads in a census of health facilities. Primary data were collected from the FP unit heads through face-to-face interviews aided by a WHO SARA adapted questionnaire and processes. The main outcome variable was health facility readiness for family planning services. Data were collected on management, consulting room, supplies and human resource domains based on tracer indicators to determine the total domain performance. The four domain totals were used to determine health facility readiness score. Results: Out of a total of all the health facilities assessed for readiness for FP services in Sagnarigu Municipality, CHPS (Community-Based Health Planning and Services) constituted the majority by type of health facilities. Most of the health facility FP unit in-charges interviewed were midwives. Generally, the consulting room domain being the heart of FP services, was generally not ready for services. The overall facility readiness for FP services in Sagnarigu, which was above the WHO SARA threshold of 50%, indicating general services readiness.

Conclusion and Recommendations: Health facilities within Sagnarigu municipality were generally ready for FP services, but there was the need for the Municipal Health Director and his team to improve on consulting rooms across the municipality. Also, stakeholders interested in building new facilities should adhere to the MOH (Ministry of Health) building plans for health facilities to enhance privacy.

Keywords: domain, family planning, northern region, readiness, sagnarigu municipality

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