

Perspective of Community Health Workers on The Sustainability of Primary Health Care

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Abstract : This study determined the perspectives of community health workers' perspectives in the sustainability of primary health care. Eight community health workers, two community officials and a rural health midwife in a rural community in the Philippines were enjoined to share their perspectives in the sustainability of primary health care. The study utilized the critical research method. The critical research assumes that there are 'dominated' or 'marginalized' groups whose interests are not best served by existing societal structures. Their experiences highlighted that the challenges of their role include unkind and uncooperative patients, the lack of institutional support mechanisms and conflict of their roles with their family responsibilities. Their most revealing insight is the belief that primary health care is within their grasp. Finally, they believe that the burden to sustain primary health care rests on their shoulders alone. This study establishes that Multi-stakeholder participation is and Gender-sensitivity is integral to the sustainability of Primary Health Care. It also observed that the ingrained Expert-Novice or Top-down Management Culture and the marginalisation of BHWs within the system is a threat to PHC sustainability. This study also recommends to expand the study and to involve the local government units and academe in lobbying the integration of gender-sensitivity and multi-stake participatory approaches to health workforce policies. Finally, this study recognised that the CHWs' role is indispensable to the sustainability of primary health care.

Keywords : community health workers, multi-stakeholder participation, sustainability, gender-sensitivity

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