



# Effectiveness of Community Health Workers in Tuberculosis Screening Programmes in Northern Uganda: A Comparative Study

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## Abstract

Community health workers (CHWs) play a crucial role in tuberculosis (TB) screening programmes across Africa, particularly in resource-limited settings where access to healthcare is limited. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, including quantitative data from programme records and qualitative interviews with CHWs and community members. Data is collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews to assess the impact of CHWs on TB detection rates and patient outcomes. CHWs in Northern Uganda demonstrated an overall accuracy rate of 85% in identifying TB cases, which was significantly higher than previous studies conducted in similar settings. Interviews revealed that CHWs faced challenges such as limited training and insufficient support from healthcare facilities. The findings suggest that while CHWs are effective in TB screening programmes, their role requires further enhancement through improved training and supportive infrastructure. Health authorities should provide more comprehensive training to CHWs, ensure regular supervision by dedicated health workers, and strengthen community engagement initiatives to optimise the effectiveness of CHW-led TB screening programmes.

**Keywords:** *African Geography, Community Health Workers, TB Screening, Cultural Anthropology, Qualitative Research, Social Epidemiology, Public Health Ethics*

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