



Community-Based Maternal and Child Health Programmes in Rural Ethiopia: A Mixed-Methods Review Study,

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Abstract

Community-based maternal and child health (MCH) programmes have been implemented in rural Ethiopia to address high rates of malnutrition, mortality, and morbidity among children under five years old. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative data from household surveys with qualitative insights through focus group discussions and key informant interviews was employed. Data collection took place across 10 rural communities. Among the 500 households surveyed, over 70% reported improvements in child nutrition status, while 62% of mothers indicated increased breastfeeding practices due to programme support. Qualitative data revealed strong community engagement and positive perceptions towards the programmes' facilitators. The findings suggest significant positive impacts on both maternal health and child survival but highlight the need for sustained funding and tailored interventions to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness. Continued programme support, including financial resources and training for community leaders, is recommended. Additionally, incorporating complementary services such as nutrition education should be considered.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Rural Areas, Maternal Health, Child Mortality, Community Participation, Mixed Methods, Evaluation Studies*

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