



Rural Health Extension Teams and Maternal Health Access in Northern Ethiopia: A Community Engagement Analysis

Selassie Negaotu^{1,2}, Yared Abayeha³, Mekonnen Weyniyegna^{1,2}

¹ Hawassa University

² Debre Markos University

³ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Hawassa University

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Correspondence: snegaotu@yahoo.com

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Author notes

Selassie Negaotu is affiliated with Hawassa University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Yared Abayeha is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Hawassa University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Mekonnen Weyniyegna is affiliated with Hawassa University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

Rural Health Extension Teams (RHETs) are community-based health services in Ethiopia designed to improve access to healthcare for rural populations. A qualitative study using semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis among mothers and community leaders from selected villages. RHETs increased awareness about reproductive health services by 70% among women compared to baseline levels, though access varied significantly based on village characteristics. Community engagement with RHETs was more effective in areas with strong local leadership and resources, suggesting tailored approaches for future interventions. Develop culturally sensitive training programmes for RHET members and invest in infrastructure support in underserved communities to enhance maternal health outcomes. Rural Health Extension Teams, Maternal Health Access, Community Engagement, Northern Ethiopia

Keywords: Ethiopia, Rural Health Extension Teams, Maternal Health, Community Engagement, Qualitative Research, Anthropology, Public Health

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