



Embedding Digital Health Records into Community Health Worker Programmes for Maternal Care in Nairobi Slums

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Abstract

Digital health records (DHRs) are increasingly being integrated into healthcare systems to improve patient care and outcomes. In low- and middle-income countries like Kenya, where access to reliable healthcare services is often limited, digital tools can enhance the efficacy of community-based maternal health programmes. The research employed a mixed-method approach, including surveys of CHWs and community members, focus group discussions with health stakeholders, and quantitative analysis of DHR usage patterns. Data were collected from January to June in four Nairobi slums. A significant proportion (65%) of CHWs reported improved patient follow-up due to the use of DHRs, while 40% noted a reduction in data entry errors and an increase in complete records. Community members expressed greater trust in healthcare providers who used DHRs. The integration of DHRs into CHW programmes appears to have positively impacted maternal care outcomes, with enhanced patient engagement and accurate record-keeping being key facilitators. Given the positive findings, it is recommended that digital health records be fully integrated into standard practice for all maternal care services in Nairobi slums. Training on DHRs should also be provided to ensure consistent use and understanding across different CHW teams. Digital Health Records, Community Health Workers, Maternal Care, Nairobi Slums

Keywords: *Africanization, Community Health Workers, Geographic Information Systems, Participatory Action Research, Data Validity, Ethnography, Spatial Analysis*

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