



Mobilizing Community Responses to Hepatitis E Virus Infections in Rural Tanzanian Women: An Ethnographic Study,

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Abstract

Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) infections are a significant public health concern in rural Tanzania, affecting predominantly women who engage in agricultural activities. An ethnographic study was conducted over a period of one year, involving semi-structured interviews with key informants from local communities, focus group discussions, and participant observation in selected villages. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to identify common themes and patterns related to HEV infections among rural women. Community members reported that women who engaged in open-field farming activities were particularly vulnerable to HEV infections due to contaminated water sources and poor hygiene practices. The most common response was the establishment of community-led health camps, which provided educational sessions on HEV prevention and vaccination campaigns for women. The study revealed a lack of awareness about HEV among rural Tanzanian women, leading to ineffective preventive measures. Community mobilization efforts were effective in addressing these gaps through targeted interventions. Health education programmes should be integrated into agricultural extension services to increase awareness and understanding of HEV infections. Community health camps can serve as a model for future health promotion initiatives targeting rural populations.

Keywords: African, Geographic, Ethnography, Community, Health, Intervention, Rural

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