
Diffusion or Infusion of Sustainability Development Practices in the Social Work Curriculum in Kenya

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Abstract

In an effective healthcare system, availability means the presence of competent and motivated health workers, adequate facility infrastructure, responsive information systems, adequate funding and sufficient drugs and other medical supplies at a health facility or in a community when people seek care. Equity refers to the absence of avoidable or correctable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically. The purpose of this study was to examine the role of healthcare availability in equitable service delivery among the residents of Makueni County. The study was guided by the systems theory of universal health care. A mixed methods approach was used in this study. The target population comprised the general Public, healthcare workers and healthcare administrators from the public healthcare facilities. Questionnaires and interview guides were used as research instruments. From the six sub-counties, the researcher randomly selected two sub-counties (Makueni and Kilome) and purposively selected one sub-county (Makueni) to carry out the study. Yamane's (1967) formula was used to get the sample size of 400 health care consumers. The purposive sampling technique was used to sample the health care managers and officials of the county health care worker force. Findings from the study revealed that the main known barriers to access to healthcare cited by most of the participants were distance to the available health facilities 37%(148), lack of finance/income 26%(102) and infrastructure 24%(97). The study recommended the need for partnership and networking between the government and the private sector in delivering affordable and equitable healthcare. Another recommendation was on the improvement of healthcare infrastructure and facilities for equitable service delivery and lastly affordable healthcare funding services in an equitable manner.

Keywords: Universal healthcare, Healthcare Equity, Healthcare service availability, healthcare funding, healthcare access

