

EXPLORATORY STUDY OF POLICY PROCESS AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF FREE NH15 COVERAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN GHANA

*Article Review by Pratap Madhukar Bordawekar, India
(MBBS, MMSc-HIV Medicine Student of Texila American University)
Email: - drpratap10@hotmail.com*

SOURCE

Sophie witter, Bertha Garshang, Valery Ridde International journal for equity in health 2013, 12:16: doi: 10-11-86/1475-9276-12-16. Electronic version can be found at www.equityhealth.com/content/12/1/16.

This journal was received on 5th September 2012, accepted on 17th February, 2013, published on 27th February 2013 @ 2013witter et al License Biomed Central Ltd.,

This is an open ocean article distributed under terms of the creative commons attribution license which permits unrestricted are, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is property cited.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

1. Sophie witter FEM health project, Impact, Institute of Applied health sciences, University of Aberdeen, Foster hill, Aberdeen AB252ZD, UK
2. Bertha Ghenshang-R and D division, Ghana health services Accra
3. Valerie Ridd- Dept P & SM, Medical faculty, University of Montreal 3875, Saint-Urbain, Mantreal QC, Canada
4. Valeric Ridd- catre de recherch  du centre, hospitalizer de University Montreal, Canada,

Correspondence to: Sophie witter s.witter@abdnnoae.uk

INTRODUCTION

Review is a critical analysis of the article “An exploration study of the policy process and early implementation of the free NHS coverage for pregnant women in Ghana published in international Journal for equity in health 2013.

In this review of this article following steps were taken. It was summarized, then was analysed for print structure by out. Lastly review did the critical analysis of the article evaluating its authority currency, accuracy, objectivity and coverage Tables & figures were also analysis.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

The purpose of this article is to do exploratory analysis of the policy of free maternal memberships in Glama 2008 by NHIS. The method of analysis was a review of existing literature based on key informal interviewsN-13 There key informants were stakeholders in health system, public administration at national level and 2 districts. The revolts of the study highlights that new policy with limited state holder consultation was mainly political initiative. No costing was done prior. Through guidelines were issued, awareness of 18 pregnant mothers was very poor. The healthcare providers were concerned about work load or services and claims management. Users still face the informed changes in antenatal care.

The study concluded that providing free healthcare does not solve weakness in systems. Long term commitment & financial support is required to make this policy effective.

ARTICLE STRUCTURE

The article is available on pubmed & PDF (248 KB). It was introduced with abstract, background, methods, results, discussion conclusion & references. The online links included biomed central PMC full texts. The full text version is free to readers including PDF version PM’o 23446355, indexed for Medline, PMCID: PMC 3599129. The which has been cited by biomed central citation, google scholar ISI web of science and promed central.

ARTICLE CRITIQUE

AUTHORITY

The international journal of health is an open access, pees reviewed, online journal presenting evidence relevant to the search for and attainment of equity is health across and within countries. If aims to improve the understanding of issues that influence the health of population. This includes discussion of political policy related, economic, social and health related influences.

Editors in chief: Efrat shadmi, University of Haifa, Leiya sui, John Hopkins University.

Founding editor- Barbara starfield John Hopkin University society affiliations- Affiliated to WONCA health special interest group.

ACCURACY

The exploratory study was based on six main research question which were adopted from check list. Which distilled good practice for implementation of policies there good practices centered on six area of policy design. A document review was conducted of relevant MOH & Ghana health services. The documents of relevance were analyzed systematically using 6 main research questions. 13 key informant semi structured interviews were conducted.

CURRENCY

The electronic version in complete and can be found on equity healthy: can/ content/12/1/16. The study was conducted between March and June 2012 using two research methods literature review and key informant interview.

REFERENCE

This is a scientific journal with scientific data bare. It was written to inform preventive social medicine health worker and will be of interest to policy makers, administrators involved in development and implementations of policy.

OBJECTIVITY

The article is based on exploring the implementation of good practices in health policy making Centered around six areas of policy design such as process, cost, implementation monitoring, evaluation perception & recommendation.

STABILITY

This is internationally acclaimed scientific journal or academic data or resource. The article is being cited in further research papers such as biomed central, googlescholar, pubmed central. The results were endorsed by govt. sector.

Analysis of Figure-I- Framework for results of exploratory interview under headings such as policy, financing, implementation. If precisely explains the process of evaluation of policy.

RECENT ADVANCES RELATED TO TOPIC

Holdings, Adjais, Armar Klemesu M, Gtatham W: providing free maternal healthcare: Ten lesson from evaluation of national delivery exemption policy is Ghana.

Global health action 2009.

EXCLUSIONS

The article analyzed following points to arrive at conclusion such as background, process, communication reimbursement, sustainability, to implementation, management. Monitoring, evaluation, perception of effects on cost, access, staff and facilities. Many themes from previous evaluation have recorded such as timely reimbursement & reaching the poorest. This study have concludes that free care has not solved systemic weakness wider concerns about supply demand element, quality of care are important to make policy effective.

REFERENCES

1. Agyepong I, Ngai R: **“We charge them; otherwise we cannot run the hospital”**: front line workers, clients and health financing policy implementation gaps in Ghana. *Health Policy* 2011, **99**:226-233. PubMed Abstract | Publisher Full Text
2. Asenso-Boadi F: *Free maternal health care programme and its cost implications*. 2009. Ref Type: Slide
3. Atinga R, Mensah S, Asenso-Boadi F, Adjei F: Migrating from user fees to social health insurance: exploring the prospects and challenges for hospital management. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2012, **12**(174).
4. *Countdown to 2015. Building a future for women and children: the 2012 report*. Geneva: WHO and UNICEF; 2012.
5. Dalinjong P, Laar A: **The national health insurance scheme: perceptions and experiences of health care providers and clients in two districts of Ghana**. *Heal Econ Rev* 2012., **2**
6. Dzakpasu S, Soremekun S, Manu A, Ten Asbroek G, Tawiah C: Impact of Free Delivery Care on Health Facility Delivery and Insurance Coverage in Ghana’s Brong Ahafo Region. *PLoS One* 2012, **7**(11):e49430. PubMed Abstract | Publisher Full Text | PubMed Central Full Text
7. Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Health Service, ICF Macro: *Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2008: Key Findings*. Calverton, Maryland, USA: GSS, GHS, and ICF Macro; 2009.
8. GHS: *Ghana Health Service Annual Report 2009*. Accra: Ghana Health Service; 2010.
9. Ghana Ministry of Health: *Implementation guidelines for financing free delivery through NHIS*. Accra: MoH; 2008.
10. Ghana Ministry of Health: *National consultative meeting on the reduction of maternal mortality in Ghana: partnership for action - a synthesis report*. Accra: MoH; 2008.

11. De Sardan O, Ridde V: *Une comparaison provisoire des politiques d'exemption de paiement dans trois pays sahéliens (Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria)*. Niamey: LASDEL/CRCHUM; 2011. Report No.: Etudes et travaux numéro 89
12. Meessen B, Hercot D, Noirhomme M, Ridde V, Tibouti A, Tashobya C: Removing user fees in the health sector: a review of policy processes in six sub-Saharan African countries. *Health Policy Plan* 2011, 2(26):ii16-ii29.
13. NHIS: *National Health Insurance Scheme website*. Accra: NHIS; 2012.
14. Ridde V, Queuille L, Kafando Y: *Capitalisations de politiques publiques d'exemption du paiement des soins en Afrique de l'Ouest*. Ouagadougou: CRCHUM/HELP/ECHO; 2012.
15. Ridde V, Richard F, Bicaba A, Queuille L, Conombo G: **The national subsidy for deliveries and emergency obstetric care in Burkina Faso**. *Health Policy Plan* 2011, **Supplement 2**(26):ii30-ii40.
16. Ridde V, Diarra A: **A process evaluation of user fees abolition for pregnant women and children under five years in two districts in Niger (West Africa)**. *BMC Health Serv Res* 2009.
17. Ridde V, Robert E, Meessen B: A literature review of the disruptive effects of user fee exemption policies on health systems. *BMC Publ Health* 2012, 12Community of Practice Financial Access to Health Services: *Maternal health exemptions: policy brief*. Bamako: CoP FAHS; 2012.
18. Ridde V, Diarra A, Moha M: User fees abolition policy in Niger: comparing the under five years exemption implementation in two districts. *Health Policy* 2011, 99:219-225. PubMed Abstract | Publisher Full Text
19. Schieber G, Cashin C, Saleh K, Lavado R: *Health financing in Ghana at a crossroad*. Washington, D.C: World Bank; 2012. Report 67325
20. Witter S, Arhinful D, Kusi A, Zakariah-Akoto S: The experience of Ghana in implementing a user fee exemption policy to provide free delivery care. *Reprod Health Matters* 2007, 15(30):1-11.
21. Witter S, Dieng T, Mbengue D, Moreira I, De Brouwere V: The free delivery and caesarean policy in Senegal – how effective and cost-effective has it been? *Health Policy Plan* 2010, 25(5):384-392. PubMed Abstract | Publisher Full Text
22. Witter S, Adjei S, Armar-Klemesu M, Graham W: Providing free maternal health care: ten lessons from an evaluation of the national delivery exemption policy in Ghana. *Global Health Action* 2009.

23. Witter S, Richard F, De Brouwere V: Learning lessons and moving forward: how to reduce financial barriers to obstetric care in low-income contexts. *Studies in Health Services Organisation and Policy* 2008, 24:277-304.
24. Witter S, Adjei S: Start-stop funding, its causes and consequences: a case study of the delivery exemptions policy in Ghana. *Int J Health Plann Manage* 2007, 22(2):133-143.
[PubMed Abstract](#) | [Publisher Full Text](#)
25. Witter S, Garshong B: Something old or something new? Social health insurance in Ghana. *BMC International Health and Human Rights* 2009, 9(20).