**Community Participation in Primary Health Care Delivery: A Mixed Methods Study of the Community-based Health Planning and Services programme in the Builsa North District, Ghana**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Community participation is essential for the successful implementation of Primary Health Care (PHC) programmes.The Community-based Health Planning and Service (CHPS) programme is one of the PHC interventions in Ghana which by design and implementation heavily relies on community participation. However, little is known about the actual levels of community participation in the various components of the CHPS programme including needs assessment, leadership, organization, resource mobilization and management, and the factors influencing community participation in the programme.

**Objectives:** This study assessed the level of community participation in the planning and implementation of the Ghana Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) programme and the factors that influence community participation in the programme in the Builsa North District.

**Methods:** A mixed methods approach was adopted in which the quantitative design was used to assess the level of community participation whereas the qualitative design was used to explore the factors that influence community participation in the programme. A survey was administered to all the 450 CHPS related stakeholders and interviews were administered to a purposive sample of 105 of these stakeholders. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the quantitative data whereas the qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

**Key findings:** The study revealed a moderate level (56-60%) of community participation in various components of the programme. The creation of awareness within communities, ability of communities to contribute material resources, strong and effective local leadership and a high spirit of voluntarism are the factors promoting community participation, whereas contracting out the construction of CHPS compounds to external contractors, volunteer attrition, lack of sense of ownership by distant beneficiaries, competing economic activities, dispersed settlement patterns and financial constraints are the major factors impeding community participation in the programme.

**Conclusion**: Volunteer motivation and the empowerment of communities to construct their own CHPS compounds are key measures that can enhance effective community participation in the programme.