

Exploring the barriers and enablers of access to child health care services in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia

Abstract

Access to high-quality health care substantially influences the survival of under-five children. In Ethiopia, the use of health care services is notably low, exposing children to a higher risk of morbidity and mortality. Previous research demonstrates that child mortality is reduced with improved access to child health care services. However, no studies have explored the barriers and enablers to under-five children's access to healthcare services in the Ethiopian context. This research aims to identify barriers and enablers to accessing child health care services and to understand parents' lived experiences accessing child health care services in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia. This research uses the Levesque et al. (2013) Access to Health Care Framework to guide the research. Qualitative methodology uses an exploratory study design to understand healthcare professionals' views and perceptions of barriers and access to child health services, and a phenomenology study design to understand the lived experience of accessing child health services. This study research will address critical gaps by identifying enablers and barriers to access to child health care services. This body of research will offer actionable insights to inform and guide local and national stakeholders, including policymakers, healthcare program managers, healthcare professionals, educators, and researchers, in developing targeted interventions to improve the accessibility to child healthcare and enhance child health outcomes in Ethiopia or other low- and middle-income countries.