

A collaboration model between hospital and indigenous community to gain accessibility of medical resources for minor injuries.

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Introduction

- Indigenous people in remote areas
 - Poor health, partly due to geographic isolation
 - Shortage of resources
- Tzu-Chi hospital provides mobile medical services twice a week under “Integrated Delivery Service program (IDS)”
 - the difficulty for local people to access medical help, even for minor injuries, remains when IDS is not in service.
 - It is illegal to sold medical materials in general groceries
 - Unaffordable prices of medical materials
- If people in remote areas can practice quality self care, they can rely less on IDS services when encounter minor injuries.

Purpose / Methods

- 3 remote communities with no local clinics or pharmacies available were included.
- In Nov. 2008, easily accessed Self Care Medical Spots (ESCMS) were established in these communities and managed by trained local volunteers.
 - A first-aid kit and a “guide to self care” were distributed to each household free of charge.
 - Campaign: health education for self-care of minor injuries
 - Volunteer: made sure that the materials in ESCMS were not out of date, and were provided efficiently and fairly.
- The services that ESCMS provides include extra first-aid materials at a low cost (or free for poorer resident), free “guide to self care”, and free consultation lines.
- All services were under supervision by IDS staff.

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Results

- One year after the establishment of ESCMS
 - 58% of the household still kept the first-aid kit
 - the average number of first-aid materials available at home had increased significantly.
 - 37% percent of the residents were aware that ESCMS offering extra first-aid materials at a low cost.
- Among conditions that kept residents from having first-aid materials available at home
 - The percentage of “no money” decreased
 - The tendency of “go see a doctor if self care failed” increased slightly

Conclusions

- Self care is an important alternative to care for minor medical condition in remote areas that had inadequate medical resources.
- ESCMS, which are in convenient locations, offers assessable and affordable resource for residents to self care for their minor injuries.
- The fact that residents were better quipped with first-aid materials at home may partly contribute to the ESCMS services.
- Residents' preference to see a doctor for sustain minor injury may reflect better and safer practice of self care.

Comments

- We have developed a friendly environment via ESCMS for residents in remote areas to self care for minor injuries.
- However, only 1/3 of the residents were aware that they could get extra supply of first-aid materials from the ESCMS, which may limit their use of the first-aid kit when in need.
- Efforts to further publicize this service may lead residents to make the most of the ESCMS. Continuous evaluation and timely adjustment of the ESCMS are needed for better outcomes.



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• *Thank you for your attention~~*

