

Psycho-social experiences of community health workers during the Covid 19 epidemic at Edith Operman, Mbare in Zimbabwe.

Tadios Chisango, Tafadzwa C. Matewe, Wilberforce Kurevakwesu and Shelton Tafadzwa Jacob

Abstract

This study explores the experiences of community health workers at Edith Operman Clinic, Mbare in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualitative research methodology was used, together with a phenomenological research design. The target population comprised fifteen CHWs and five trainers of trainers, selected through purposive sampling. The study found that CHWs faced challenges such as stigma, transport problems, limited personal protective equipment, and fear of infection. The CHWs employed different coping mechanisms such as support from friends, family, and peers, listening to music, watching television, praying, and using home remedies. The study recommends that psychosocial interventions be put in place to take care of the CHWs, especially during pandemics like COVID-19.