

Abstract

Background

It has been two decades since 2004 to 2019, Tuberculosis incidence rate in Timor Leste (TL) remains the same, with an estimation of 498 /100,000 populations (range 322-711), and the number of deaths is 106/100.00 populations, despite the efforts to reduce TB, in the new national strategic plan for TB control described the focus in strengthening TB active case finding which has included Saúde na Família (Family Health) as one of the approaches. This study aims to assess the appropriateness of the Saúde na Família program for TB active case finding.

Methodology

Implementation research with mixed-method convergent parallel design to assess the appropriateness of Saúde na Família for TB active case finding. The main variables for assessing appropriateness were; independent variables comprise of HCWs Knowledge and attitude, HCWs perceptions of the relevance of SnF in doing ACF, HCWs Perception regarding the compatibility of SnF and TB ACF Availability of the resources, and the outcome variable is the appropriateness of the implementation, 75 five health workers were recruited to the quantitative study and 12 health workers were selected to continue to the in-depth interview.

Result

Seventy two percent of the participants always implement Saúde na família program, and 61 percent have received information about the implementation of TB active case finding through Saúde na Família. 62.7 and 33.3 % of the participants agree and strongly agree that SnF can improve TB active case finding, and 46.7 and 49.3 % agree and strongly agree that SnF is fit in conducting contact tracing, active screening, sputum collection and also health education. Financial and technical barriers, and resources constraint presented as the challenges for the implementation.

Conclusions

The majority of the health workers has general knowledge and possess a positive attitude to support program implementation, the health workers also perceived that SnF is compatible for TB active case finding, it is worth strengthening work organization and reinforce support for improving future implementation.

Keywords: Saúde na Família, Family Health, TB active case finding, Timor Leste