

**Community partnership between community
medicine practitioners and social work during the
COVID-19 epidemic: Working with families of
children with hearing disabilities in Egyptian
health centers**

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Community partnership between community medicine practitioners and social work during the COVID-19 epidemic: Working with families of children with hearing disabilities in Egyptian health centers

Abstract:

World Health Organization The number of people with disabilities in the world is one billion people or approximately 10% of the world's population. According to the population census of Egypt 2017, the number of people who suffer from difficulties (simple to absolute), and the population is 10.67% of the population. Hence the reference to the percentage refers to the percentage of general statistics and statistics in Egypt 4.04% of the total population and a high percentage. The President of the Republic was concerned with the rights of people with disabilities 10 of 2018 and the National Underwriting Council Law 11 of 2019. The President's Initiative for Early Detection and Treatment of Weakness and Hearing Loss for Newborn Babies President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi launched an initiative in September 2019 for early detection and treatment of hearing loss and impairment for newborns in all governorates of the Republic as a single stage, under the slogan "100 million health", which targets all newborns. The initiative aims to discover and treat hearing impairment and loss in newborns through a hearing examination for children in the 1,300 health units spread across all governorates of the Republic. The examination targets children from 3 to 7 days old. The method used: The researcher used the comprehensive social survey method for workers in health centers, which number 6 health centers in Assiut Governorate - Egypt, and the sample amounted to 520 and the study was applied in the period from the first of March to the end of March 2021, during the partial closure in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Results: - Absence of a social worker and social work inside the health centers (even the presence of 2 social workers doing administrative work). -Lack of community medicine practitioners in health centers. - Rural pioneers in health centers are doing outreach roles without receiving the necessary training. -The total and partial closure during the Covid-19 pandemic has led to great caution and emphasis on

precautionary measures in getting children to receive the scheduled vaccinations on time. - With strict precautions taken, the audio logical survey of children was carried out with great caution.

Keywords: Community partnership, community medicine practitioners, social work

Introduction:-

The care of the child begins from the beginning of its formation as a fetus in its mother's womb, and what affects the mother, thus affects the fetus. And the fetus early and treated in a timely manner. Because children are the hope of tomorrow and the men of the future, so caring for the health of children was and still is an important priority, and in most parts of the world, attention to the health of children begins from the first moment of their birth, even before and during pregnancy as well. (Ayman Suleiman Zahira, 2019, pp. 9, 13).

Disability, if it is considered a curse, is certainly a blessing for the disabled person. It may be a test from God. It may strengthen his will and determination to live and succeed. It may win him people's love for him. It may increase the degree of his faith. Higher in performance and function than the senses and abilities of a non-disabled person. (Medhat Muhammad Abu Al-Nasr, 2016, p. 7).

Paying attention to the organ of the sense of hearing (the ear) is one of the important things that parents should not neglect. It starts from birth with observing the child and following up with the doctor to ensure the safety of the sense of hearing.

The discovery of a hearing disability is one of the most difficult times that parents face, as it is a shock associated with many feelings of denial, sadness and anger. In general, they had to resort to specialists and specialists in the medical and educational field so that they could learn how to communicate with their children. (Hala Al-Saeed, 2016, pp., 111, 298).

It can be said that the hearing-impaired category is one of the most disabled categories that needs special care so that they can be helped, taken care of and rehabilitated the desired rehabilitation in the community, and made them more able to rely on themselves and to contribute effectively to the productive process, due to the nature of the hearing disability that requires skills and experiences of those in charge. On their affairs and dealing with them. **(The National Planning Institute: 2003, p. 14.)**

The development of health awareness is one of the elements of health care and an integral part of any health service provided to the citizen or society, and the development of health awareness aims to help individuals acquire health through their understanding of health rules and their daily practice of them in a proper manner, so the state realized that it has moral duties and responsibilities towards its citizens and strive to improve their health conditions within the community. **(Abdel Mohi Mahmoud and Hassan Saleh:, 2002, p. 5).**

The right to health care is one of the most important human rights. The human right to health is recognized in many international documents. The first paragraph of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living sufficient to ensure health for himself and his family, and it includes Food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Article 25). **(Ahmed Abdel Hamid Al-Abshihi:, 2011, p. 3064) .**

Developing the role of basic health care in the field of prevention and early detection of the Ministry of Health and Population through developing the skills of the health team that deals with the disabled and supporting the application of the periodic medical examination system for children with a focus on measuring growth and development in order to establish an early detection system and to establish integrated care centers for the disabled and central units for their rehabilitation.**(Medhat Muhammad Abu Al-Nasr, p. 155) .**

The World Health Organization estimates the number of people with some form of disability in the world at more than one billion people, or approximately 10% of the world's population.

According to the population census of Egypt 2017, the number of people who suffer from difficulties (simple to absolute) is estimated at 10.67% of the total population.

Among the causes of concern for the hearing impaired is the increase in the number of the hearing impaired, as the various statistics indicate. The results of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in 2017 indicate that the percentage of the hearing impaired in Egypt amounted to 4.04% of the total population of the Republic, which is a high percentage.

Hence, an initiative by the President of the Republic, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, "The Hearing Aid Initiative" for newborns, was launched for early detection of hearing impairment and early treatment for it in the event of a hearing impairment in the child.

The President of the Republic was interested in the laws of the rights of persons with disabilities 10 of 2018 and the National Council on Disability Law 11 of 2019, and the most important laws come in it, which is the concern for health.

The President's Initiative for Early Detection and Treatment of Newborn Impairment and Hearing Loss:-

In September 2019, President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi launched an initiative for early detection and treatment of hearing loss and impairment for newborns in all governorates of the Republic as a single phase, under the slogan "100 million health", which targets all newborns.

The initiative aims to discover and treat hearing impairment and loss in newborns through conducting a hearing examination for children in the 1,300 health units spread across all governorates of the Republic. The examination targets children from 3 to 7 days old, and the

examination takes only a few minutes, and shows whether The child is normal or suspected of having a hearing loss.

Dr. Hala Zayed, Minister of Health and Population, announced that a hearing survey was conducted for 1,39,446 newborns, as part of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's initiative, for early detection and treatment of hearing impairment and loss for newborns, since the launch of the initiative in September 2019, until 11/16/ 2020.

-1679 non-Egyptian children residing on the land of Egypt were examined as part of the initiative, according to the directives of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Republic.

The initiative was launched in 1364 health units and offices in all governorates of the Republic to conduct audio logical examinations for children from the day of birth until the age of 28 days.

-67993 children were referred for re-examination through a confirmatory test, a week after the first examination in the same unit.

After the second test, 6,727 children were transferred to referral hospitals in the governorate for higher evaluation and the start of medical treatment or the installation of a stethoscope, or the child was referred for cochlear implantation for those who need his condition.

-The fact that the child does not pass the second test most of the time does not mean that he has a hearing loss, but he needs advanced tests at the referral centers of the initiative.

Early detection of hearing impairment or loss avoids hearing impairment and facilitates treatment opportunities.

- The certificate has been updated and the audio logical examination box is included in it, and registration is done through the births database and the vaccination file, with the aim of creating a complete file for emergencies and ensuring its safety.

The Egyptian state's efforts to confront COVID-19:

- The complete closure was in all governorates of the Republic, then gradually reopened.
- Converting some hospitals to isolation and quarantine.
- Emphasizing precautionary measures such as wearing masks, social distancing, and awareness of personal hygiene.
- Then take vaccinations starting from the medical categories - the elderly and chronic diseases category.
- The state is in the process of obligatory legislation to vaccinate all segments of society. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we found that mothers went to health centers to conduct audiometric survey for early detection of hearing impairment in newborns, while taking precautionary measures in health centers and mothers.

The method used:

The researcher used the comprehensive social survey method, and the study targeted 6 health centers in Assiut Governorate. The number of workers in health centers was 520 employees. The interview was conducted with health center managers, nurses, health educators and rural women pioneers in the period from the first of March to the end of March 2021. During the partial closure in light of Covid-19 pandemic.

In this study, the researcher relied on the comprehensive social survey method for the following justifications: **(Maher Abu Al-Maati Ali: 2004, p. 185)**

1. The social survey method is concerned with studying the phenomenon that exists in a particular group and in a particular place.
2. It addresses things already in existence at the time of the social survey and not its past.
3. The social survey method is useful in studying problems on a scientific basis, which is useful in facing these problems.

The comprehensive social survey is one of the most appropriate approaches for the current study due to the small size of the study community. This was done with both:

- (A) Comprehensive social survey of health center workers.
- (B) A sample social survey on the families of children in health centers.

The comprehensive social survey also helps in reaching results that are closer to reality.

Results: -

- Absence of social workers and social work inside the health centers (even the presence of a small number of social workers doing administrative work).

The shortage of community medicine practitioners in health centers.

Rural pioneers in health centers play awareness-raising roles without receiving the necessary training.

The total and partial closure during the Covid-19 pandemic has led to great caution and focus on precautionary measures in getting children to receive their scheduled vaccinations on time.

With extreme precautionary measures taken, the audiometric survey of children is carried out with extreme caution.

Recommendations:-

-Establishing partnerships between civil society organizations and health centers in raising awareness and education.

-Training of social workers and rural pioneers.

-Increasing awareness among families and the importance of audiometric surveys for newborns.

-Spreading health awareness among all segments of society.

-The importance of early detection of hearing impairment for a child's learning to speak.

- Urgently go to the specialized center in case of discovering a hearing impairment to know the necessary measures to take.

Discussion:-

Activating the partnership between social service practitioners and community medicine: -

Partnership goals:-

The main objective, which lies at the heart of the partnership, is to develop a culture of collective cooperation in order to maximize the value of the partnership parties and its beneficiaries, leading to the enhancement of competitiveness at the national level. As for the other objectives of the partnership, they are multiple, including:

- 1- It is to change the activity of the government from direct operation and public services, so that the matter is determined in monitoring the services and regulating the service.
- 2- Introducing the management and competencies of the private sector into the field of public services and involving it in taking risks
- 3- Achieving value for available resources, ie less use of resources over the life of the project.
- 4- Implementation of projects within the specified times and within the specified budget.
- 5- Avoiding the deterioration of used assets and resources as a result of inefficient use of resources.
- 6- In order to verify the budget "with regard to capital and operational costs."
- 7- Introducing innovations to project design.
- 8- Transferring the risks that can be better managed away from the specific resources of the government.
- 9- Achieving the best possible use of the resources of the parties, and what is meant by resources here is material and human resources,

which are represented in minds, skills, manpower and intangible resources such as values, traditions and components of culture in general. Preserving them, which may change their nature, as well as achieving these resources for the largest possible return to their parties.

10 - Achieving the proportionality between the resources and the returns achieved for each of the parties to the partnership. This is not intended to be necessarily equal returns for all parties, but rather the balance between the cost and return for each party. **(The National Planning Institute: 2010, pp. 20:21).**

Partnership levels:-

1- Partnership at the national level:

Such as the cooperation of associations with each other or with each other and the government or with the private sector or research centers.

2- Partnership at the regional level:

Such as the League of Arab States, the regional level, the Mediterranean region, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO), or at the level of a continent, such as the partnership with the African Network ANEW in the implementation of some projects.

There are companies on a national level that take place between national networks.

3- Partnership at the international level:

Such as partnerships with the United Nations Relief Program and the United Nations Program for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction ISDR Mediterranean Action Plan United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ECA, African Development Bank ADB. **(Mohamed El-Sayed Jamil, 2008, p. 150).**

Partnership types:**(1) Government-to-government partnership:-**

It expresses partnership between governments or countries

(2) Partnership between government and companies:

They are partnerships between governments and the private sector, where these companies are considered necessary to achieve sustainability and develop small and micro enterprises, with the aim of attracting investment and achieving sustainable development.

(3) Collective companies “between the public and private sectors:

They are companies between the public and private sectors in order to provide grants for community development in order to manage the resources needed to create wealth and improve the well-being of the local community and society as a whole. One of the characteristics of these partnerships is that they provide grants to institutions, and they do some of their own programs and they preserve the diversity of entities Local and foreign donors to support development and community stability. Among its other tasks, it creates opportunities for cooperation between governments, companies, civil society sectors, and community institutions to promote a culture of social responsibility and participation in development work. It also creates opportunities for cooperation between government sectors and civil society. Promoting a culture of participation in order to move societies towards sustainable development.

(4) Partnership between Governments and Local Communities:

The government has a role in strengthening these companies between them and local communities in all sectors by establishing partnerships with local and national agencies to achieve economic and social development, where governments follow partnerships with local community organizations to achieve development sustainability through information exchange, development of relationships and the

establishment of local cooperatives With state-owned enterprises to promote the development process within the local.

(5) **Partnership between Institutions “Companies”:** And this partnership expresses the social responsibility of companies within the communities to advance their development, such as the partnership between Microsoft and Hewlett-Card through designing computer programs, providing equipment and training teachers to support the future education project in Mexico, which are long-term partnerships and developed in the form of programs to meet the needs of society and achieving sustainable development as a kind of social responsibility for these institutions within their communities.

(6) **Partnership between society and institutions (companies):** The Company between the local community and institutions (companies) is considered a means to expand and improve job opportunities, increase income, reduce costs, and expand the strengthening of local capabilities.

(7) **Partnership between Non-Profit Organizations and Foundations:**

It is a strategy carried out by some companies with non-profit organizations through establishing long-term relationships to support a cause or group of issues and provide them with information and material and technological support. This strategy benefits both partners as it achieves commercial interests for institutions and helps organizations solve The case (such as the adoption of a computer company that develops technological awareness among school students and in return is an advertisement for the company to increase its sales).

These companies are initiatives to promote economic and social development among low-income countries.

(8) **Partnership between NGOs "civil society" and institutions:**

And it is more a system than the partnership between non-profit organizations and institutions, where this partnership adopts local and

international issues such as defending human rights, promoting global peacebuilding and establishing projects in disaster situations that local communities cannot build, as these companies help in supporting the local development process and international.

(9) Multilateral Partnerships:- “Multi-Stakeholder”

They are various forms of partnerships between governments, NGOs, local communities and aid agencies to support the implementation of sustainable development through national or international programmes.

(Joseg. Vargas, Hernanadez, MOHAMMED Rezo Noruzi: 2010 ,pp 62 : 70).

Partnership steps:

According to the circumstances of any partnership project that has objectives, its duration and the resources available to it, the focus is on steps in order to reach a successful partnership. The following is an explanation of the partnership steps:

The first step: awareness

Increasing the awareness of the concerned individuals that partnership is a way to improve society.

Step Two: Needs Assessment

It is the process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information in order to formulate partnership objectives.

Step Three: Possible Resources

It includes human and material resources, equipment, devices, and funding available within the organization and management, and business and community projects in order to meet the identified beneficiaries' needs.

Step Four: Goals and Goals

The goal is a broad presentation of the purpose of the partnership, or the goals. It is a presentation of the desired exit from the partnership, and it is measurable, and on it the evaluation objective is determined.

Step five : Design the project

This step includes strategies to achieve the goals.

Step Six: Partnership Management

It includes defining the administrative structure of the partnership and setting rules and procedures according to which the partnership legislator will operate.

Seventh step: appointing individuals and officials or participants

This step includes identifying and involving individuals, organizations, and resources in the partnership project, and fulfilling the needs and limits of the project and the community, and this activity supports the partnership project.

Eighth step: reconciliation or coordination

In this step, the right people are identified for the right jobs that match their abilities and the financial and material resources are also matched for the specific needs.

Step Nine: Orientation

It is the process of preparing individuals to participate in new experiences and experiences that help them understand their roles, rules, policies and procedures.

Step Ten: Training

According to this step, individuals and groups are prepared to perform specific tasks in predetermined situations.

Step Eleven: Maintaining Relationships and Appreciating People

The art of retaining participants by encouraging them is an essential component of maintaining a strong and effective partnership. Recognition and recognition is an important strategy as rewarding contributions.

Twelfth step: Monitoring and evaluation

Through monitoring and evaluation, data is collected, interpreted, and used in the decision-making process and to improve this process. **(Rasmi Abdul-Malik Rostom: 2003, pp. 28:30).**

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