

Health extension workers' knowledge on podoconiosis and associated factors in Gamo Gofa zone, southern Ethiopia

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Background

Podoconiosis is a non-filarial form of elephantiasis which causes persistent swelling of the foot and lower leg. Recent mapping in Ethiopia suggests that 4% of the population have podoconiosis and more than 30 million live in areas where the disease occurs. Lack of knowledge and low self-efficacy relating to podoconiosis has previously been reported among health officers, nurses and doctors in endemic areas. However, Health Extension Workers (HEW) (a cadre of 38,000 female workers with one year's training in disease prevention) work in the community closest to patients, and there is little information about their levels of knowledge.



Aims

To assess general knowledge of podoconiosis and related factors among HEW in Gamo Gofa Zone, southern Ethiopia in 2014.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted.

A structured questionnaire previously used among other health professionals was adapted.

Data were coded and entered into EPI/INFO version 3.5.3, and SPSS Version 21 was used for univariate and multivariate analyses.



Discussion and conclusion

HEW training centers must include information on podoconiosis in pre-service and in-service training with prioritizing low age.