

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
HOME VISITING STRATEGY: THE CASE OF MATERNAL
AND NEWBORN CARE IN THE GA SOUTH
MUNICIPALITY OF GHANA

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Background
- Problem statement
- Objectives
- Conceptual framework
- Methods
- Results
- Discussions and conclusions

Background

- Home visiting:
 - is recommended worldwide for the reduction of all – cause maternal and infant mortality (Luckowpow et al., 2017).
 - ensures equitable access to health care services (Engmann et al., 2016; Folger et al., 2016; Nesbitt et al., 2016).
 - enhances uptake of health services by families of low socio-economic background (Abdu et al, 2016).

Problem Statement

- Globally most of the 216 mothers and over three million infants who die annually; die at home around the perinatal period uncounted (Hodin et al., 2016).
- Clients are expected to be visited at home around this period (Luckopow, 2017)
- The Ghana Health Service adopted home visiting as a public health service delivery strategy since 1952 and it is the wheel of the Community -based health Planning Services (PHNG, 2010).

Study Objectives (1)

General objective:

- To assess the implementation of the home visiting strategy for maternal and newborn health care in the Ga South Municipality.
- Specific objectives were to determine the influence of:
 1. service provider factors on home visiting services.
 2. client factors on home visiting services.
 3. community factors on home visiting services.
- 3. determine the effect of home visiting services on maternal and newborn care.
- 4. determine how the home visiting strategy is used to improve maternal and newborn care.

conceptual framework of the study

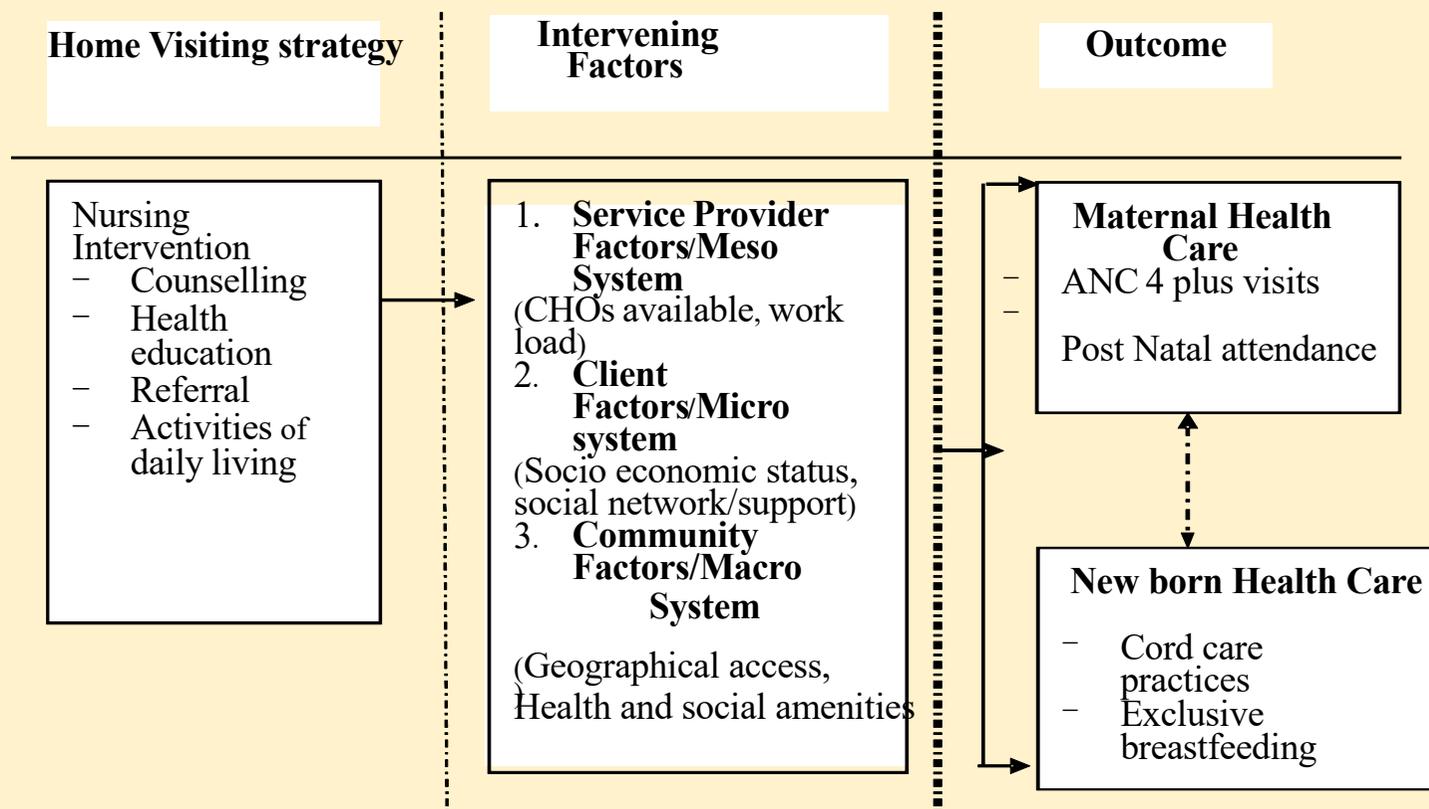
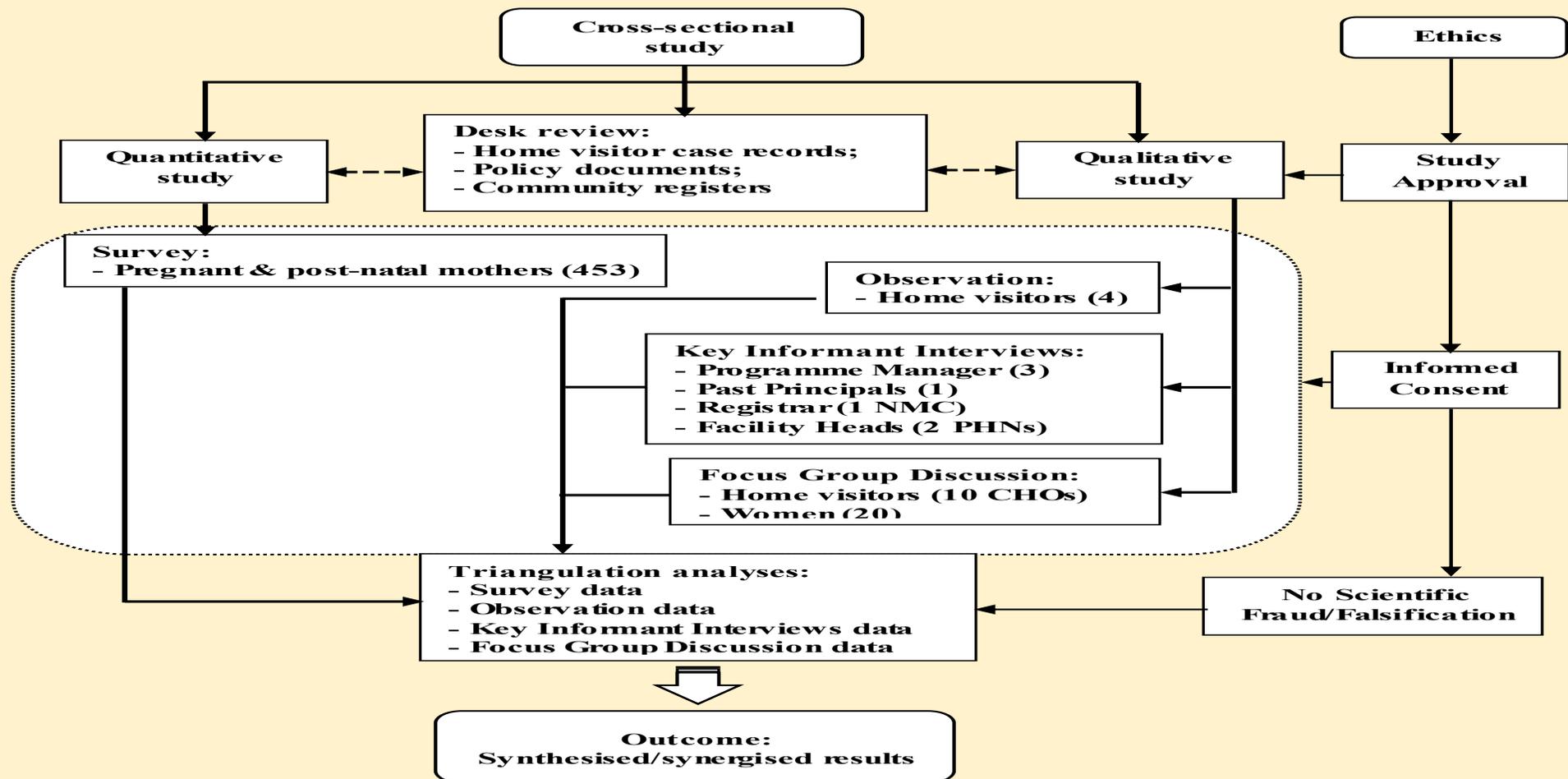


Figure 2: Conceptual frame work on assessment of the home visiting strategy



Methods (1)

zFigure 1: study design



key findings

- 49% of the respondents used health services from the health center
- the service providers had to compromise on quality of care
- clients' social networks have a significant influence on clients' decision making on clients' use of health services
- clients' social networks have a significant influence on clients' responsiveness to health services

"The "home nurses" [social network] are terrible. They will say we have delivered more babies nothing happened. You have delivered only one baby and you are disturbing us with the nurses say... why did God create water? Give the baby water and let us think" – (FGD, pregnant woman from Weija).

Improvement of maternal and newborn care by home visiting services



“In places where you see home visitors especially in the CHPS system, you see that there are not much defaulters...the defaulter rate is almost zero. You see that when they visit them they talk to them about the clinics and remind them of when to come to clinic. They also make sure they are comfortable. They also talk to their spouses. From their maternal death audits you could see clearly that those who die were those who were not attendants. Nobody followed them up at home” – (KII, GHS Manager, national level).

Discussion

- Ntsua et al. (2012) found out that Community Health Officers in the Brong Ahafo region were making one home visit per week instead of the stipulated 10 visits per day due to their workload.
- The CHOs complained that OPD cases and health sector programmes interfered with home visiting schedules.
- This is congruent with Daro et al., (2003); Ellenbecker, et al., (2006) ; & Whittaker et al., (2017).

Conclusion

- The home visiting strategy exists in Ghana but fraught with challenges across the ecological levels.
- It is implemented under the CHPS strategy in the Ghana Health System.
- The workload of the CHOs influence home visiting services negatively.
- Clients' social networks are potential resources for responsiveness to home visiting services.

Appreciation

- *“I feel a very unusual sensation If not indigestion, I think it must be gratitude” - (Benjamin Disraeli)*
- My deepest gratitude goes to the conference team for reposing so much trust in me.
- you have given me the opportunity to tell my story outside my country.
- I also acknowledge all of you here for giving me the confidence to present my work.
- Nye yi wala don (Thank You)