The Role of Community Services in Promoting Public Health Care: A Comprehensive Review of Service Types, Technological Innovations, Their Impact and Challenges

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Abstract

The quality of life for people in a community is enhanced by community services in multiple perspectives across social, health, and educational dimensions. This paper gives a comprehensive discussion on the types of community services as well as their functions and impacts in public wellbeing, such as healthcare, educational, social welfare, and specialized support services. The study brings to attention invaluable functions these services play in improving health effects, as well as fostering social cohesion, improvements in education attainment, and enhancing economic stability for vulnerable groups including the elderly and

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low-income families. This provides evidence about the need for better quality, availability, and networking of technology for community services. The study culminates with recommendations on the improvement of service delivery and sustainability through feedback mechanisms, resource allocation, and targeted interventions to the underserved communities.

Keywords: Community services, Healthcare services, Social welfare, Educational programs, Technological innovation, Social cohesion, Vulnerable populations.

Introduction

General Community Services include various activities and programs aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the community. These services are supposed to meet any social, educational, health, or welfare needs of every person living in the community. Consequently, community services become integral components of public administration in order to hold social cohesion and satisfy the most basic needs (Abdurrahman, 2023). There are various kinds of community services. Among them include health services, educational programs, social welfare initiatives, among others. For instance, health services can be in the form of community clinics, which target certain populations, like men who have sex with men. Their health needs and barriers to care can often be unique (Datta et al., 2017).

Other academic programs include Service-Learning, through which the students may gain educative benefits but are also constantly called upon to actively participate in their communities with a resultant sense of responsibility and social awareness (Rozvadovska, 2020). In most instances, community services also undergo assessment through community satisfaction and the quality-of-service delivery. The study reveals that the quality of public services largely determines community welfare and satisfaction. In this respect, the outcome reflects the performance of governmental bodies involved in delivering services (Harpy et al., 2022). To the integration of community feedback into service design and delivery, responsiveness is essential in the services offered to the actual needs of the community (Eko et al., 2021).

Mobile social services have particularly transformed the way community services are dispensed in the realm of technological advancement. They require technology to enhance access and usage with improved ways of communication and interaction between the service providers and service users (Li et al., 2020). It is from this perspective that the creation of frameworks in service management becomes very important as they shall assist in maintaining effectiveness and relevance within a changing environment (Hu et al., 2015). General Community Services play a crucial role in improving quality of life for an individual within the community. They undertake numerous activities that meet various social needs, and their success depends on good service delivery, participation of the community, and adopting technological changes. The paramount roles and goals of general community services are complex as they execute several activities with the objective of fostering societal well-being.

Community services have played a vital role in enhancing social cohesion, improving public health, and other social problems. They break the gap between individuals and the resources required by them, making society fairer and better. Social entrepreneurship in community

services has been very remarkable because it holds a transmutation approach; it strives for positive alteration of society while doing so by helping with the needs of the community. According to Muhamad and Adham, community services can be a significant social contributor through innovation and service-based means where it is economically viable and socially beneficial. Public health and education are two of the most essential objectives of community services. Examples of such initiatives include those in community health as highlighted by Yuliani, documenting how targeted education in health can change the knowledge and practices within a community towards healthy behavior and, therefore, health outcomes (Yuliani, 2024). Such initiatives are important since they create capabilities that are necessary for informed health decisions leading to better health status among the population.

Also, it cannot be overlooked the ecosystem services in the context of community wellbeing since Summers et al. contributed that integrating the ecosystem services into the decision-making process for better management can lead to sustainable development and help to minimize the impact on well-being (Summers et al., 2018). The above community services have played a significant role in bettering the quality of life of those vulnerable people like the elderly. Pan et al. have done such extensive research, obviously proving that the well-being of older adults is influenced by community elderly care services, creating a necessity for targeted services to help meet the requirements of older adults. It not only boosts their life satisfaction but also propels them to feel connected with society, which is an essential requirement to lead their lives peacefully with their mental and emotional health. Moreover, Basofi says that social prescribing sets out to explain the roles of addressing issues related to social determinants of health concerning social relationships and community support networks in the general issue of promoting well-being.

Furthermore, the nexus between service to the community and health behavior clarifies the reality of societal wellbeing. Fenn et al. describe how community service, as a health behavior, might be conceptualized in a way to advance the discussion of how someone might be helped in doing community service (Fenn et al., 2021). This is crucially relevant in public health where more engagement from a community leads to better health outcomes and a more cohesive community. The collaborative nature of community services, as identified by Dougall, further emphasizes that effective cross-service collaboration is necessary to improve community safety and well-being, reduce inequalities, and optimize resource use, according to Dougall in 2023. Furthermore, community services present the ground for social innovation and entrepreneurship.

According to Muhamad and Adham, the transformative potential of social entrepreneurship lies in the fact that social objectives integrated into business models transform and significantly benefit society (Muhamad & Adham, 2013). This kind of approach addresses the immediate needs of the community but creates sustainable resilience in communities over time. As Chika-James et al have discussed how there is an emphasis on the inclusion of service-learning in business education, this further highlights the reciprocal nature of the benefits of community engagement, as both students and community partners have gainful insights and resources through collaboration (Chika-James et al., 2022). The psychological aspects of community services cannot be ignored also. Community service and subjective well-being, community service, and the psychological well-being of seniors relate directly with the overall happiness of

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individuals with regard to their performance in life, which is supported by the view that the relationship of social connections and community involvement contributes significantly to mental health and well-being.

This would be discussed further from Basofi on social prescribing (Basofi, 2024). Community services play an important role in enhancing social networks and support systems, thereby preventing feelings of loneliness and isolation among vulnerable populations. Conclusion The basic roles and objectives of general community services play a fundamental role in socially enhancing societal well-being. In a nutshell, they provide a basket of activities targeted at the enhancement of health capabilities of the people, developing social cohesion, and addressing diversity needs. Therefore, integration of social entrepreneurship, health education underemphasized, and involving more collaborative approaches are all critical elements in order to make the community services effective. Helping both the short-term and long-term needs of the communities, these services are essentially important for a more balanced and healthy society.

The Evolution of Community Services: Historical Developments and Policy Shifts

The natural growth and design of community services are necessarily interwoven with the larger fabric of societal needs and governmental responses to these needs. Various initiatives and legislative frameworks thus emerged based on changes in public health priorities, the strategies adopted on social welfare, and practices for community engagement. Understanding these developments gives insight to how community services have evolved over time in grappling with the complexities of modern society. One of the most important historical developments related to community services is associated with the establishment of the Frontier Nursing Service, which in turn dates back to the early 20th century. Mary Breckinridge established FNS in 1925 to provide access to health care for people who were living in rural areas of Kentucky. This not only provided a stimulus to the introduction of accessible health services in less favorable regions but also became the foundation for future community health models to be developed, based on integrating nursing services into communities.

FNS's approach to health education and community involvement has been a precursor to contemporary public health initiatives, including the Healthy People 2010 agenda intended to improve health outcomes by supporting strategies for improved community-based practices (Jesse & Blue, 2004). For mental health matters, there was the Bradley Report of 2009, which presented another significant point in the development of community services within the criminal justice framework. This report made it clear that there are diversion programs that fulfill the needs of mental patients who require treatment, calling for a shift away from custodial care to community-based treatment settings. Subsequent policies inspired by the recommendations of the Bradley Report have integrated mental health services in community settings which reduce the stigma attached to mental illness and promote recovery-oriented care (Birmingham et al., 2017). This reflects the broader trend toward deinstitutionalization and recognition of mental health as a critical part of overall community well-being. The development of community centers has also shaped community services, especially in urban areas, with such settings becoming an essential infrastructure for service delivery in China to serve rapidly expanding urban populations.

These centers function as hubs for delivering multiplicity of social services, such as health care, educational as well as recreational activities, hence promoting community cohesion and engagement. Historical contexts behind these centers reflect the possibilities and challenges communities face in their adaptation to social and economic transformations (Xu et al., 2005). When urbanization continues to intensify, the function of community centers remains fundamental in guaranteeing access to services and promoting social integration. The Neighborhood Health Action Center could represent a strategic response to health disparities in historically disinvested neighborhoods and might be envisioned to co-locate services and foster community engagement toward addressing social determinants of health that contribute to inequities in health outcomes. This model supports other collaborations among the stakeholders: the residents, health providers, and policymakers so that intervention is specific to every community's needs (Pierre et al., 2020). This not only improves service delivery but also creates a possibility where communities take on proactive roles in their health outcomes. A further dimension of community services evolution is the recognition of the role of consumer perception and involvement in service delivery.

Studies conducted in Malta have outlined how experience gained from consumer feed-back has influenced the development of community pharmacy services, particularly concerning chronic condition management. This trend toward the consumerist model underscores the need for community services to shift in tandem with shifting expectations of populations they serve and, therefore, be rendered more effective and relevant (Wirth et al., 2010). Most importantly, there is a need to ensure consumers are a part of the design and implementation process of the service for the purposes of ensuring community services suit various populations. Nor is legislation an element that does not impact community services. For instance, the role of policy, especially in person-centered care regarding dementia care, is best said by the legislative framework that tends to direct how these services are provided and managed. As it has been found, legislation provides the framework for care standards, but interpretation and implementation are crucial to making the framework work (O'Sullivan et al., 2015).

This raises the need for continued education and development support in community service provision to serve the aims of legislation and the needs of the recipients. In this regard, the evolutions that have been witnessed in the context of community services are marked by increasing efforts in addressing social determinants of health through multiagency work. This phenomenon can be understood through East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Center, which integrates the different sources and multidisciplinary services in addressing health disparities at the community level. The emphasis of this center on co-location and referral systems implies greater consciousness of the interlinked nature of health, social services, and community involvement (Dannefer et al., 2019). The approach taken here is holistic as it forms a central core for long-lasting solutions in achieving better health outcomes and increasing resilience within the community. Global trends in community service delivery and mental health care also inform the development of such services. Everywhere in Asia, for instance, there has been a new drive toward community-based mental health services, provoked by evidence that hospital-based care has its limits. However, on many occasions, the historical, economic, and socio-cultural circumstances have also plugged the successful implementation of these services, and thus, it is continued dependence on institutional care (Xiang et al., 2015).

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It brings to the forefront the need for more sensitive community service models developed in tailoring diverse cultural and societal contexts. In this continuum, investment for infrastructure and capacity-building forms an essential need. For example, problems concerning housing and community service delivery in Kazakhstan require legislation capable of creating favorable environments for investment and innovation towards community service provision (Batkeyeva, 2021). It is a call to action for the policymakers, the heads of the community, and the service providers themselves as they come together to give a conducive environment for sustainable growth and development. Historical development and policy change that affected community services over time reflect a dynamic interplay between society's needs, legislative frameworks, and community engagement. Even from the beginning of pioneering health models to the incorporation of consumer perspectives and the emphasis on doing better with respect to social determinants of health, the evolution of community services is marked greatly by activities aimed at improving the well-being of people and communities. We must heed such a call and continue within community services the necessary fostering of collaboration, innovation, and responsiveness to the changing times of years to come.

Types of Community Services

Community services have different varieties. Some of the differentiated types according to specific need patterns among the population are health services, social welfare services, education services, and special support services for vulnerable groups. Every category, by fulfilling the very diversified needs of society, has played a major role in adding quality to the lives of individuals and communities.

Healthcare Services

Healthcare is one of the integral sectors of community services. The core of healthcare services is to offer the best physical and mental health to human beings. It includes preventive care, primary health care, mental health services, and rehabilitation programs. For instance, community clinics have become vital providers of health care for rural and other disadvantaged communities. From studies, it has been observed that in Bangladesh, there exist well-established reliable health centers such as community clinics having significant importance towards the disadvantaged populations, providing important services to enhance health outcomes Siddiqi & Muyeed (2022). Similarly, the progress in the strengthening of community-based mental health service has also increased the activities towards suicide prevention, which reveals the integral part of mental health care with community settings Atkinson et al., 2019. Community health services are particularly applicable to the elderly age brackets who may require both medical and social services to effectively manage chronic conditions (Zhao et al., 2020). Social Welfare Service

Social welfare services represent a wide spectrum of support frameworks purposed to improve the social and economic well-being of individuals and families. These include housing assistance, food security programmers, and financial support services. American hospitals have also embraced social care as part of their community benefits. Social care services have really proven to be crucial in countering the social determinants of health. According to Iott & Anthony, these services are more essential for low-income families, people with disabilities, and old

people. These categories of people face barriers in accessing some of the vital resources. The delivery of social services in community settings addresses the immediate needs and fosters long-term stability and resilience for vulnerable populations (Chan et al., 2022). Educational Services - Educational services in community settings promote knowledge and skills enhancing capabilities, whereby individuals are empowered to change their circumstances. Such services include adult education programs, vocational training, and after-school programs for children and youth.

They have always been an integral part of providing more opportunities to a more diversified population in education, including the non-traditional student and the one who wishes to advance their employability (Griffith, 2009). Curricular community service introduced in the curricula of educational institutions has also fostered among the people greater civic engagement responsibility toward society, which in turn adds to the development of a community (Griffith, 2009). The educational services are very beneficial to the marginalized sections, like immigration and low-income families, who may be deprived of easy access to the mainstream education track.

Specialized Support Services are a feature that caters to the specific needs of particular sections of the people, the physically disabled, the aged, and mentally ill among others. For instance, center-based services enable clients with disabilities to have experiential interactions in terms of social life, skill building, and preparation for work (Chan et al., 2022). Such services are deemed a major avenue towards enhancing self-efficacy and independence among the people with disabilities. The older community care services, including volunteer organizations in China, have improved the lives of seniors as they continue engaging through supporting processes (Xin et al., 2023). Specialized services play a critical role in addressing some of the complex needs experienced by some of the most vulnerable populations, within which they can receive the care and support needed to blossom within communities.

The Role of Healthcare-Related Community Services in Enhancing Public Health and Preventive Care

Healthcare-related community services are vital in enhancing public health and preventive care. Community services try to promote health, avert illnesses, and help with controlling chronic conditions within the community setting. Generally, the effects of such services span other fronts such as health behavior among individuals, increasing access to care and bringing together community involvement in health promotion.

Promotion of Health and Preventive Care

In terms of public health, the direct contribution of healthcare-related community services is shown mostly in preventive care promotion. For instance, it has been discovered that the pharmacist acts as a crucial agent in matters of health promotion and disease prevention. However, an organization study held in Quebec led to the conclusion that though community pharmacists are always engaged in various health-promotion activities, there still exist various barriers that resist their absolute engagement in the initiators of the process of preventive care Laliberté et al. (2012). This fact implies that community pharmacists may act as accessible health

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resources, delivering services related to health screenings, immunizations, and counseling over lifestyle modifications.

Moreover, interventions through community pharmacies have been proven successful for several key areas of public health including smoking cessation, disease screening, and vaccination services. According to Agomo et al., community pharmacists play a critical role in the facilitation of preventive activities-task that's particularly relevant to decreasing chronic disease burden (Agomo et al., 2018). Due to their accessibility and convenience, community pharmacies are highly appropriate settings in which to deliver preventive care, especially among populations that are inherently underserved relative to the use of more traditional healthcare facilities

Addressing Chronic Disease Risk Factors

Targeted interventions also encompass community services toward addressing chronic disease risk factors. For example, the Fehily et al. study aimed at enhancing preventive care provision in community mental health services as it explained the importance of guideline-concordant delivery of care for chronic disease risk behaviors (Fehily et al., 2022). This research stresses the need for evidence-based practice to improve preventive care delivery through community health services to benefit the health outcome of people who are mentally ill. To the clients, the delivery of preventive care through community health services is acceptable. Mcelwaine et al. found that nearly all participants in their study had a positive attitude toward receiving preventive care from community health services (McElwaine et al., 2013). Acceptance toward preventive care is required to encourage people to seek preventive services, potentially sending them for diagnoses earlier or enabling control of chronic conditions. Community Engagement and Public Health Initiatives

Another relevant component of healthcare-related community services is community engagement, which affects public health directly

Public health benefiting from community involvement in the design and implementation of health care generally increases the effectiveness of the initiatives. Collins et al. opine that community actions are the requirement dealing with health crises such as HIV and Ebola. While conventional public health methods might not attract much attention towards the practice and beliefs in the context, involvement of community perspectives in health service delivery is a must so that the requirements and challenges the specific population faces can be understood better and dealt with accordingly (Collins et al., 2016). The provision of preventive health services by primary care providers is fundamental to ensure the provision of comprehensive care. According to Yarnall et al, the preventive activities are part and parcel of primary care visits although the time constraint could limit the degree to which these services should be extended (Yarnall et al., 2003). This calls for a concentration of preventive care within the primary healthcare settings with patients holistically approached and cared for within the acute and preventive health care services.

Barriers to Effective Preventive Care

Although a range of community health services concerning health care can have considerable beneficial effects, several obstacles are present in the provision of preventive care. For example,

Erku and Mersha mentioned that public awareness is low about the role of community pharmacists for public health, which in turn limits patient involvement with these services (Erku & Mersha, 2017). Educational interventions that create awareness and understanding of what can be accessed in community pharmacies will support increased participation of such health care professionals in public health initiatives. In addition, equity in accessing preventive care services is also lacking, with an imbalance between the population residing in the urban setting and those in the rural areas. Liu et al. indicated that financial constraints restrict people of lower incomes from access preventive care; however, such services have proven to be cost-effective compared to treatment (Liu et al., 2016). These disparities will demand focused policies and programs by which all inhabitants of the community may gain access to preventive care irrespective of any class.
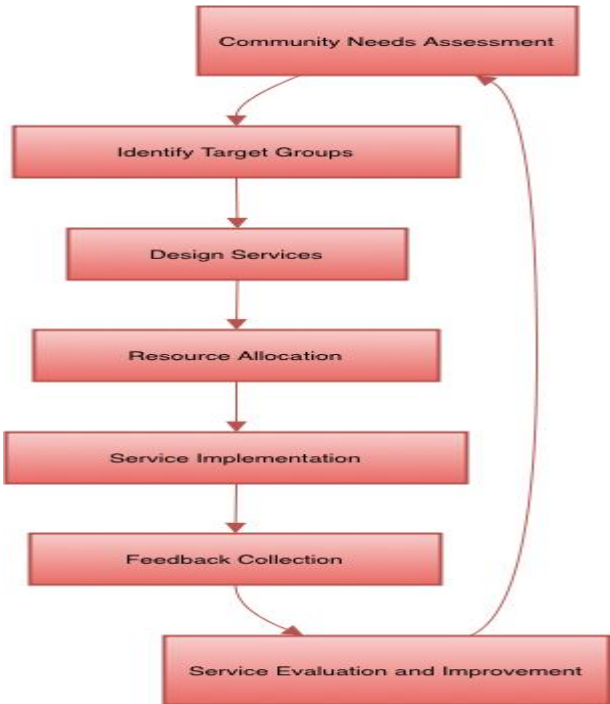

Figure 1. Flowchart about the step-by-step procedures for developing and improving community services Starting from community needs assessment, followed by identification of target groups, designing services, allocation of resources, provision of service, gathering feedback, and finally service evaluation, and improvement that feeds back into earlier stages for sustained development light of the gathered feedback.

The Role of Social Support Services in Addressing Economic Inequality, Housing Insecurity, and Food Access

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Social support services play a very important role in economic inequality, housing insecurity, and lack of access to food. Economic hardship comes with many challenges that both the individual and families must vie against, while unstable housing and lack of healthy food further harden the hurdles. The resources availed by and network offered by social support services help out in the face of such challenges and, therefore, significantly relate to the overall well-being of the populations involved.

Tackling Economic Inequality

Economic inequality is one of the widespread issues affecting many communities that would lead to disparities in accessing all resources. Social services such as economic aid programs, job opportunities training and educational assets are key and fundamental elements of combating economic inequality. For instance, Nolen et al. found out that better quality of social support was associated with reduced housing insecurity of the poor households, which establishes that social ties might soften the harsh impacts of economic limitations on family roles Nolen et al., 2021. Social support programs enhance the capability of people since it equips them with financial skills and employment for improvement in economics as well as curving inequality within communities.

In addition, social support might help ease the stresses or stressors associated with economic hardship. Interlenghi and Salles-Costa reported that social support and household food insecurity were negatively correlated; that is to say, those with better social connectivity were better able to cope with economic shocks. This implies that in addition to material support from social support services, individuals may also build up their resilience against economic adversity. In addition to broadening social connections, such programs would enable participants to draw on greater resource supports-perhaps shared meals, perhaps family or friends who can make some cash advance-payable later-to minimize further the impact of economic inequality.

Housing Insecurity Lessened

Housing insecurity is deeply debilitating for many low-income families and often is compounded by lack of economic stability. The social services in relation to housing insecurity would be avenues of survival in terms of receiving emergency house assistance, legal aid, and also advocacy services. As highlighted by Charkhchi et al., the issue of housing insecurity is usually intertwined with that of food insecurity, where individuals who have chronic illness suffer compounded challenges related to housing and food access (Charkhchi et al., 2018). With the holistic support provided by social support services, paying consideration to all interlinked factors, stability in housing conditions and overall health augmentations are improved.

In addition, there is abundant evidence on the relationship between housing issues and mental health. According to Holding et al., most tenants of social housing care more about housing stability rather than other general concerns for well-being; the authors considered that dealing with housing insecurity was a necessity for improving mental health (Holding et al., 2019). Social support services that aim to provide stable housing can enable people to conserve more of their resources and energies in other aspects of life, therefore potentially leading to better mental health outcomes. Providing Access to Food Proper food availability is another strategic service offered by social support services, which seek to enhance food security in the community.

Kirkpatrick and Tarasuk have found out that housing conditions have a more direct influence on food accessibility among low-income urban families, and this is why services for housing and food insecurity support are of the utmost importance (Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2011). Social instrumental sources supporting services can be in the form of food banks, community gardens, nutrition education, and charity food assistance to help individuals and families gain access to healthy food. These households living in food insecurity relied on food pantries and community meal programs for their nutritional needs. Yet, as Kirkpatrick and Tarasuk correctly noted, the lack of any significant difference in spending on food between the two groups-that is, between food-insecure and food-secure families-reiterates the call for social support services to be supplemented with greater systemic changes toward equal access to food (Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2011).

For instance, through policies aimed at dealing with the root causes of food insecurity, social support services can contribute to long-term solutions that improve the accessibility of food for all members in the community. Housing and Food Insecurity: Interconnection The linkages of housing and food insecurity are highly relevant for social support services. A study by Schure et al. found the relationship between food and housing insecurity with poor health outcomes of both physical and mental thus showing the need for support of these inter-related issues comprehensively (Schure et al., 2016).

Social Support services may aid individuals and families out of poverty as well as help them improve their general welfare through the provision of holistic support that encompasses stability in housing as well as food access.

Liu et al., also have discussed the linkages between housing insecurity and food insecurity, frequent mental distress, and poor sleep among adults. The outcome will reveal the impact that offering social support services in mitigating housing insecurity will have on further enhancing the psychological well-being and overall quality of life of such populations. With stable-housing environments through social support services as a base, a foundation would be laid for further augmenting health benefit and community resilience. In conclusion, there is a real point of relevance that social support services should be considered in solving economic inequality, housing insecurity, and food access in communities.

Resources and social connections created lead to empowering vulnerable populations and calling for systemic change. With communities moving on in dealing with the dynamics of economic hardships and resource scarcity, it is obvious that an important basic aspect of strong social support services is extremely crucial at this point. Investing in these services is therefore important to creating communities that are just and robust, providing all people with the resources for them to flourish.

The Role of Educational Community Services in Student Development

Tutoring or after-school programs are considered very fundamental community services within the educational community because they enhance the students' academic success as well as develop their social abilities. Structured learning environments are thus created to help students improve their achievement in school while developing important skills which lead to meaningful relationships with peers as well as mentors. The fruits from these activities transcend the face of

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mere academic success; they affect other dimensions of the student's social and emotional development.

Among the main impacts of educational community services is the enhancement of academic skills. After-school programs specifically have been found to enhance not only cognitive but also non-cognitive skills. A meta-analysis performed by Yao et al. revealed that participation in after-school programs leads to impressive academic outcomes, with an effect size of $d = 0.327$ in cognitive growth Yao et al. (2023). This outcome sustains previous research, indicating that the provision of structured after-school programs gives students an opportunity for extra academic support, which in turn allows students to use that knowledge outside of the classroom to fortify class work and to enhance educational results.

Additionally, after-school program participation is strongly related to increased academic skills and social competence in elementary school. For instance, Grogan et al. found that students who participate actively in after-school activities have greater academic success and social competency abilities (Grogan et al., 2014). This indicates that the benefits of such programs extend beyond academic benefits and include the achievement of interpersonal skills that lead to success both at school and in life. The interaction between attendance and engagement also played a role because more engaged students reported more academic benefits from the activities of the programs.

Enhancing Social Development

Beyond enhancing academic development, educational community services mainly play a crucial role in enhancing social development. The after-school programs offer the students different opportunities and times to interact with their peers in a supportive setting which can lead to improved social skills and emotional intelligence. Research indicates that organized group interactions teach children social skills, including teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution, which are useful in dealing with social situations (Sheldon et al., 2010). In the life of every student coming from a diverse background, these aspects ensure the child interacts safely among other peers, which leads to an inclusive environment. Education community services also act as protective factors against negative social influences, such as peer influence, and disengagement at school.

Holding after-school programs can provide a safe and controlled environment for students and hence help them to develop healthy relationships and contacts with adult mentors and peers who result in low-risk behavior. The perceptions of belongingness and community of these programs can elevate students' self-esteem and motivation, which further support their social development (Houser, 2014). Building Life Skills and Resilience It engages the educational community in offering services that bring about building of essential life skills that ensure students are resilient and adaptable. Youth development programs such as leadership training and problem-solving activities equip the students with various tools in overcoming challenges both in and out of class.

For instance, project-based out-of-school programs help students become leaders, cooperate in teams, and think critically (Sheldon et al., 2010). Such opportunities not only build better academic performance but also enable the student to acquire the ability to face tasks ahead of them even in higher institutions and the working environment. Besides, supplementing

educational community services with service-learning would emphasize the experiences of the students. Through involvement in service-learning projects of community service, the knowledge learned by students will be realized in context, while civic responsibility and empathy may grow. As per the studies of Azizah et al., students involved in community volunteer programs have achieved better performance in academic terms; therefore, this project will support the mutual benefit from service-learning (Azizah et al., 2022). The consistency in relationships between performance in academic terms and engaging in community indicates the necessity for a holistic approach to education based on the consideration of academic and social development. Overcoming Obstacles to Success Tertiary educational community services also serve to help overcome obstacles to success that are associated with academically disadvantaged students. A large proportion of low-income group students suffer from deficiencies in some or all of the areas of resources, home, and academic support. Tutoring and after-school programs close many of these gaps as well, with specific assistance and supplies not available elsewhere in the home.

These programs can level the ground for students, who are otherwise unable to compete with their peers. Additionally, due to its collaborative nature, most educational community services often serve as partnerships between a school, a family, or even a local organization. This collaborative approach ensures that students receive holistic support tailored to their unique needs. For example, community schools offering academic support along with other health and social services will address issues on all levels for students to perform better both in academics and overall well-being (Houser, 2014). It is what holistic support systems do that promotes resilience as well as enables students to succeed over adversity.

Challenges Faced by Community Service Providers

Community service organizations face a variety of challenges that significantly impact the capability of their service delivery. These include funding constraints, accessibility challenges, and staff shortages. These not only have impacts on the operational capacity but also have more general effects on populations.

Funding Constraints

Probably, funding is one of the largest challenges community service organizations face. Most rely on government grants, donations and continuous fundraising to sustain the operations. According to the analysis by the authors, a limitation in terms of funding can prevent an organization from offering evidence-based interventions to their clients, resulting in how it impacts its services. As analyzed by Harding et al. in 2021, this leaves a big area concerning impact on the services offered. Any form of reduction or cuts in funding for organizations results in programs they usually administer facing the ripple effect of diminished service availability and quality. This creates a vicious circle where the lack of resources will limit one's ability to offer primary services, thus perpetuating the need for community services.

The process of accessing funding also contributes further complexity to the sustainability processes of community services. Ringeisen et al. suggested that supported education service funding would call for an integrative approach through other reallocations, acquisition of grants, or carry out fundraising activities (Ringeisen et al., 2017). Such complexity can divert one's

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attention far from the provision of direct service delivery because a lot of time and input may be devoted to the many processes and bureaucracy of finding funding. Another source of instability is the diversified funding base. Organizations typically have multiple funding streams, and they may be vulnerable to changes in funding priorities or an economic downturn. Issues with Accessibility

Accessibility is another critical issue with which community service providers should be concerned

Many individuals requiring services face barriers in transportation, language, and cultural differences. For instance, Rodríguez et al. revealed that preparedness and response to disaster incidences leave behind the homeless population, further bringing out the systemic barriers that deny full access to vital services (Rodríguez et al., 2021). This can make things worse for already existing inequalities as well since it proves to be hard in reaching the marginalized groups, providing them with their support needs. Furthermore, accessibility is worsened due to the physical distance of the services. Many of the community service providers operate within an urban-based framework. This makes access to services quite challenging for those living in rural or rural remote areas. Limited transport networks reduce one's access to basic services such as healthcare and social services. It is most disturbing to the vulnerable groups; that is, the elderly and the low-income families, as they usually may not have accessible means of transport. Access should be addressed in conjunction with community service providers through outreach planning and partnerships that open up access to all categories of individuals, regardless of their circumstances. Staff Shortages and Burnout Staff shortages represent another huge challenge for community service providers.

Their demand for services often outweighs the available workforce, thus keeping the remaining workforce overworked and vulnerable to burnout

Green et al. asserted that burnout among providers of community-based mental health services is an issue that has been perennially arising, which impacts both the provider's well-being and the quality of services overall (Green et al., 2014). High turnover rates can disrupt continuity in services and erode trust on the part of clients in their providers, hence affecting the effectiveness of services provided in a community. In addition, funding pressures also contribute to the difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff. Most community service organizations cannot pay competitive salaries and benefits, leading to a severe lack of skilled professionals. As pointed out by Hippel et al., high turnover in a community mental health setting results in burnout stemming from client problems as well as other adverse work outcomes that make providing care more challenging (Hippel et al., 2019).

Such a cycle of staff shortages and burnout may create an insidious vicious cycle in that the inability to support service users adequately will lead to increased stress and turnover among staff who, in turn, compromise the quality of the services offered. Conclusion Community service providers face significant challenges that impede their ability to offer effective support to those in need. Funding constraints limit the finances available for service provision, and issues of accessibility do not allow people to receive the services. Furthermore, staff shortages and burnout create complexities in the environment, limiting the capacity of organizations to respond

to their communities. The way to overcome these challenges will be by assuring stable funding, improving access, and investing in workforce development in order to be sure that community service providers can continue to fill their essential roles in the lives of vulnerable populations.

The Role of Community Services in Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Community services are of immense importance and strengthen vulnerable groups in any community, including low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This type of service can assist with addressing critical needs, enhancing the quality of life, and fostering social integration. They can reduce the problems faced by the population and thus contribute to the well-being of that population.

Support for Low-Income Families

Food insecurity, lack of proper housing, and health care are some of the problems low-income families face. Thus, key is community service-they must cope with food banks, housing assistance programs, or financial counseling. Not being socially included, Dasgupta et al. suggested the needs of socially vulnerable populations be integrated into community mitigation plans, especially in a pandemic like COVID-19. Dasgupta et al. In this regard, it can be observed that the community services essentially help low-income families mainly in two areas: to provide them with food and shelter and thereby relieving them of various short-term stressors of poverty for relative stability. Community services also offer educational resources and can even offer work-related training programs to equip low-income families with the means to alter their economic conditions through improvement in skills and job search help. Skills training and job-assist programs are essential for the acquisition of stable employment for long-term financial self-sufficiency. This approach not only meets short-term needs but also builds resilience and self-reliance among low-income families.

Services to the Aged

This is another vulnerable group, experiencing issues with isolation or loneliness, health, and mobility. The community services that exist for seniors, such as meal delivery programs, transportation services, and other social activities, can provide real dimensions to their livelihoods. Yıldırım et al. noted that confinement during the COVID-19 pandemic amplified anxiety and depression in seniors, primarily in those with no companion or family (Yıldırım et al., 2021). Some of the community services may be included in helping to facilitate the flow of social engagements as they offer the required support towards senior persons. There is also the respite care for caregivers who attend to people suffering from dementia in order to support the elderly and their caregivers. The authors also noted that the community care pathways can be effective in promoting the caregivers' awareness of resources available; consequently, this will reduce the burden associated with caregiving and promote the welfare of the parties involved (Phillipson et al., 2013). Targeted support to caregivers from community services allows for a more sustainable care environment towards elderly people. Support for Individuals with Disabilities People with disabilities face more or less obstacles in service access.

Community services that focus on inclusivity and accessibility make people take part fully in society

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As indicated by Russell et al., mobile outreach services have been highly effective in enhancing health care access among the hard-to-reach and other vulnerable populations, particularly people with disabilities (Russell et al., 2022). Community organizations can eliminate transportation and mobility barriers by delivering the services directly to the identified receivers. Other significant community services range from special support, such as job training and employment assistance to people with disabilities, which eventually enables independence and self-sufficiency. People will be able to secure meaningful employment that would drastically change their lifestyle, a point of free existence from social assistance. Addressing Systemic Barriers Community services play a significant role in countering systemic barriers adversely affecting the vulnerable. Kusnadi posited that the poor, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities often face considerable barriers in accessing health care, especially in such crises as the COVID-19 pandemic. Community organizations can make a huge difference in helping ensure that vulnerable populations do receive the support they need in times of crisis when policy change is advocated for and if service delivery models are inclusive.

As such, the community service sector's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic further shows the value of speedy coordinated responses to help vulnerable populations. By Coram et al., it was documented that government policies and community service organizations collaborated in providing short-term homelessness solutions for the homeless in the streets. This can, therefore, be an example of how collaborative work can be effectively used in solving urgent problems (Coram et al., 2021). This kind of model can be followed for any future projects that are specifically aimed at helping the needy. Community services deeply reach the vulnerable lot of populations that include low-income families, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Community services meet the driving needs that send people to them in a different way. These services meet critical needs and plead for systemic change that benefits the overall wellness of families and individuals under immense distress. In the later days and ages, when communities will continue to change, the question remains that the community services should not be at their weakest but very inclusive to enhance resilience and improve quality of life for all members of society.

Table 1: Impact of community services on public health care and well-being.

Impact Area	Key Benefits	Examples
Health Outcomes	Increased access to healthcare, improved chronic disease management	Mobile clinics, telehealth services (Zhao et al., 2020; Siddiqi & Muyeed, 2022)
Education & Employment	Enhanced literacy, job readiness, and academic success	Vocational training, after-school tutoring (Griffith, 2009; Grogan et al., 2014)
Social Cohesion & Engagement	Strengthened community ties, reduced social isolation	Social groups for seniors, community development initiatives (Pan et al., 2022)
Economic Stability	Support for low-income families, increased financial independence	Financial literacy programs, emergency housing services (Interlenghi & Salles-Costa, 2014; Nolen et al., 2021)

Differences in Community Services Between Urban and Rural Settings

The different nature of the organizational structure, service delivery, and effectiveness of community services portrays several features when comparing the urban and rural environments. In this regard, factors such as population density, available resources, and unique problems posed in each environment present reasons for these differences. It is, therefore, crucial to understand these differences to tailor specific community services in line with the needs of various populations to enhance effective delivery.

Differences in Service Availability and Accessibility

Probably one of the most notable differences between various community services in an urban and a rural setting is the availability and access to resources. In general, cities usually have a more considerable population of services-what is usually available to the population pertaining to healthcare, education, and social support programs-in comparison to rural areas. Liu et al. concluded that older adults access community health services in urban settings because of high-level availability of comprehensive service items and facilities. However, service scarcity is one of the common issues in rural regions, further aggravating gaps in care. As reported by Liu et al., economic and policy restrictions seem to continue limitations in the quality and content of elderly services in rural areas (Liu et al., 2021). Besides, spatial accessibility is better for community health services in the case of urban regions. According to Li, older adults have ample opportunities to be involved in community health services in urban settings, which is likely to translate into better activities of daily living compared to their rural counterparts (Li, 2024). This gap calls for specific interventions that would improve service delivery for better benefits in the rural setting, where people are deemed to face hindrances through traveling distances to get access to some services. Rural Specific Problems

The rural settings have other challenges that make the community services not to be effective

One challenge is that there is an amalgamation of various services. According to Pesut et al. stressed the fact that in the rural settings, there is interrelation with health, social care, and transportation, as well as meals and housing thus, a more comprehensive approach to service delivery ought to be envisioned (Pesut et al., 2012). The lack of specialized service delivery can, therefore, make the system become fragmented and not offer full requirements. Moreover, rural dwelling may be accompanied by a higher degree of social isolation that might affect mental health and general wellness. Yang et al. studies have indicated that rural-to-urban migrant workers continue to be at risk for depressive symptoms of migration stress and lack of social support networks (Yang et al., 2020). In this regard, community services would greatly play an important role not only in catering to their immediate needs but also in building connections and support systems in the rural setting.

Disadvantages of Rural Environments

In contrast, community services are well-suited in an urban setting because they facilitate the concentration of resources and potential collaborations amongst the providers of services.

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Ease of access to services also helps to coordinate and integrate care, and thus, it is likely to improve one's health. For example, cities have access to well-equipped specialist practitioners and social services, which further boosts the overall community interventions (Li, 2024). Further, a more heterogeneous population could be more innovative and provide for more differentiated services to benefit the needs of various groups. However, the issues experienced in an urban environment, the increase in poverty levels and crime levels, impact service provision in a community. Gros et al. noted that in urban areas, service disruptions will take a longer time to recover post disasters, thus intensifying the mental health issues that have emerged among the residents (Gros et al., 2012). This underscores the importance of communities having adaptive and responsive services which take into consideration the emerging issues that arise from the urban populace. Comparative Health Outcomes, the outcomes of health within such settings may also differ between the urban and rural context. Sibeudu et al. reports that routine usage of immunization in fact is often reported to be higher in urban settings due to socioeconomic factors and service availability (Sibeudu et al., 2019).

However, rural districts experience a low vaccination coverage among their populations due to time constraints and lack of accessibility toward healthcare facilities. Therefore, there is a need for outreach and education efforts to enhance the health outcome in these districts. There is also a huge difference in the quality of community health services between urban and rural areas. Guo et al. reported that community health services tend to be of better quality in urban areas, thereby leading to good chronic care management of diseases such as hypertension and diabetes (Guo et al., 2018). This therefore calls for continuous investment in health infrastructure in rural settings to ensure equal access to high-quality services.

Table 2: Types of community services and their functions.

Category	Functions	Example Services
Healthcare Services	Promote physical and mental health, preventive care, rehabilitation	Community clinics, mental health support groups (Datta et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2020)
Educational Services	Improve knowledge, skill development, foster social awareness	Adult education, after-school programs (Rozvadovska, 2020; Griffith, 2009)
Social Welfare Services	Provide basic needs support, foster economic stability	Housing assistance, food banks (Chan et al., 2022; Iott & Anthony, 2023)
Specialized Support	Cater to specific vulnerable groups	Services for the elderly, programs for individuals with disabilities (Pan et al., 2022; Chan et al., 2022)

Key Differences in Community Service Provision Across Countries and Regions

A good deal of variation exists in the provision of community service across different countries and regions, influenced by several cultural, economic, and political factors. These variations also lead to different models of service delivery, which changes with its unique set of challenges and benefits. An understanding of such differences lies in identifying a successful model that may be adapted and applied in other contexts.

Key Differences in Community Service Provision

Resource Availability and Infrastructure: Urban settings are more accessible to resources and infrastructure compared to rural regions. Therefore, regarding this, Tham et al. pointed out that there are competing fiscal, political, and moral imperatives, which make delivering quality health services in the areas of rural complex Tham et al. (2010). In most cases, urban settings tend to rely on a concentration of healthcare facilities, social services, and community organizations, which can make service delivery more holistic.

Cultural Context and Community Engagement

Cultural factors often determine the effectiveness of community services. Gajjar et al., for example, concluded that the models adopted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services in Australia have brought about a change in the focuses of the models: community control, culturally relevant care, and many others (Gajjar et al., 2014). This is why the community needs such services that apply to the specific cultural system of the community.

Health Inequalities and Injustice: According to Natera et al., health inequalities are present in developing and developed countries, though the underlying type may vary (Natera et al., 2020). For example, while low-income nations may lack access to health services, high-income countries are likely to encounter issues about affordability and insurance. This means community service delivery must approach differently, with low-income nations seeking more expansion in access and high-income nations eliminating underlying inequality.

Successful Models of Community Service Provision

Community Health Worker (CHW) Programs: CHW programs have become successful models in many countries in improving access to health care and equity. According to Javanparast et al., "CHWs act as trusted bridges between vulnerable communities and formal health systems to facilitate access to services and health education for very vulnerable groups, a key strategy in contributing to greater population-wide coverage of the formal health system" (Javanparast et al., 2018). Such a model holds good promise in low- and middle-income countries, but it also has shown merit in the more urbanized settings of more-developed nations, thus testifying to the design's broad applicability.

Mobile and Outreach Services

This has provided greater access to health care for those who are located out of reach. Russell et al. established that such services nullify service barriers, and hence, avoid the navigation of complex systems to access one's healthcare (Russell et al., 2022). This has been successful in rural regions and populations that face challenges in moving around.

Integrated Care Models: The integrated care models bringing together health and social care have promising results regarding health outcomes. Schmidt et al reported-on community-based programs in Australia, using community health workers as chronic care coordinators in Indigenous health programs as crucial for linking clients with community resources; thus, being more than mere ways to deal with quick-healing conditions but also encompassing social determinants leading to more sustainable outcomes (Schmidt et al., 2016).

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Culturally Sensitive Service: This is a very key service whose significance can never be underrated, particularly for different communities in any region. Gajjar et al. discussed how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services in Australia have modified their models to feature community control and culturally appropriate care (Gajjar et al., 2014). This model may be applied elsewhere where issues to do with culture must play a role in their successful service delivery.

Provisions of community service vary significantly from one country to the other with differences in cultures, economies, and political contexts. This results in unique delivery models for services, and each has various challenges and advantages attached to it. Such knowledge is imperative for identifying great models which can be adopted and applied in different contexts.

Key Differences in Community Service Provision

 Resource Availability and Infrastructure: Urban areas generally enjoy a better availability of resources and infrastructure compared to rural areas. For instance, Tham et al. noted that the provision of quality healthcare in a rural setting involves several conflicting fiscal, political, and moral imperatives Tham et al. (2010). Most often than not, an urban setting enjoys the concentration of healthcare facilities, social services, and community organizations, thus allowing for wider-than-provided services.

Cultural Context and Community Engagement: In some cultures, the effectiveness of community services is severely influenced. For example, Gajjar et al. argued that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services in Australia has models tailored to focus on community-control and culturally acceptable care (Gajjar et al., 2014). It was evident that all services undertaken were well suited to the social culture being served.

Health Disparities and Inequalities: According to Natera et al. (2020), health inequalities are very much present in both developing and developed countries, although differences in disparities may be present. Like, whereas low-income countries may have the issue of accessing healthcare facilities, a country with wealth may even face the problem of unaffordable health care and insurance coverage. Hence, appropriate intervention would be needed on how community service could be delivered; access expansion for developing countries and systemic inequalities for developed countries.

Successful Models of Community Service Provision

Community Health Worker (CHW) Programs: The model of CHWs has shown to be effective and has been implemented in many countries that take an action towards health equity and access. According to Javanparast et al., CHWs can become a reliable link between the most vulnerable communities and the official health systems, providing them services as well as opportunities for health education (Javanparast et al., 2018). There has been an implementation and success of this model both in low-income developing countries and in middle-income countries and even in towns in developed countries, thus showing viability in various contexts.

Mobile and Outreach Services: As the use of mobile and outreach services, improved access to healthcare for hard-to-reach populations has been something gained momentum. According to Russell et al., such services circumvent the traditional bypass barriers very effectively so that

vulnerable groups can get care without navigating complex healthcare systems (Russell et al., 2022). This model has worked very well in rural areas as well as those who face transport-related challenges.

The Integrated Care Models: There have been promising outcomes reported with the integrated care models of health and social services. According to Schmidt et al., the community health workers coordinating chronic care as indigenous health program coordinators in Australia have been a very effective means of linking clients with community resources (Schmidt et al., 2016). Such interventions tackle not only the direct health but also social determinants of health, which makes the outcome more sustainable.

Culturally Sensitive Care: Without any doubt, culturally appropriate services are very important mainly for those places with diverse populations. Gajjar et al., in discussing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services' model change in Australia to present community control and culturally appropriate care, noted this model may be applied in other related areas where cultural sensitivity is very important for the successful delivery of care services.

Technological Innovations in Community Services

Telehealth, digital platforms, and mobile applications are some of the most impactful technological innovations that have touched community services delivery and access directly. The opportunities associated with these technologies have enabled healthcare providers and community organizations to connect with the underserved populations, improve the efficiency of service delivery, and enhance patient engagement. This discussion explains how these technological innovations change the delivery of community services and provides successful examples to be implemented across different contexts.

Telehealth Innovations

This has made telehealth emerge as extremely important in widening accessibility to health services; it reaches out to distant and less privileged communities. Indeed, as noted by Abbott-Gaffney and Jacobs, "telehealth could help bridge many service delivery gaps, in particular occupational therapy by providing remote consultations and interventions" Abbott-Gaffney & Jacobs (2020). In areas where there is a shortage of available health professionals, this becomes critical because telehealth becomes necessary to gain access to specialists that are not easily reached. Telehealth has also been effective in the provision of early intervention services for children with disabilities. Cason et al. made the point that telehealth models make services available accessible to families and increase outcomes in early childhood development (Cason et al., 2012). Telehealth is beneficial for families in gaining timely help that would not be restricted by issues of travel or scheduling, thereby increasing the effectiveness of community services.

Digital Platforms and Mobile Applications

The digital platforms as well as mobile applications further transform community service delivery through access to all information and material for users' convenience and easy use. According to Jonnagaddala et al., mobile applications have lately been used to deliver mental

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health services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so those in need can access care from a distance (Jonnagaddala et al., 2021).

This flexibility is especially useful for populations who might experience stigma or have barriers to access in-person care. The use of technology in support of health services in Indigenous communities has been very impactful. According to Jones et al, health technologies have been customized to meet the cultural requirements of Indigenous people. Such an adaptation facilitates not only the access of health services but also social connectivity and participation of the community (Jones et al., 2017). That is why there is a need to take a culturally responsive approach towards the implementation of health technologies. Cost-Effectiveness and Resource Allocation There has also been the cost-effectiveness of telehealth and digital services on community service provision.

Snoswell et al. conducted cost-consequence analysis that compared models of telehealth with outreach services to address diabetes care in Indigenous communities, concluding that telehealth reduces travel costs and offers access to specialist care (Snoswell et al., 2019). This economic benefit is the reason why this program would prove quite valuable for community organizations that have limited budgets because it saves them resources. Besides that, mHealth initiatives have been promising and could enhance patient care in resource-limited settings. Aranda-Jan et al. found that the adoption of mobile technologies by community health workers in Africa had made it easier for delivering HIV care, hence displaying mHealth as a catalyst in the promotion of delivery in challenging settings (Aranda-Jan et al., 2014). This finding portrays how mobile technologies can be applied to improve health outcomes and sort out logistical problems. Challenges and considerations despite all the benefits associated with the technological advancements of community services, challenges are still there. In fact, Barry pointed out that awareness of the technology and client preference are critical issues in the delivery of telehealth services to individuals living in rural settings (Barry, 2024).

Community acceptability to employ technology is a critical determinant of the effective use of telehealth services. Elkefi et al further elaborated on this point that the use of technology in healthcare delivery raises operational issues, such as the need for a well-defined vision on how these interventions will meet organizational goals and unmet needs of patients. Organizing in the community will require investments in training and infrastructure to adequately support these technologies.

Abbreviations

CHWs: Community Health Workers

MSM: Men who have Sex with Men

TQM: Total Quality Management

STIs: Sexually Transmitted Infections

ICT: Information and Communication Technology

Conclusions

General community services are highly important in improving public health, social welfare, and economic security of various populations. The current study has outlined all types of categories of community services, focusing their functions concerning health care, education, and social welfare. Properly structured services possess good benefits, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, low-income families, or individuals with disabilities. Despite all these, some challenges exist. Funding is one of the major concerns, while the provision and access to services are affected by staff shortages and perceptions of accessibility. By including technological innovations, such as telehealth, in mobile social services, community providers can eliminate some of the barriers and make their services much more efficient. What is also critical is that community feedback can be integrated into service design and continuous assessment of service quality to ensure these services meet the changing needs of the population. Sustainable community service would therefore involve continuous coordination among governmental bodies, the service providers and the communities that are served to foster the feeling of inclusiveness as well as resilience in matters of public health and social challenges.

Author contributions

All authors are participated in this comprehensive review and manuscript editing and final things to approval the article.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

Ethical Approval

Not Applicable

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