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Awareness and Attitude towards the New Social Health Insurance System, among Physicians in Primary Health Care Centers in Cairo governorate

Thesis for Partial Fulfilment of Master Degree in Public Health

Submitted by

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Abstract

Introduction: The Government of Egypt is committed to attain Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and its progress in this vein has been spurred recently through the approval of the Social Health Insurance (SHI) law. Health providers are important stakeholders in the implementation of the SHI system. **Objective:** The objective of this study was to estimate the level of awareness and attitude of physicians and managers in Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) in Cairo governorate about the new system and the factors affecting it, and to determine the challenges that may face the new system from the perspective of the participants. **Method:** A cross-sectional study was conducted to estimate the awareness level and attitude of 100 physicians and managers from PHCCs in Cairo governorate in 2019. PHCCs subjected to this study were selected randomly from the official list of the PHCCs in Cairo governorate from the MoH, and the required sample of physicians was randomly selected inside each center. A pilot tested semi-structured Arabic interview questionnaire was used, with a reliability coefficient of 0.70.

Results: The study revealed that the respondents' awareness level of the new SHI system was mostly average (78% between Q1-Q3 of the total awareness score). Fifty percent (50%) of the participants had positive attitude (> median score) towards the current strategy of the new SHI system, while 48% of the participants had positive attitude towards different challenges facing the implementation of that system (against their presence). Most of the participants (88%) had no history of attending training courses involving SHI system. Managers and older participants showed significantly higher means of awareness, and attitude scores towards the strategy of the new system, than the competitors' groups. There was a moderate significant positive correlation (31%) between the total awareness score and total attitude score towards the new system strategy, while there was no significant correlation between the awareness score and attitude towards the challenges facing the implementation of the new system score.

Conclusion: The study concluded that the level of awareness about the SHI among the studied sample of the PHCCs' physicians at Cairo governorate was averaged. It was of the physicians' opinion that the successful implementation of the SHI system will improve the healthcare system elements, but there are many challenges in this regard.

Recommendation: Efforts should be enhanced for reaching out to the physicians in PHCCs, including those working in governorates where implementation of SHI system hasn't commenced yet, especially to emphasize their understanding of the objectives and elements of the new system.

Keywords: Awareness, Attitude, Social health insurance, Health care professionals, Primary Health Care Centers, Universal health coverage.

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DEDICATION

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgementi
Dedicationii
Contentsiiii
List of abbreviationsv
List of tablesvi
List of Figuresviii
Introduction 1
Objectives9
Review of literature 10
Chapter 1: Background of the healthcare system in Egypt and its reform
trials 10
Chapter 2: The challenges driving the changes in the healthcare system in Egypt
едури 17
Chapter 3: Factors that can facilitate and enhance the speed to achieving SHI and UHC
Chapter 4: Selected international models from developing countries on
implementing SHI30
Chapter 5: General overview of the new SHI system in Egypt 46
Participants and Methods57
RESULTS 61

Conclusion	96
LIMITATIONS	99
RECOMMENDATIONS	100
Summary	102
REFERENCES	105
Appendix 1	
الماخص العرب	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BBP	Basic Benefits Package
CCO	Curative Care Organization
EMR	Electronic Medical Records
FHF	Family Health Fund
FHM	Family Health Model
GAHA	General Authority for Health Accreditation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoE	Government of Egypt
HIO	Health Insurance Organization
HIS	Health Information System
HSRP	Health Sector Reform Program
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
МоН	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHIS	National Health Insurance System
OOP	Out Of Pocket
PHCC	Primary Health Care Center
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHI	Social Health Insurance
SHIP	School Health Insurance Program
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
WHO	World Health Organization

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page No.	
Tables of Review			
1	Sectors in Health Services Delivery in Egypt	13	
2	Implementation Stages of the New Health Insurance System in Egypt	48	
Tables of Results			
1	Demographic and professional characteristics of the participants	62	
2	Respondents general awareness about the new SHI System in Egypt	63	
3	Respondents' awareness of the new SHI System strategy in Egypt and required essential elements		
4	Factors affecting the mean awareness score about the new system strategy and elements	67	
5	Respondents' attitude towards the strategy of the new SHI System in Egypt	72	
6	Factors affecting the mean attitude towards the strategy of the new system score	76	
7	The spearman's rho correlation coefficient between the total awareness score and the total attitude towards the new system strategy score		
8	Respondents' attitude towards the challenges facing implementation of the SHI system	79	

9	Factors affecting the mean attitude towards the challenges facing the new system score	82
10	Correlation coefficient between the total awareness score and the total attitude scores	83
11	Content analysis of the priority stakeholders associated with the implementation of the new system	83
12	Content analysis of the other challenges facing the implementation of the new system	84
13	Content analysis of the required reforms for the current system to work efficiently for the success of SHI	85

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure (1)	Bar chart showing the participants' awareness levels	66
Figure (2)	Stacked bar chart showing the levels of attitude towards the strategy of the new SHI System	
	Pie chart showing the levels of attitude towards the strategy of the new SHI System	75
Figure (4)	Stacked bar chart showing the levels of attitude towards the challenges facing implementation of the new SHI System	
Figure (5)	Bar chart showing the levels of attitude towards the challenges facing implementation of the new SHI System	