



The significance of community participation in clinical trials: (unpublished data)

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Objectives



- To show the importance of community involvement in Clinical trials
- To encourage full participation of the local communities in research programs, through the I.E.C. (Information, Education and Communication) work method



Methods (1)



- Selection of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) members was done through various consultative meetings, .
- Extensive and intensive education of the CAB members on Malaria and HIV/AIDS Clinical trials was done at the Tropical Diseases Research Center (TDRC)



Methods (2)



- The well-informed CAB members then go into their communities to educate, correct misinformation, gather information on the community and researchers views and refer complicated issues to investigators.



Results (1)



- Misinformation has been corrected, especially with regard to the complicated HIV/AIDS vaccines, through information and education.
- Recruitment, follow-up and compliance of TDRC study volunteers have been greatly enhanced.



Results (2)



- Advice from CAB members to Scientists to undertake ethically viable research has been taken up and the referral system for information seekers has improved.



Discussion & Conclusions



- Misinformation, which leads to lack of trust of the Scientists by their community may lead to failure of the clinical research trial.
- Scientists need to recognize the input of communities in the research process.



Future perspectives



- Share study results and outcomes with the research participants and the larger community.
- Educate and reorient research community on the importance of treating the public as a partner in the research process including clinical trials.