

## ABSTRACT

Cholera is an important public health problem and it is responsible for morbidity and mortality in poor resource settings. Key community health indicators have remained low as regards to prevention and control of cholera. This study sought to assess the practices in prevention of cholera outbreak, the knowledge of community health care workers in prevention and treatment of cholera and the preparedness of primary health facilities in the management of cholera in Nyatike Sub County. This was cross-sectional study targeting 244 community healthcare workers and adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods. The data was cleaned, using statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) version 20. The results of the study revealed low hand washing and water treatment practices at 44.4% and 55.6 %, respectively, and low latrine coverage of 49%. There was high knowledge of etiology, signs and symptoms, prevention and control measures at 63%. It is however paradoxical that the knowledge was not translated into practice. The low laboratory diagnostic capacity by 81% of the health facilities, coupled with inadequate preparedness of health facility in cholera prevention and control, have compounding causes of cholera in Nyatike Sub County. The study concludes that poor sanitation and hygiene practices are risk factors to cholera outbreak in the study area and the high knowledge on prevention and control does not correlate with the practices. The CHVs as change agents are overburdened due to high work load though the dependency culture appears to derail the prevention efforts. The Health facilities are ill prepared to effectively manage cholera outbreak due to inability to confirm cases, inadequate commodities and supplies, poor waste management and infection prevention strategies at the health facilities. The study recommends that there is need to enhance community education in self-efficacy on hand washing , water treatment and latrines use, to strengthen laboratory capacity and disease surveillance ,to improve availability of basic medical supplies and regular updates of health care workers on cholera prevention and treatment.