Human capital management and performance of community-based health planning and service (CHPS): a mediator analysis

Human capital management

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Received 26 April 2021 Revised 7 September 2021 9 October 2021 Accepted 11 October 2021

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Abstract

Purpose – This paper aims to examine the complexity of the relationship between human capital management (HCM) and the performance of community-based health planning and services (CHPS) from an emerging market perspective. It further explores the mediating role of community orientation; institutional intervention and capability of resources in the hypothesized relationship between HCM and the performance of CHPS.

Design/methodology/approach — Quantitative data was collected (through a survey) from 210 health volunteers using a systematic random sampling technique. A 95% response rate was realized and the data was analyzed using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis and hierarchical multiple regression.

Findings – HCM has a direct relationship with the performance of the CHPS model. It also emerged that institutional intervention and capability of resources partially mediate the relationship between HCM and CHPS performance; while community orientation fully mediates the same relationship.

Practical implications – Capacity building for staff must be wired into the workings of the CHPS model to yield the maximum impact. This points to the need for training packages that focus on building both social and cultural competence for staff working among locals under the CHPS model. Effective planning is, thus, needed to ensure a seamless allocation of adequate resources to boost performance. Also, community engagement is critical to the success of the CHPS model as it could serve as a platform for awareness creation among locals.

Originality/value – This paper introduces community orientation, institutional intervention and capability of resources as mediating variables to investigate the hypothesized relationships. It offers a developing country insight into how HCM-related factors might be impacting the performance of community-based health programs.

Keywords Community orientation, Human capital management, Resource capability, Institutional intervention, Performance of CHPS, Community health-based planning and services model (CHPS)

Paper type Research paper

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Vilakshan - XIMB Journal of Management Vol. 20 No. 2, 2023 pp. 233-246 Emerald Publishing Limited e-ISSN: 2633-9439 p-ISSN: 0973-1954 DOI 10.1108/XJM-04-2021-0109

Background to the study

Given its inherent ability to offer organizations a seemingly inimitable source of competitive advantage, human capital (HC) is increasingly being deployed as a tool for value creation, growth and survival among firms (Ali *et al.*, 2016). Regarded as the collection of knowledge, skills and experience individual gains through education and training, HC positively impacts other resources of an organization in both the short and long term. Consequently, firms that will succeed in the marketplace must create an intellectual capital management system that is consciously designed to improve its HC resources. An effective management of the HC resources is, thus, critical to the continued existence of both public and private sector organizations and their customer offerings.

Similar to what pervades in other Sub-Saharan African countries, Ghana's public health sector is confronted with a multiplicity of challenges – high maternal and child mortality rates, poor infrastructure and unequal access to medical care (Saleh, 2012). To address the aforementioned problems and others such as the structural exclusion of rural folks (Teye et al., 2014), Ghana adopted the community-based health planning and services (CHPS) model. Among other things, the CHPS model sought to address health care delivery challenges that had their roots in human capital management (HCM) shortcomings (Awoonor-Williams et al., 2018). Given the HC limitations of Ghana's health care delivery system, this paper sought to evaluate how HCM could impact the performance of the CHPS model which was introduced to improve access to health care among citizens. It also investigates how institutional interventions, community orientation and resource capability impact the relationship between HCM and CHPS performance.

Literature review

The CHPS model

Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) model is a community action where nurses undertake home visits and do community durbars and community education, health promotion and immunization (Kweku *et al.*, 2020). The CHPS idea partitions a community into CHPS zones, which might be around five communities meeting up as one zone. The model comprising of the community health the board advisory groups, the volunteers and the health compounds to help improve access to health in local communities by the Ghana Health Service. This model was developed to address the underlying social, environmental and economic causes of poor health.

Human capital management and performance

HCM is critical to the growth and survival of organizations; as it encourages the initiation of processes for the assessment and satisfaction of future manpower requirements. HCM consequently provides the basis for developing policies and practices that enhance the inherent capacities of people, their skill development and employability through continuous learning (Kulkarni *et al.*, 2020). HCM is, thus, a critical aspect of performance management among employees. According to Rudman (2020), performance management entails an integration of HCM practices with the organization's business goals and must align with the HC activities and culture of the firm. It is, thus, difficult to effectively manage a firm's HC without a system that measures performance and performance capability. Lee *et al.* (2010) uncovered six underlying HRM practices (such as training and professional development) that improve the business performance of a firm as well as the productivity of its employees.

Conceptual model

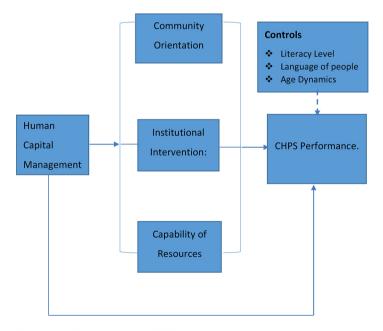
Figure 1 depicts the conceptual framework of CHPS performance, underpinned by the expectancy and HC theories (Baron and Armstrong, 2007; Salaman *et al.*, 2005; Vroom, 1964). The mediating variables, namely, *community orientation, institutional intervention and capability of resources* are thought to directly mediate the relationship between HC and CHPS performance.

Hypotheses development

Human capital management and performance of CHPS

HCM is a creative approach to handle resources, viewing them as an asset rather than expenses. HC consists of the intangible resources that workers provide for their employers. Bontis *et al.* (1999)M explain it as the human factor in the organization; the combined intelligence, skills and expertise that gives the organization its distinctive character. The human elements of the organization are those that are capable of learning, changing, innovating and providing the creative thrust that if properly motivated, can ensure the long-term survival of the organization.

Based on the assertion of Baron and Armstrong (2007), it is natural to infer that organizations are able to improve performance through a complementary blend of HCM and HRM as they must be seen as two necessary components combining their activities and results in the complex process of people management. The logic behind HCM and organizational performance stem from the orthodoxy that employee performance improves when organizations invest in the development of the skill set of their staff (Crook *et al.*, 2011; Jain and Ahuja, 2019). Highly skilled staff positively impacts on the performance of the organization. Hence, the effective management of the HC can help in the development of



Source: Author's construct, 2020

Figure 1. Conceptual model

employee skill sets and abilities that can be channeled to the enhancement of the CHPS model. It is, thus, hypothesized that:

H1. HCM has a positive impact on CHPS performance.

Community orientation and performance of CHPS

Community orientation as per the study are proposed to include organizing, accessibility and affordability. According to Desseler (2007), before information on a service or product is accepted and used by the people, they should be given awareness, oriented and educated to alleviate wrong perceptions or confusions on the service or product. Awareness is created when the community is organized and this motivates the people to act on their problems to find solutions. Informing community leaders under the CHPS program is, therefore, a necessity. The need to engage in community orientation ensures that the HC of the organization is effectively exploited. For most community projects, effective management of the HC resources results in effective engagement and orientation of the community, which may impact positively on success, and thus, performance (Proenca *et al.*, 2000). Expert knowledge provided to the community helps to adequately equip the locals with requisite skills that are critical to the advancement and success of such projects. It is, thus, hypothesized that:

H2. Community orientation mediates the relationship between HCM and CHPS performance.

Institutional interventions and performance CHPS

This paper contends that the HCM influences on the intervention of institutions will enhance the performance of the CHPS Model. According to Abor *et al.* (2008), institutional intervention at the community level encourages local residents to come up with flexible, financially sustainable approaches that can eventually lead to lasting, meaningful societal changes and partner to create value. Chatzkel's (2004) concept on realities of institutional intervention and its impact on performance, perhaps, points to how the construct might mediate a relationship between HCM and CHPS performance. As Chatzkel (2004) posits, institutions are nothing more than an extension of human thought and action. It is the knowledge, skills and abilities of individuals that create value and the focus has to be on means of reacting, retaining, developing and maintaining the HC as an aspect of institutions to improve performance. With astute HCM, organizations are able to impart critical skills to staff at the local level which helps them to effectively exploit resources provided through institutional interventions for the success of the CHPS model (Heravi *et al.*, 2015). It is, thus, hypothesized that:

H3. Institutional interventions mediate the relationship between HCM and the performance of CHPS.

Resource capability and performance of CHPS

Resource capability includes skills, knowledge, ability and experience of individual team members and their ability to grow and innovatively possessed by people in an organization (Donate *et al.*, 2016). Also, resource capability is the resourcefulness of the members of the team who possess and exhibit the HC skills they have to add value and improve

performance. A resourced team will have a higher capability if each team members possess unique skills, knowledge and experience. The dynamism of the team allows for the exhibition of complementary behaviors and abilities, expressed through organizational processes to enable a business to anticipate changing market conditions and accordingly respond to remain competitive. Logically, building resource capability comes through training and serves as an incentive for HC development leading to an increase in CHPS performance. Resource capability can be enhanced as per this study through the provision of incentives and training of HC, which will improve CHPS performance. It is, thus, hypothesized that:

H4. Resource capability mediates the relationship between HCM and CHPS performance.

Methodology, sampling and procedures

A cross-sectional survey was done to gather the required data for the study in a defined population of 784 volunteers in 5 regions considered as CHPS active zones in Ghana. The objective of the survey was to collect numerical data from the respondents to test the relationship among the variables. Once the pilot survey was successful, the questionnaire was confirmed to be reliable and valid. Saunders *et al.* (2012) recommend that 10%–20% of the actual sample for a study should be used to pre-test the instrument. Pre-testing was necessary to spot and proper any bias and weakness before the administration of the survey. In line with that, 20 respondents were used given that the sample size is 200. Reliability of the data collection instrument was checked using the Cronbach's alpha values. The general rule range of +0.5 to +0.9 was applied (Taber, 2018). The reliability results are presented in the data analysis section. Relevant questions to test each of the identified variables were developed and grouped appropriately. A five-point Liker scale was adopted to measure variables that could not be observed as discrete values. The five-point Likert scale also contributes to improving the construct validity (Bandalos, 2014). A structured questionnaire that had closed-ended questions were used to achieve a standardized response pattern and aid easy coding.

Most measures in the questionnaire were chosen from those that had been used in previous research. For instance, the 16 scale items used for measuring HCM was adapted from Baron and Armstrong (2007) registering a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.855. Likewise, measures for community orientation were adapted from Proenca *et al.* (2000) and had a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.684. Institutional intervention was measured with six items adapted from Abor *et al.* (2008) with Cronbach's alpha value of 0.817. Resource capability was measured with four items adapted from Crook *et al.* (2011) and Jain and Ahuja (2019). The scale had a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.827. CHPS performance five items adapted from Wright *et al.* (2003) and had a Cronbach's alpha value of 0.829.

The study selected 200 (using simple random sampling technique which is a form of probability sampling that helps achieve representativeness of sample) respondents from a total population of 784 volunteers in five regions considered as CHPS active zones in Ghana. The actual sample size was calculated using the total population size, confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 6%. After the calculation, a sample size of 200 respondents was realized. The sample size, thus, corresponds to the recommended numbers given in Saunders *et al.* (2012).

The data was collected through field administration of 210 questionnaires to take care of non-response issues and missing data. After 2 months, 210 questionnaires were received representing 100% response rate. The survey was conducted between 22 September 2019 and 24 February 2020. Also, ethical steps were taken to control for errors and biases. Common method bias was assessed using the recommendation by Podsakoff and Organ (1986). The results showed that the first factor accounted for 28.588% of the total variance.

This means that there was no problem with common-method variance. All ethical protocols were followed for the study. All data was analyzed using SPSS where one-way analysis of variance and a covariance structural equation modeling that is used to confirm the dimensionality and assess the reliability and validity of the measurements.

Results and findings

Demographic information

The distribution of the demographic characteristics related to the respondents is shown in Table 1. The table indicates a male to female ratio of 34.5%:65.5%. This suggests that women are dominant within the health profession space, especially with regard to the CHPS program than men. It is particularly so as the CHPS focuses more on nurses and midwives in providing first aid health assistance to rural folks. Similarly, Grant *et al.* (2004), found that the top health occupations dominated by women include but are not limited to nursing and midwifery. Also, 144 (72%) of respondents had attained a tertiary level of education and 31 (15%) had attained a second cycle level of education.

Exploratory factor analysis

The exploratory factor analysis was carried out using the principal component analysis using varimax rotation. The Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity results (KMO = 0.865; df = 2,278; p < 0.05; Approx.: Chi-Square = 10,318.97; df = 2,278; sig = 0.000) shows the adequacy of sampling and applicability of factor analysis (Hair *et al.*, 2012). The resultant analysis showed five factors explaining 51.6% of the variance. Table 2 gives the pattern matrix showing the factor loadings for the variables of the study. The initial eigenvalues for each component were approximately 1 and above.

The results in Table 2 show the item cluster on the same components. The results suggest that Factor 1 is community orientation; Factor 2 is institutional intervention, Factor 3 is CHPS performance, Factor 4 is HCM and Factor 5 is the capability of resources with eigenvalues of 19.440, 6.821, 3.796, 2.860 and 2.171., 1.905, 1.326 and 1.026, respectively.

Confirmatory factor analysis

A confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was carried out to assess the validity of the measures. This approach is well-established in the marketing literature (Doney and Cannon, 1997). Six model fit indices were used to assess the overall goodness-of-fit of the model as shown in Table 3. All the model indices were within the accepted levels, confirming the measurement

Demographic variables	Frequency	(%)
Sex		
Male	69	34.5
Female	131	65.5
Education		
Primary	5	2
Middle/JHS/basic	18	9
SHS/secondary/vocational/technical	31	15
Tertiary	144	72
Certificate in general nursing	1	1
Certificate in community nursing	1	1
Source: Author's Estimation from Field Survey, 2	2020	

Table 1. Demographic characteristics (n = 200)

Component					Human capital	
Item	1	2	3	4	5	management
CO1	0.632		0.268		-0.125	
CO2	0.582	0.241	0.249	0.166	-0.106	
CO3	0.614	0.174	0.228	0.137	0.198	
COR4	0.529	0.159	0.185		0.363	200
COR5	0.217	0.125	0.498	0.146	0.656	239
COR6	0.278	0.207	0.356	0.18	0.536	
COR7	0.417	0.106	0.557	0.147	0.206	
COR8	0.357	0.505	0.329	0.189	0.303	
COR9	0.237	0.612		0.193	0.196	
COR10	0.402	0.419	0.184	0.321	0.356	
ACC11	0.177		0.713	0.185	0.285	
ACC12	0.267	0.531	0.561	0.326	0.299	
ACC13		0.143	0.711	0.245	0.346	
ACC14	0.295	0.685	0.203	0.298		
ACC15	0.312	0.461	0.227	0.31		
AFF17	0.497	0.489	0.486	0.353	0.208	
AFF18	0.199	0.707		0.28		
II19	0.437	0.59	0.208	0.176		
II20	0.563	0.606		0.318		
II21	0.455	0.634	0.289	0.38	0.247	
II22	0.424	0.409	0.422	0.298	0.172	
II23	0.639	0.509		0.204	0.133	
II24	0.602	0.438		0.244	0.169	
II25	0.663	0.514		0.245	0.212	
II26	0.707	0.488		0.17	0.315	
II27	0.244		0.774	0.145	0.176	
II28	0.479	0.674		0.269	0.158	
II29	0.643	0.643		0.35	0.187	
CR30	0.56	0.459		0.292	0.242	
CR31	0.208		0.778	0.237	0.168	
CR32	0.645	0.57		0.29	0.289	
CR33	0.484	0.489	0.333	0.372	0.431	Table 2.
PI34	0.46	0.571	0.257	0.283	0.225	Rotated component
PI35	0.731	0.472		0.414	0.264	matrix

model as a good fit with the data collected. Table 3 indicates that the models fit the data well. All item standardized loadings for each construct were significant (p < 0.001), which supports the dimensionality of the constructs (Kline, 2005). Figure 2 below is the pictorial depiction of the items that loaded perfectly unto their respective latent variable after the CFA.

Finally, the fit indices, the standardized loadings for the model demonstrated comparatively high loadings, ranging from 0.572–0.874 (Figure 3), which indicates the importance of the observed variables as indicators of the constructs consequently providing unidimensional scale for the constructs their measurement scale. Figure 3 shows the results of the hypothetical relationship between the independent variable, the mediating variable and the dependent variable.

Correlation analysis results

Using the benchmark specified by Gujarati (2003) it is evident that none of the correlations between any of the variables exceeded 0.8. Also, the variables were free from the problem of multi-collinearity. The correlation matrix is shown in Table 4. It is evident from Table 4 that, institutional intervention ($\rho = 0.567$; p < 0.01) and resource capability ($\rho = 0.695$; p < 0.01)

XJM 20,2	Item no.	Standardized loading	t-values				
20,2	Community orientation (CO)						
	COR 7	0.572	1.000				
	ACC 11	0.757	6.324				
	ACC 12	0.652	6.135				
240	Institutional intervention (II)						
240	II 23	0.782	1.000				
	■ II 24	0.765	10.376				
	II 25	0.776	10.449				
	Capability of resources (CR)						
	CR 32	0.650	1.000				
	PI 35	0.770	9.177				
	TR40	0.813	9.554				
	TR 41	0.739	8.880				
	Human capital management (HCM)						
	HCM 66	0.693	1.000				
	HCM 67	0.874	10.651				
	HCM 69	0.762	9.629				
	HCM 70	0.778	9.798				
	CHPS performance (CP)						
	CP 42	0.699	1.000				
	CP 43	0.716	9.216				
	CP 46	0.646	8.374				
	CP 48	0.807	10.261				
	CP 50	0.683	8.880				
	Goodness-of-fit statistics	Statistics					
	Chi-square (χ^2)		11.774				
			(df = 6; p = 0.06)				
	χ^2 /df		2.902				
	Goodness-of-fit index (GFI)		0.836				
	Adjusted goodness-of-fit index (AGFI)		0.780				
	Normed fit index (NFI)		0.803				
	Comparative fit index		0.859				
Γable 3.	Tuker-Lewis index (TLI)		0.830				
CFA results for	Root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)		0.098				
neasurement model	Courses Author's Estimation from Field Courses 20	20					
neasurement model	Source: Author's Estimation from Field Survey, 20	20					

has a strong statistically positive relationship with CHPS performance at (p < 0.01). HCM ($\rho = 0.370$; p < 0.01) and community orientation ($\rho = 0.295$; p < 0.01) showed a positive statistically significant relationship with CHPS performance but it was not that strong.

Hierarchical multiple regression

The result for the hierarchical multiple regression is shown in Table 5. The tolerance values (of greater than 0.10) and the variance inflation factor values (of less than 5) indicate that there is no multi-collinearity in the data (Hair *et al.*, 2012). These control variables explained 3.5% of the variances in CHPS performance in Model 1. In Model 2, the addition of the independent variable to the control variable saw the R^2 increase by 15.5% ($\Delta F = 37.263$; p < 0.001) over the explained variance in CHPS performance in Model 1. In Model 3, the addition of the community orientation, institutional intervention, resource capability and

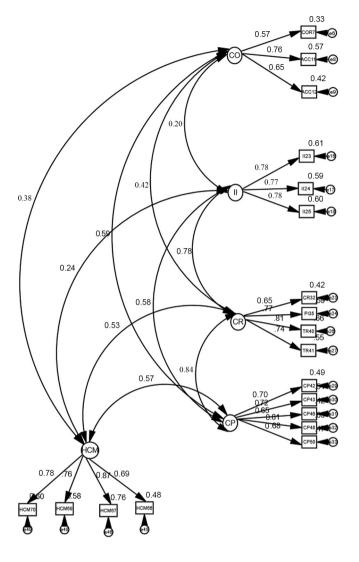
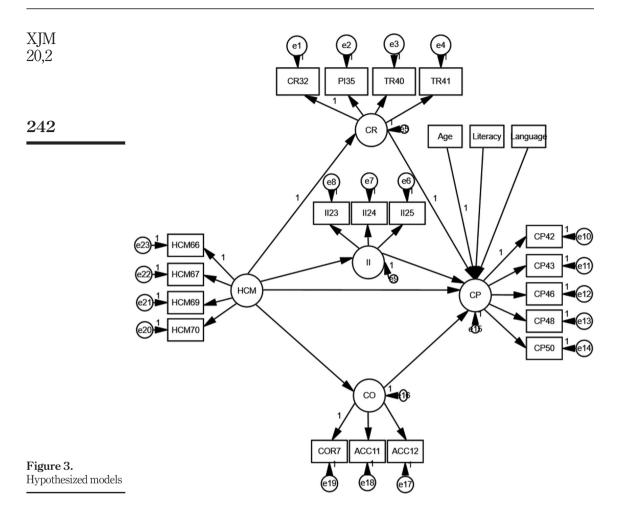


Figure 2.
Measurement model

independent variable to the control variable saw the R^2 increase by 42.3% ($\Delta F = 46.589$; p < 0.001) over the explained variance in CHPS performance in Model 2.

Language of the people has a negative impact on the performance of CHPS. The independent variables HCM alone had a statistically significant impact on the performance of CHPS across all models (*Model2*; $\beta = 0.82$; t = 6.100; *Model 3*; $\beta = 0.365$; t = 5.423). The result means that holding all other factors constant, an increase in the HCM will increase the performance of the CHPS model. Capability of resources ($\beta = 0.194$; t = 3.171; p < 0.01) and institutional intervention ($\beta = 0.575$; t = 6.725; p < 0.001) showed a positive statistically significant mediating effect on the relationship between HCM and the performance. However, community orientation ($\beta = -0.03$; t = -0.531; p > 0.05) showed a



Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CHPS Performance	1			,				
Human Capital Mgt	0.370**	1						
Community Orientation	0.295**	0.257**	1					
Institutional Intervention	0.567**	0.218**	0.258**	1				
Capability of Resources	0.695**	0.464**	0.456**	0.650**	1			
Age Dynamic	0.036	0.056	-0.109	-0.007	0.051	1		
Literacy Level	-0.050	-0.048	0.034	0.014	-0.071	-0.334**	1	
Culture	0.070	0.135	0.192**	-0.006	0.032	-0.107	0.014	1

Table 4. Pearson's correlation matrix results

Notes: ^+P < 0.10, *p < 0.05, $^{**}p$ < 0.01, $^{***}p$ < 0.001 Source: Author's Estimation from Field Survey, 2020

CHPS performance (CP)	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Tolerance	VIF	Human capital management
(Constant)	4.19 (44.62)***	1.03 (1.96)*	0.271 (0.576)			O
Control variable Age Literacy level Language of the people	-0.12 (-1.357) -0.06 (-0.55) -0.16 (-1.76)+		0.002 (0.091) -0.007 (-0.178) 0.03 (0.986)	0.885 0.792 0.864	1.130 1.263 1.158	243
Independent variables Human capital management (HCM)		0.82 (6.10)***	0.365 (5.423)***	0.956	1.046	
Mediating variables Community orientation (CO) Institutional intervention (II) Capability of resource (CR)			-0.03 (-0.531) 0.194 (3.171)** 0.575 (6.725)***	0.872 0.929 0.438	1.146 1.076 2.281	
R^2 Adjusted R^2 F -value Changes in R^2 Partial F -value Df	$\begin{array}{c} 0.035 \\ 0.021 \\ 2.394+ \\ 0.035 \\ 2.394+ \\ 3/196 \end{array}$	0.19 0.174 11.444*** 0.155 37.263*** 1/195	0.613 0.594 29.976*** 0.423 46.589*** 3/189			Table 5. Hierarchical multiple
Notes: $+P < 0.10$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ (<i>t</i> -values for each effect in parentheses) Source: Author's Estimation from Field Survey, 2020						regression results on CHPS performance

negative but statistically insignificant mediation effect on the relationship. Further, the ramsey regression equation specification error test $[0.624 \ (p > 0.05)]$ underscores no sign of misspecification in the data.

Discussion, implications and recommendations

Discussion of findings

The study considered the impact of HCM on the performance of the CHPS model. It emerged that there is a direct relationship between HCM and the performance of the CHPS model. This implies that improving the human resources (HR) element of the health sector might result in increased performance for the CHPS model. This finding corroborates previous studies (Malam et al., 2019) in which HCM showed a positive significant relationship with the performance of organizations. Also, HCM improves the uniqueness of employees and also adds value to them. Thus, carefully selecting human resource practices set the precedent to the successful and effective management of organizations.

Institutional intervention and capability of resources were found to positively mediate the hypothesized relationship between HCM and the performance of the CHPS model. However, community orientation showed an inverse mediating role in influencing the relationship between HCM and the performance of the CHPS model. These results imply that with a good repertoire of the capability of resources and institutional interventions, the social skills of staff under the CHPS model could be improved, thus resulting in improved performance. However, community orientation will rather reduce the performance of the CHPS model. This could probably be because of the low awareness or community not properly reoriented to understand the functions of the CHPS model, they might feel the CHPS do not have the needed infrastructure to meet their health needs.

Implications of the study

The findings of the study have significant implications for the decision-makers of the CHPS model and the local communities they serve. Health policymakers need to consider functionality issues undermining an effective implementation of the CHPS model in the targeted areas. Specifically, HC development must constitute the core of policy reorientations needed to give the model a good footing. Additionally, the findings point to a need for awareness creation on the benefits of the CHPS model at the community level. Consequently, staff working under the CHPS model need to be trained to acquire advocacy skills which is needed to ensure the adequate orientation of members of the targeted communities at various touchpoints.

The positive mediation of resource capability is an indication that managers of the CHPS model must improve infrastructure and build the HR capabilities of the staff. Improvement in infrastructure is critical to harnessing and developing the skill base of the CHPS model workforce to improve performance. Consequently, both infrastructural development and the building of staff capability work in tandem to add value.

Limitations of the study

The study has coverage errors and non-response biases as limitations due to the unwillingness of respondents to take part in the survey because of current COVID-19 pandemics. Also, the limited access to CHPS zones, which constitute the working place of the sampled population during the survey, was furthermore construed as a type of non-response bias.

Conclusion

The study concluded that HCM had a significant positive influence on the performance of the CHPS model. This means that building the HC base of the program could help improve performance and meet the envisaged delivery targets. Efforts must be made to create mentorship opportunities for the CHPS model workforce through the establishment of a sister-facility program with nearby major hospitals. Government and non-governmental organizations could be a great source of support for staff development initiatives to build capacity for the CHPS program.

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