

DISSERTATION TITLE:

AN EVALUATION STUDY OF 'SAFE' STRATEGY INTERVENTION, IN THE PREVENTION OF TRACHOMA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN KONDOA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

In Tanzania SAFE strategy was introduced in 1999, while in the Kondoa district was implemented in 2000 with Trachoma Follicular (TF) magnitude was 48% in 2000 and 27% in 2004. Evaluation study design was used to study 311 house holds and 1178 household members male and female aged from one year and above. Interviewer administered questionnaire, observation checklists Focus group discussion, compilation form and in depth interview guide questionnaire guide was used to collect the data.

TF prevalence was 23%. 24% were female and 21% males. The prevalence of TF was 47% in 1-10 years, 17% in 11-20 and 4% in >60years. The prevalence of Trachoma Trichiasis was 3% among them 22(54%) underwent lid surgery while 19 (46%) didn't undergo lid surgery and 2% developed C.O. Azithromycine compliance was 90% to one year old, 58% in 2years old, and 56% in above 3years old. The main water source observed 62% used wells with 55% inaccessible to water.

Regarding facial cleanness 81% had clean faces, while 19% had dirty faces among them 22% with dirty face had TF while 78% had no TF. Low level knowledge on trachoma transmission was observed to 80% of Primary school leavers 59% secondary school and 90% to those with informal education, but high level of knowledge on signs and symptoms of trachoma was observed to 5% of primary school 6% secondary school leavers and 3% to those with Informal education.

The latrine coverage was 66% while 34% had no latrines. It was concluded that SAFE strategy has failed to reduce the prevalence of TF from 27% in 2004 to 13.5% in 2008, and it was recommended that, CHMT should ensure regular training to VHW's, Health education in the community, lid surgery performance, Improvement of water supply and raise the latrine coverage. Health Action model was chosen to address the determinants and reduce the prevalence of trachoma.