

BATANG EMILIANO, KALUSUGA'Y PANALO: INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES MITIGATION

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Abstract

Scaling up health education during the pandemic is crucial as an integral part of learning. One way to promote health education is through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. The study assessed students' awareness on infectious diseases and hygiene practices, and teachers' current health education practices, to develop IEC materials for prevention of infectious diseases during distance learning. The study used a mixed-methods sequential explanatory design. In Phase 1, two survey questionnaires were administered: students' questionnaire identified their level of awareness on infectious diseases and hygiene practices; and teachers' questionnaire determined their health education implementation in class. Phase 2 collected qualitative data through two separate Focus Group Discussions for students and teachers. Results show that learners' knowledge is limited to infectious diseases that their families have personally experienced. Learners may be at risk of infectious diseases due to inadequate hygiene practices. Teachers struggle to communicate adequate health education information to students amid challenges of distance learning, particularly on ensuring equally access of online and modular learners. The research was conducted in General Emilio Aguinaldo National High School in SY 2020-2021. The study gathered necessary information as basis for developing IEC initiatives customized for the school and students' needs.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Health Education, Hygiene, WINS, IEC*