

Researchers' Perspectives on
Kalusugang Pangkalahatan

Question 1: The Situation

- 3/11 haven't heard of KP
- 8/11 heard about KP but not aware
- Different understandings about KP – some see it happening, some not
- Communication gap between DOH/KP and health research community
 - KP seen as function of health providers (not researchers)
 - KP already done by health researchers even before PNoy's KP

Question 1: The Situation

- DOH participants see some implementation happening
 - Advocacy and communication (jingle)
 - Dissemination to LGUs
 - Example: Region 2
- Anecdotes: Ex. Patients still paying for medicines despite being a PhilHealth member
- Lesson: variable levels of implementation across and within regions

Question 2: What we do

- Wide range of topics
 - Maternal and child health
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Health of senior citizens
 - LGU enrollment in PhilHealth
- Aligned with regional agenda as decided by Consortium
- Regional agenda aligned with NUHRA

Question 3: How we contribute

- Highlighted importance of research to policy translation – there remains a gap
- Very few identifiable success stories
- Research done without consciously thinking of relation with KP
- Examples:
 - Region 2 – anti-rabies research led to inclusion in PhilHealth package, research on abortion contributed to RH Bill (indirectly)

Question 4: Challenges

- Limited research funding (grant ceilings)
- Need to improve quality, relevance and impact of research
- Inequalities in health research investments – 80% in NCR, 20% elsewhere (estimate)
- Need for capacity building outside Manila
- Poor translation from research to policy
- Unclear plan for research outputs/products (ex. Herbal medicine research – is government going to mass produce the research products?)

Question 5: Solutions

- Political will to invest in health research and research translation
- Need-based approach to grants (instead of setting ceilings and researchers strive to match the grant)
- Encourage collaborative research – across regions, between mature and budding research institutions (twinning)

Question 5: Solutions

- Provide a facilitative environment for young and budding researchers
 - Review screening guidelines for grants – instead of totally rejecting proposals, perhaps provide smaller grants
 - Mentoring programs (workshops not effective anymore)
- Strengthen safeguards for health research
 - Enhancing ethics review capacity
 - Review and ensure intellectual property rights

Question 5: Solutions

- Enhance communication of the KP agenda to the health research community
 - Seek to align NUHRA/RUHRA with KP agenda
 - Improve inter-agency communication
- Re-adopt the primary health care approach
 - COPAR model to research on KP implementation at LGU level