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Trends in Public Private Partnership programs for health: a systematic review

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Introduction

In 2003, Hong Kong government published an introductory guide to Public Private Partnerships (PPP) that became the fundamental report for different government units and industries to explore the application of PPP. PPP programs for health involve a diversity of parties, governance, operation and management. In order to understand the trends of PPP programs in the content of concept and components in Hong Kong, we first conducted a systematic review on the PPP programs for health.

Objectives

1. To explore PPP health programs implemented worldwide; 2. To examine the components of PPP programs in different countries,

Methodology

PPP was defined with the equivalent meaning of “public private partnership”, “public private relationship”, “public private mix”, “public private interaction”, “public private engagement”, “public private cooperation”, “public private collaboration” and “public private coherence”. We searched studies from the popular academic databases and the grey literature such as official websites or reports from government units and international organization. Our search strategy was to include the records with title or abstract of the PPP keywords and health that published in English from 01 January 1990 to 31 December 2012.

Result

We identified 4765 records from all databases and remained 3441 records after deleting the duplication. Over 50% of studies were published last decade. Despite the fact that PPP programs focused in infectious diseases in developing countries and chronic diseases in developed countries, programs on oral health and establishment of healthy lifestyles were also common in recent days. Most PPP programs were initiated by the government except a few from NGO or famous charitable foundation. Vouchers are the most common policy tools to launch PPP; however, most studies

showed that collaboration between public and private or even rate of participation in a long-term were the challenges of the PPP programs. The findings of this study can provide the basic information for us to explore, analyze and improve the PPP program in Hong Kong. PPP is one of the resources to achieve the objective of health system; however, we should pay attention on how to make the implementation of PPP success.