

IMO Health Studies: Observations and Trends

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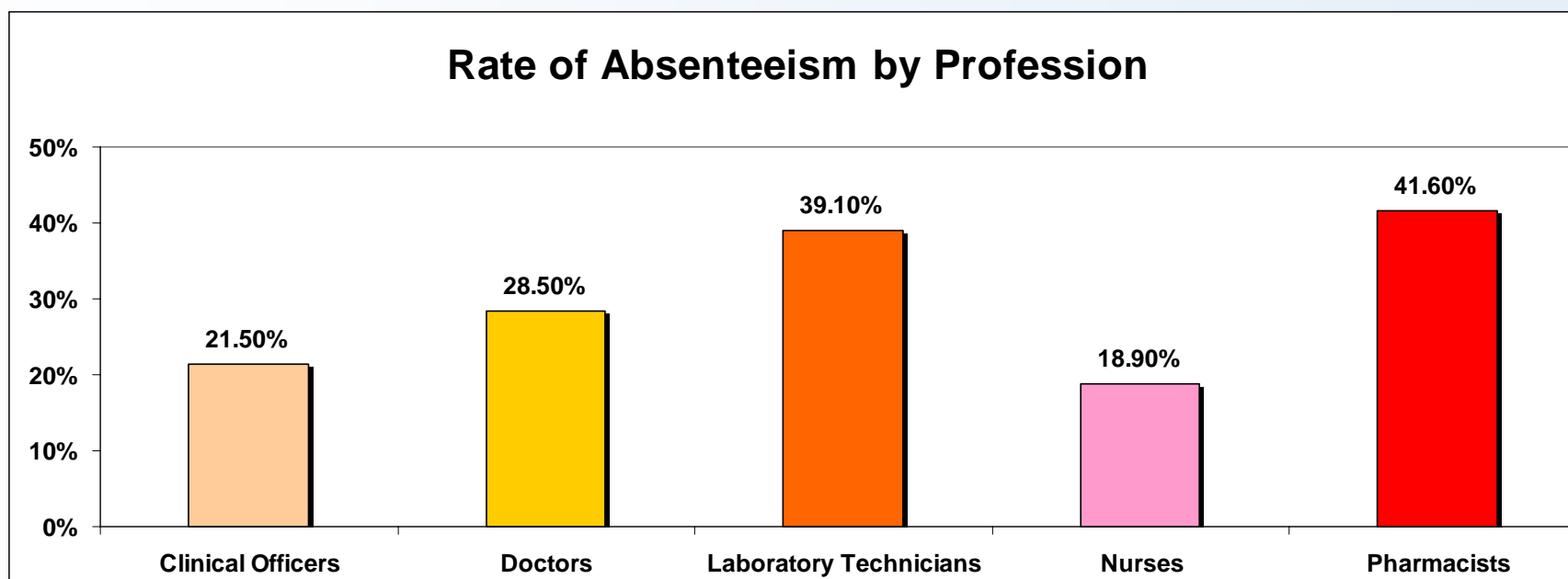
Background

- **TAP supported five IMO's to conduct health studies**
 - » ACER (Albania)
 - » CIUP (Peru)
 - » GIME (Poland)
 - » IDPMS (India)
 - » IPAR (Kenya)

Absenteeism

- **Reduces the capacity of the health institution to provide services**
 - » Large number of vacancies compounds absenteeism
 - Marchakos 11.3% of key health posts are vacant
 - Karnataka - on average 3 - 5 sanctioned positions are vacant
 - » Karnataka - About 37% of the time services of medical officers are unavailable, factor in vacancies and you have 40%
 - » Medical staff do substantial non medical work (administrative)
 - » Nurses are taking up doctor's responsibilities (Marchakos)
 - » Lower quality of the infrastructure of the health care correlates with higher absenteeism

Marchakos District (IPAR Study)



- Average rate of absenteeism reported – 25%
- Estimated cost of total absenteeism for the district per annum – US\$1,289,000. This is equivalent to the cost of building and equipping 3 health facilities

Logistical Problems: Karnataka (IDPMS)

- **Sometimes re-stocking of drugs for Public Health Centers (PHCs) can be delayed by 4-5 months**
- **Delays in supplying drugs are managed in a variety of ways**
 - » Partial fulfillment of prescriptions
 - Coping mechanisms - 3 vs. 5 days
 - » Use of alternative sources - About a fifth of the patients purchase drugs from outside sources

Health Budget

- **More historical, less need and program based**
- **Transitions from socialist/soviet to public/private/insurance systems created issues - Poland, Albania**
 - » Excess infrastructure, Under the table fees, Opaque budgeting and arrears
- **Complex and convoluted budget processes hinders transparency - (Peru)**
- **Funds provided to facilities for the procurement of drugs (Rs 100, 000) cover only a third of the volume of drugs required to treat the five most prevalent ailments. (Karnataka study)**
- **Drug supply budget ratio is 60% for standard drugs and 40% for PHC specific drugs so we could have situations where certain drugs are out of stock and some drugs are over-stocked**

Conclusions on the Process of Studies

- **IMOs agree that these studies are useful for:**
 - » Initiating dialogue with service providers and decision makers
 - » Capacity development
 - Skills/analytical development
 - Speed to complete finish projects
- **Studies reveal issues that are often political rather than technical**
- **IMOs report that they need the support of ministries when conducting these studies (IPAR Health)**

Donor Agencies and IMO

- **In addition to funding and technical assistance, donors could improve dialogue between IMOs and government agencies by having events that are public and inviting both parties.**
- **The World Bank and other donors could hire these IMOs, to do these studies instead bringing outside consultants, thereby contributing to institutional development.**

Thank you !