Editorial

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Ethiopian Emergency Medical Services: Bridging up the Gaps in Pre-hospital Services

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Emergency medical services (EMS) delivered to patients requiring resuscitation, stabilization, or preventive care prior to their transfer to a healthcare facility are known as pre-hospital care [(1)]. In Ethiopia, insufficient pre-hospital emergency services significantly impact the healthcare system, contributing to the country's elevated rates of morbidity and mortality from preventable conditions. Communities with limited access to healthcare facilities are particularly impacted by the absence of a structured pre-hospital care system. This delay in receiving essential pre-hospital services exacerbates health disparities and contributes to unfavorable health outcomes [(2, 3)].

Ethiopia's public health has been severely affected by the lack of pre-hospital care. The undesirable outcomes of acute illness and injuries, such as death, impairments, and high healthcare costs, are caused by both the severity of the initial illness or injury and the delay in receiving pre-hospital care [(2)]. Particularly vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and older people, suffer disproportionately as a result of extra variables impeding their prompt access. Enhancements in this field are critically needed since they could lead to a considerable reduction in the mortality and disability associated with trauma and other acute medical conditions [(1, 3)].

A comprehensive pre-hospital care framework must be established to enhance health outcomes in the Ethiopian health care system. In order to do this, funds must be allocated for emergency medical technician training, a pre-hospital care system must be established, and national EMS guidelines and protocols must be developed to standardize care [(2, 3)]. Creating a dependable emergency communication system and raising community knowledge of available services can also help to speed up response times [(2)]. Building sustainable pre-hospital care systems requires improving logistical and other necessary resources, which can be achieved through cooperation and collaborative effects with relevant stakeholders, including governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations [(2-5)].

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Therefore, quick action is needed to overcome Ethiopia's pre-hospital shortcomings, underscoring the significance of an integrated and closely watched strategy. Ethiopia's health results and economic growth could suffer significantly if these gaps are not addressed.

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