

Delivering Community Based Child Injury Prevention In Nepal: A Feasibility Study

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BACKGROUND:

In 2010, 13% of deaths in children aged 1-59 months in Nepal were secondary to unintentional injury, though in the absence of a national death registration system this is likely to be an underestimate. Community based child injury prevention programmes have been shown to be effective in Bangladesh and may be suitable for adaptation to Nepal. Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) work with Mothers Groups in rural Nepalese communities, discuss health issues and develop local solutions.



AIM:

To develop and evaluate an educational programme of child injury prevention and first-aid for dissemination through women's groups in a rural district of Nepal and determine the feasibility of conducting a cluster randomised controlled trial of effectiveness of the intervention.



Drafts of educational materials being developed by this project

METHOD:

Working with an established voluntary sector organisation, educational materials from the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh were adapted for rural Nepal. FCHVs in one Village Development Committee area south of Kathmandu were recruited to participate in a feasibility study, offered training in injury prevention and basic first-aid; provided with educational materials and a first aid kit. FCHVs used the materials in monthly community meetings over six months.

RESULTS:

- 205 mothers from 8 Mothers group attended meetings
- Participants learned UN-CRC definition of a 'child'
- Participants appreciated the importance of child injury and their prevention
- Participants attended the meetings despite of seasonal crop harvesting, festivals and election campaigns
- FCHVs greatly appreciated the First Aid training
- Community people appreciated and supported the concept of social mobilisation to prevent child injuries
- FCHVs provided feedback to the drafts of educational materials developed by the project
- FCHVs agreed to collect the information about injured children in coordination with local project facilitator



Some of the art work by a local artist, to be used in the educational materials

CONCLUSION:

An educational programme was successfully adapted for Nepal and tested in nine village communities. Local knowledge and collaboration with an existing voluntary sector organisation greatly facilitated delivery. The study suggests that it is feasible to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention through a future trial conducting a cluster randomised controlled trial of effectiveness of the intervention.

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