Home-Based Newborn Care

Replication in India

Newborn deaths and a new solution

Untimely death of 4 million newborns due to non-availability of hospital care is a reality in developing countries. Is it possible to change this? Home-based newborn care provided by the trained community health workers may provide the answer.

The Gadchiroli field trial

‘Home-based Neonatal Care’ is a new approach tested in a field trial in Gadchiroli, in which village women (community health workers) are trained and empowered to help mothers in newborn care, and if necessary, to treat sick neonates (Lancet, 1999).

Effect on Neonatal mortality rate

[Diagram showing effect on neonatal mortality rate]
The methods of replication have been developed by SEARCH. Feasibility of replication and the effectiveness are being tested at 12 places through two projects in India:

1) The Ankur project for replication through non-government organizations at 7 places in the state of Maharashtra.

2) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is pilot testing this method in five states by way of an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) project for replication through the government systems such as the health department and Anganwadi workers of the ICDS.

The Ankur Project

Aim:
To develop and test the methods of replicating the approach from SEARCH to 7 selected NGOs in Maharashtra, as the initial step in demonstrating its generalisability for incorporating into health policies and programmes on a broader scale

Duration: 2001-05
Population: 88,312
No of villages: 91 + 6 slums
Location: 7 NGO sites in the state of Maharashtra
Type of populations: Rural (4 sites), Tribal (2 sites), Urban Slum (1 site)

The major steps in implementation:
- Selection of appropriate NGOs
- Base line survey of vital statistics
- Community consent
- Selection of supervisors and community health workers (CHWs)
- Knowledge practice baseline study
- Training of trainers, supervisors and CHWs (2002-03)
- Intervention (2003-05)
- Vital statistics survey every six months

100 community workers were trained over a period of one year (2002-03) and home based neonatal care was provided through them beginning April 2003

Evaluation of the trained CHWs (n=92)

- Less than 70% score: 7%
- More than 70% score: 93%
Preliminary Results

Feasibility

Coverage of mothers and newborns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Training Phase</th>
<th>Intervention Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-03</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Started breast feeding within one hour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003-03</th>
<th>2004-04</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Community health workers' ability to manage neonatal infections.

Detected sepsis cases treated or referred by CHWs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2003-03</th>
<th>2004-04</th>
<th>2004-05</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
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How SEARCH can help to provide 'Home-based newborn care'?

A) Planning
1. Introduction workshop.
2. Field visit to the demonstration sites.
3. How to plan home based newborn care? : A Note.

B) Training
2. Training manual for the training of traditional birth attendants.
3. Training manual, for training of the trainers (Under preparation)

C) Health education material
1. Film - A 50 minute film for education of pregnant mothers and their family members.
   Marathi (Kanjha)
   Hindi (Nanhis Jaa)

2. Flip chart - The flip chart is in English, Hindi and Marathi with 33 coloured picture cards and relevant messages.

D) Mother and Newborn record and forms

E) Management Information System

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