

Validation Workshop Report

Obstetric Referral in the Cambodian Health System – What Works?



Tuesday 19th May, 2015

Navy Hotel, Prey Veng Province, Cambodia

Prepared and Compiled by:

SUON Sokneat, Research Assistant, Social Development Programme

Introduction

On Tuesday 19th, 2015, the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) conducted a Validation Workshop for the Obstetric Referral in the Cambodian Health System Project 2013-2015. Interim findings from the main fieldwork were discussed. Forty-eight people joined the workshop being 13 health staff from various health facilities, 3 Village Health Support Group (VHSG), 13 women, 1 husband, 1 relative, 2 villages chief, and 5 members from CDRI attending the workshop. Ten women brought her baby and there were 10 people who accompanied those women to care for her baby during the workshop. Those people, some are the grandmothers, grandfather, husbands and some are sisters.

The workshop was held on 19th May 2015 at Navy Hotel in Prey Veng Province. The purpose was to validate the interim findings from the main fieldwork with everybody that we have interviewed and to encourage all people to actively participate in group discussion together. To make it clear and easy to understand from every stages of a delivery, the research team provided drawings and pictures in a slide show.

To start with, **Dr Heng Molyaneth**, Research Fellow, and **Ms. So Phina**, Research Associate, from CDRI made welcome remarks and introduced the purpose and objective of the workshop. They then made the presentation and let all participants ask questions. A few health staff had some questions and suggestions. Next, all participants were invited to work in three groups. They were: women group, health staffs group, and husband/VSHG/relative group. In addition to the lead researchers, there were two research assistants taking notes and providing assistance to the groups. The group discussion focused on **“factors that help achieve the successful dream/vision”**

Outcome from Discussions

Women’s Group

❖ **Women Factor:**

- Telling her mother/ husband/ relative when missing period
- If her husband went away, let her sister accompany her to Health Centre

- When a woman feels labour pain, she should go to health center or hospital immediately and should not wait until heavy pain or had hemorrhage.

❖ **Husband Factor:**

- All husbands should do the heavy work if his wife is pregnant. Moreover, pregnant women should only do light work.
- Husband should drive his wife to the Health Centre because they gain a lot of benefits from doing so, such as gaining advice from health staff, taking vaccination, receiving iron pill supplements, blood testing, as well as attending his wife's pregnancy check-up (ANC).
- Husband should remind his wife to take iron pill supplement regularly and to go to ANC. If the woman forgets the date, husband should remember and remind her.
- Husbands should share health information that he gains with his wife so she will know too and it will be good for women and her baby's health.
- Husband should be well prepared and arrange transportation in advance before his wife delivers the baby. It is very important because when his wife is going to give birth they can go to Health Centre or hospital on time.
- Husband must motivate and encourage his wife in advance when she feels labour pain because it can help women feel happy and has the power to reduce her pain as well.
- Husband should help, support and do household tasks, heavy or light, for his wife such as give bath to the baby, wash clothes, cook and provide nutritious foods for his wife after delivery.

❖ **Relatives Factor:**

- A woman's relatives should advise women to go to the local Health Centre or hospital when missing her period in order to check her health and take any necessary pill supplements if she is pregnant.
- Provide advice to women on what a pregnant woman should and should not do. If the women listen, their babies will be healthy and beautiful.

Health Staff Group

❖ **Women Factor:**

- Inform her mother or husband when missing her period
- Ask her husband or relative to accompany her to the Health Centre
- Women should listen and follow the health staff advice
- Women should actively participate in health education

❖ **Husband Factor:**

- Husbands should prepare money and materials for the delivery.

❖ **Relative / village leader/VSHGs Factor:**

- Share about health education to the villagers
- Send/ accompany women to the Health Centre
- Feedback information to medical staff and to villagers

❖ **Health Staff Factor:**

- Provide additional knowledge on health education to VSHGs
- Advertise the health services in a Health Centre
- Investigate or find the problem from VSHGs and others in the community and use that information to discuss and find a solution together.

❖ **Public Health Department:**

- Improve health equipment, technical skills, and staff attitude
- Hold meetings with relevant stakeholders in all sectors
- Ensure that materials, equipment, medicine etc provided by the Ministry of Health is sufficient for the services on offer.

Husband/ VSHG/Relative Group

- Say no to the traditional perception that asked women to drink alcohol (with traditional medicine supplement) and to warm by fire... and so on
- VSHGs should accompany women to the Health Centre until the baby is successfully born
- VSHGs should have a basic training on midwifery at least in order to help women when she gets labour pain and on the way to a Health Centre.

 **Suggestions**

- We want Health Centres to have enough water and electricity
- We want the health staff to speak politely and 'softly' with women and their families.

Conclusion

The validation workshop of Obstetric Referral in the Cambodian Health System went smoothly as planned. All participants were actively participated and were interested to see the outcome of their hard work. In the closing speech, **Dr. Heng Molyaneth and Ms So Phina** thanked all participants and members who attended the workshop and CDRI colleagues in organizing and conducting this validation workshop.