Role of Voluntary Health Workers in Maternal & Child Health Care for Migrants in Bogale and Mawlamyine Township, Myanmar

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Introduction
- Myanmar had a number of health problems in the past.
- Many people, especially those in remote areas, lacked access to health services.
- The role of voluntary health workers (VHWs) in providing basic health care services was crucial.

Objectives
- To assess the role of VHWs in providing health care services.
- To identify the challenges faced by VHWs.

Methodology
- Study Design: Cross-sectional
- Study area: villages in Bogale and Mawlamyine Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region.
- Sampling: 60 villages with large numbers of migrants.
- Data Collection:
  - Face-to-face interviews: with migrant mothers.
  - Focus Group Discussions: with VHWs and community members.
- Data analysis:
  - Quantitative data:
  - Qualitative data:

Results
- 65% of respondents indicated that VHWs were the only source of health care.
- Challenges:
  - Lack of resources and training.
  - Insufficient support from the government.

Recommendations
- Improve training and support for VHWs.
- Increase recognition and compensation for VHWs.

Conclusion
- The role of VHWs is crucial in providing health care services, especially for migrant communities.
- Further research is needed to address the challenges faced by VHWs.

Key Findings

I am inquisitive...
If I get the information, such as, a sailing boat comes to our village and stays overnight for about 2 days, I go there and inquire whether they bring young children and pregnant women. “Hey! Has this child got immunization?”. In which village you got it? (IDI with VHW)

They are daily wagers. Even pregnant women have to do whatever they can. Men also cannot take the lead. I suppose large family, struggling for earning... cost of living become running up. Then they cannot pay attention to this (health). Antenatal care, child immunization... I think 7 out of 10 would be missing. (IDI with VHW)

Discussion & Conclusion
- Migrant mothers and children have less access to routine MCH services.
- Role of VHWs in providing MCH services for migrants is crucial.
- VHWs and BHS faced challenges in providing MCH care for migrants through routine programmes.
- There is a need for more comprehensive care for pregnant women and their infants.

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