

Community Engagement in prospective cohort study of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine in Lalitpur, Nepal

Authors: Pratibha Oli, Ashata Dahal, Binod Devkota, Mila Shakya, Dikshya Pant, Suchita Shrestha, Budhha Basnyat

Affiliation: Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Oxford University
Clinical Research Unit Lalitpur, Nepal

Outline of the presentation

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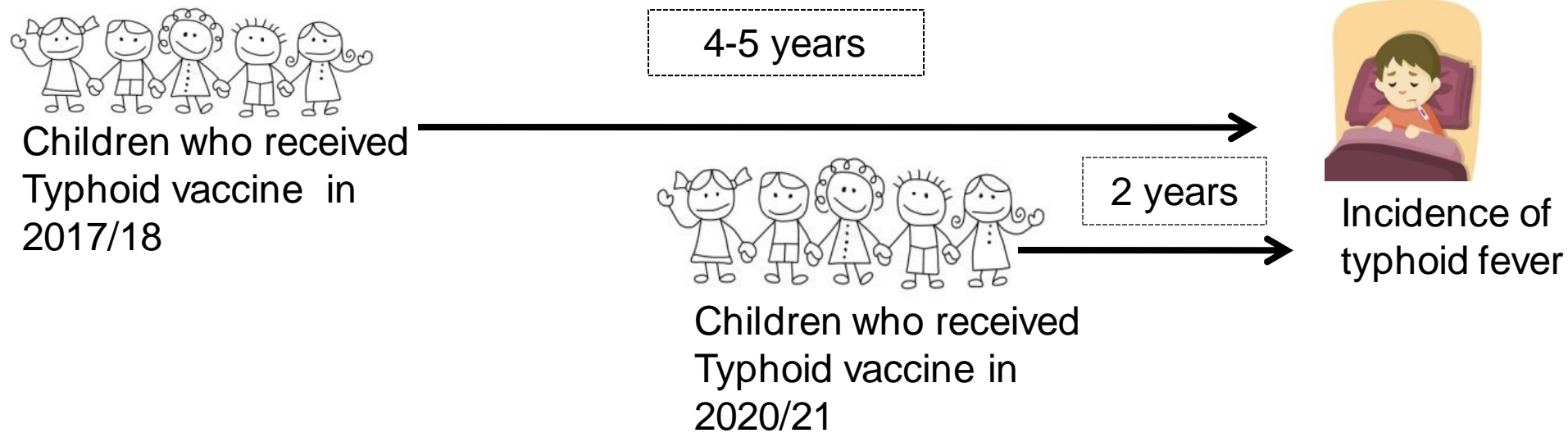
Background

- Community engagement(CE) in health research includes
 - ✓ generate awareness and understanding regarding research,
 - ✓ promote ownership among local stakeholders, and
 - ✓ build trust with in the communities
- CE in health research involves a collaborative relationship between the research team and relevant stakeholders.
- Essential for ethical research practice and helping the researchers to ensure the study procedures are acceptable in the local setting.

Background

About typhoid vaccine study:

- To assess the efficacy of the typhoid conjugate vaccine beyond 2 years



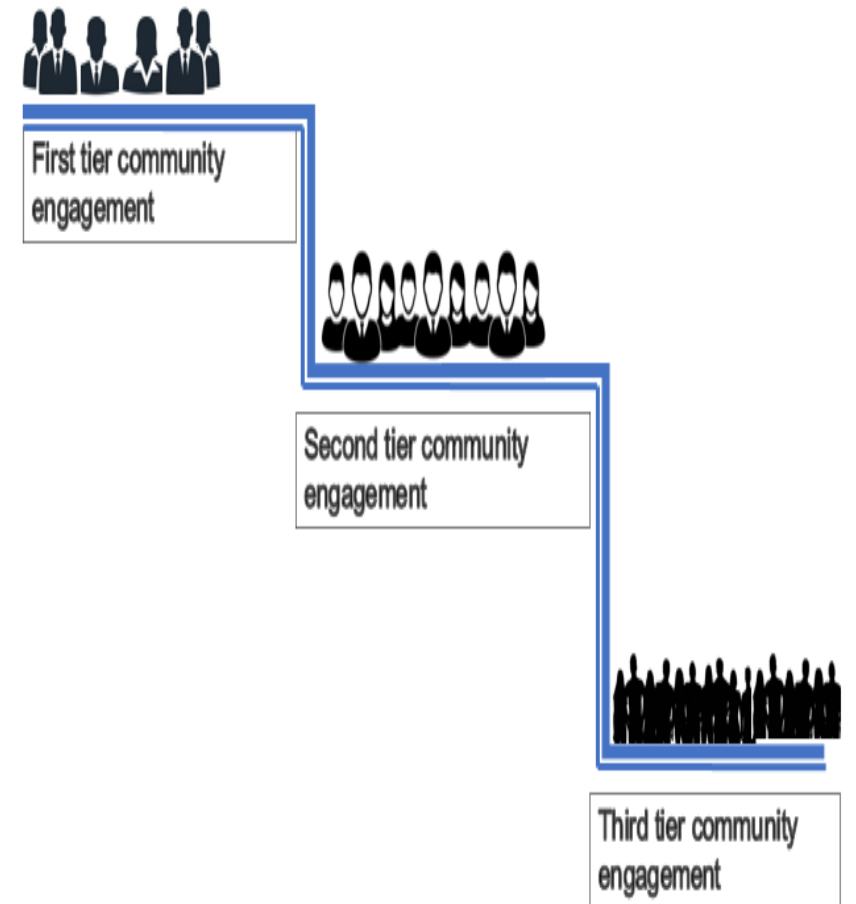
- CE is ongoing for this prospective cohort study

Objectives of community engagement

- To engage with community stakeholder including political leaders, community decision-makers, and members of the community regarding the study
- To communicate the updates of typhoid vaccine study to the community,
- To clear out any existing concerns and issues of the community related to the study,
- To build trust, positive relationship and network with/in the community,
- To disseminate the information regarding services available through community clinics of the study

Methodology

- Community engagement adopts a three-tier model for this study.
- First tier with elected representatives of LMC, i.e. mayor, chairperson of 17 administrative ward, public health section of LMC
- Second tier with ward chairpersons, ward members, the community stakeholders like Ward Health Implementation Committee, mothers' group and school principals and teachers
- Third tier with parents of vaccinated children, representative of mothers' group including school engagement with students
- All three tiers of engagement activities are being consistently conducted



Methodology

| Stakeholder | Content(....) | Methods and material | Frequency and timing |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>Municipality stakeholder</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study updates ➤ Feasibility and feedback regarding the study | <p>Methods: Discussion, Meeting Materials: PowerPoint presentation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initiation and end of study ➤ If any changes |
| <i>Ward stakeholder</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study updates ➤ Progress of the study ➤ Feedback regarding the services provided through community fever clinics | <p>Methods: Lecturer, discussion, meeting Materials: PowerPoint presentation, flyers, videos</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before, middle of the study and conclusion of the study ➤ If any changes/ update arise during the study |
| <i>Community stakeholder</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Common health topics (typhoid, dengue, pneumonia, AMR, importance of vaccine) ➤ About study and updates ➤ Feedback regarding the services provided through community fever clinics | <p>Methods: Group discussion, Lecturer, question and answer session, game Materials: Flipchart, PowerPoint Presentation, Flyers, info graphics, video (tales of typhoid, singing the songs of antibiotics), posters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Throughout the entire study ➤ As much as possible |

Results

- CE in this study has played a crucial role in dispelling misconceptions about the study and disseminating study findings to local stakeholders and community members
- CE has helped keeping the community informed about available services from community clinics and helps to stay in touch with participants
- Along with the engagement activities, mobilization of local health promoters (THPs), who are the community health volunteers, for periodic home-visits has also helped in engagement with the parents/guardians of the vaccinated children

Results

- Additionally, involving study medical doctors in engagement events covering various health topics, which helped to attain community trust
- The materials used for the engagement events have matched the participants' literacy level.
- Attendance of participants: Male and young attendees have shown a low rate of participation in events
- Timing of Participants: working parents would only have weekends off
- ✓ The Public Engagement (PE) team maintains flexibility, conducting sessions at participants' convenience
- Community expectations(financial and services) - high
- Repetition of PE topics and semantic barriers

Conclusion

- Bridging the gap between researchers and community members and promoting a research culture within the community.
- Contributed to well-informed participation, has helped in decision-making, and has increased retention in the study.
- It is evident that community engagement is heart of every successful clinical research.
- The constant effort to stay in touch with the participants has contributed to run the study smoothly.

Acknowledgement

- Funders
- Study team
- PE team
- Medical officers who participated in CE events
- Tole Health Promoters
- LMC representative including Mayors, ward chairpersons, members of WHIC
- Members of mother's group and all the authority who allowed us to conduct engagement activities.



Photographs captured during engagement event



thank you

A photograph showing the words "thank you" spelled out using ten light-colored wooden blocks. The blocks are arranged in a single row on a wooden surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of warm, golden light spots, creating a warm and appreciative atmosphere.

Short Bio of Presenter



Pratibha Oli

Public Engagement Officer at Patan Academy of Health Sciences , Oxford University Clinical Research Unit Nepal

Current role and responsibilities: Plan and conduct public engagement activities for typhoid vaccine study

Master In Public Health From Institute of Medicine, Tribhuwan University