

Combating non-communicable diseases in Asia by engaging Community Health workers in the management and prevention efforts: Strategies, approaches and practice (The COACH Study)



Background

Chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) make up a large part of the burden of disease and are a huge drain on health systems' resources in the countries of the Asia Pacific region. Use of community health workers (CHWs) for delivery of health services is increasing in developing countries and proven to be effective. However, how CHWs can be engaged in addressing the growing burden of NCDs has not been explored in the regional countries.

Study Focus

Community health workers (CHWs), Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), health systems

Status

Active

Location

Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Vietnam

Duration

May 1, 2016 - December 31, 2017.

Principal Investigator

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Main Collaborators

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Funder

- Asia Pacific Observatory on Health System and Policies (APO), the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)

Aims

- To review the full range of CHWs led programs in the selected four Asian countries with particular attention to the programs that addressed NCDs;
- To review the implementation processes of the CHWs led programs and identify barriers and facilitating factors in including CHWs in the delivery of health care programs; and
- To provide recommendations that can inform agencies and policy makers on advantages and disadvantages of bundling NCD care and control within the existing programmatic models or healthcare systems in the selected 4 countries: Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Vietnam.

Study Design

We will conduct situation analysis and collect data from different stakeholders. In each country, we will conduct:

- **Literature review:** to identify a full range of CHW-delivered services and NCDs care and control related interventions available in each country or in other regions, we will review both published and grey literatures.
- **Exploratory studies:** to assess CHW's current practice related to health service delivery and NCD related programs and to identify barriers and facilitators for CHWs led programs, we will conduct exploratory studies among key stakeholders. We will conduct 2-4 focus group discussions with CHWs and 10-20 in-depth interviews with policy makers.
- **Build national capacity:** we will hold stakeholders meetings and train in-country researchers in the process of conducting situation analyses, model program evaluation and writing of policy briefs.

Study Sites

