

Engaging Men in Maternal & Child Health

Strengthening Health Systems & Improving Nutrition in Nepal

HealthBridge & the International Nepal Fellowship implemented interventions to promote gender equality & to engage men in maternal, newborn, child health & nutrition

Barriers to maternal & child health in Nepal:



Men are often the decision-makers within households in Banke District, Nepal



Men may encourage or deny women from seeking care for herself or her child

To address these barriers, the following interventions were implemented:



Husbands' Groups

Village meetings where men learned about maternal & child health



Radio Jingles

Public service announcements on maternal, child health & nutrition



Street Dramas

Entertainment which challenged gender norms in the community

This led to...

A doubling of the proportion of men & family members who knew at least 3 danger signs:



During pregnancy



Of Childhood illness



During postpartum

Examples of increased knowledge & engagement of men in maternal & child health:

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I participated in community men's group meetings organized by INF. The discussions were about improving the health of pregnant and lactating mothers. There were also discussions about infant and young child feeding practices which I found very useful.

- Man, Kalaphanta

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During the time of delivery my husband helped me to go to Nepalgunj (health facility).

He managed everything which made things easy for me

- Woman, Service User, Narainapur

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