Systematic review of interventions to promote family and community awareness and involvement in maternal health care and prevent maternal mortality in South Asian countries identified as MDG priorities

Binod Bindu Sharma, Lisa Jones, Roger Smith, Deborah Loxton, Debbie Booth

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Review question(s)
Which interventions promote husband, family and community awareness and involvement in maternal health care, and result in improved maternal health care-seeking, utilization of maternal health services and the prevention of maternal mortality in rural South Asian countries?

Searches
MEDLINE, MEDLINE In Process, EMBASE, Maternity and Infant Care, CINAHL, The Cochrane Library and Scopus will be searched.

Keywords for searches: Pregnant, Maternal, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, South Asia, rural, remote, antenatal, prenatal, health care, communication, awareness, participation, involvement, family, community, delivery, birth, maternal mortality/death, health care use, skilled attendant/delivery/assistant, traditional birth attendant.

The search will be limited to human studies only, but no other restrictions will be applied.

Types of study to be included
Include: quantitative or qualitative studies; designs - trials (randomised, cluster or community), systematic review, -observational studies (cohort, cross sectional, case-control study).

Exclude: do not demonstrate a clear research design or methodology, i.e. commentary, opinion, editorial, very low study quality (assessed though a simplified GRADE framework).

Condition or domain being studied
Family and Community involvement in improving access to maternal health care, prevention of pregnancy complications and maternal death.

Participants/ population
South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan) identified in MDG 2015 as having high maternal mortality rates.

We will exclude participants from urban and high middle income countries.

Intervention(s), exposure(s)
Include any community health promotion interventions involving husband, family and community members with the aim of improving involvement, awareness or knowledge of care of women during pregnancy and childbirth.

Comparator(s)/ control
Compared with other interventions to improve care seeking and use of health care services
Context
Rural and remote settings
Low and low/middle income countries

Outcome(s)
Primary outcomes
1. Improved knowledge and awareness of family, community members and pregnant women in seeking health care during pregnancy and childbirth.
2. Improved number of antenatal visits
3. Increased numbers of deliveries by skilled birth attendants
4. Increased numbers of deliveries at health care facility
5. Maternal mortality rates

Secondary outcomes
Increased involvement of male members such as fathers-in-law and husbands.

Data extraction, (selection and coding)
Data will be extracted using a customized data extraction form. Authors will be contacted where necessary to obtain additional information. Data will be extracted and study quality assessed independently by two reviewers and any disagreements resolved by consulting a third person.

Risk of bias (quality) assessment
We will assess quality of all eligible studies using GRADE criteria and considering the study design, sampling methodology and size, major concerns with analysis or biases. This will be independently assessed by two authors (LJ and BS) and a third person will adjudicate.

Strategy for data synthesis
Quantitative data will be summarised using meta-analysis where study design, sampling methodology and outcome reporting is appropriate. Otherwise a narrative description will be provided.

Analysis of subgroups or subsets
Setting: Remote, rural
Type of terrain; mountainous, hills, plains

Dissemination plans
Journal Publication
Conference Presentation

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Details of any existing review of the same topic by the same authors
None

Anticipated or actual start date
05 June 2015

Anticipated completion date
01 March 2017

Funding sources/sponsors
None

Conflicts of interest
None known

Language
English

Country
Australia

Subject index terms status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

Subject index terms
Awareness; Female; Humans; Maternal Health; Maternal Health Services; Maternal Mortality; Pregnancy; Residence Characteristics

Stage of review
Ongoing

Date of registration in PROSPERO
14 January 2016

Date of publication of this revision
10 February 2017

Stage of review at time of this submission

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