



International Conference & Exhibition on Vaccines & Vaccination

22-24 Nov 2011 Philadelphia Airport Marriott, USA

Child immunization coverage in rural hard-to-reach areas: Evidence from project using multiple interventions

Md. Jasim Uddin

Health Systems and Infectious Disease Division,
International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease
Research (ICDD,B), Bangladesh

Improved immunization coverage is essential to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of substantially reduced child mortality rates. Around the world, regional averages mask lower local coverage. In many cases it is children living in rural and remote areas especially in Africa and Asia have low coverage to immunization and this gap represents a devastating toll on the world's population. From previous research, barriers to immunization in these areas were identified and suggested interventions to improve coverage. The suggested combination of interventions were tested in Bangladesh to assess their impact to improve child immunization coverage in rural hard-to-reach hilly and haor (low lying) areas. This pre-post test design research was conducted during June 2008 to May 2010. Interventions (provider training, policy change, session schedule modification, support group, use of screening checklist) were evaluated using immunization coverage indicators including "valid coverage". Valid coverage increased at endline compared to baseline and the difference of the increase was highly significant ($p < 0.001$). The absolute difference of fully immunized between baseline and endline in intervention areas were 38 and 28 percentage points respectively. The findings also showed that drop-outs, left-outs and invalid doses decreased at endline compared to baseline and the difference was also highly significant ($p < 0.001$). Combination of interventions implemented in rural hard-to-reach areas of Bangladesh contributed significantly in improving child immunization coverage that could be implemented in other countries which are facing similar challenges.

Biography

Md. Jasim Uddin has completed his Ph.D degree in Health Management in 2006. He is a Scientist of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDD,B). He has published about 20 papers in reputed journals and serving as an editorial board member and reviewer of couple of peer reviewed journals.