

FCHV saves life of an asphyxiated baby: a case report from Dang

On 16th of Chaitra, Mr. Dharma Raj Mahatara (field officer, IRHDTC) received a call from Miss Manisha Kharel (CB-NCP community level facilitator, IRHDTC) about the incident that had taken place 2 days back on 14th of Chaitra. The Following day, a team consisting of representative from District Health Office: Mr. Bishnu Pokhrel (CB-NCP focal person, Dang), Mr. Kishor Acharya, Min Bahadur Basnet, IRHDTC's field officers Mr. Dharma Raj Mahatara, Mr. Yadusudan Kunwar, Miss Manisha Kharel, Mr. Krishna Raj Pandit along with representatives from NTV (Nepal Television) and Swargadwari F.M headed for Hapur where the incident had taken place.

The team collected the information by visiting the house of the newborn and praised the FCHV for her heroic and courageous deed.

Case Report:

Place: Hapur VDC, Basgajeri, Ward no. 6
Family: Dalit
Economic Status: Poor
Father/Mother Name: Dev Bahadur B.K. / Dil Maya B.K.

It was 14th of Chaitra and the 6th day of FCHV level CB-NCP training program. One of the FCHV Thama Pandey from Hapur VDC, Basgajeri, Ward no. 6 was absent that day and all her friends were surprised and confused not to see her on the day of VDC orientation program. She had not informed anyone about the reason as well. Everybody including the VDC members had gathered for the VDC level Orientation which started at 1 pm. At around 2 pm, to the amazement of the orientation participants and FCHVs, Thama Pandey arrived at the training hall along with a mother holding her newborn child.

Thama Pandey then started to explain the reason behind her absence.

As usual, I was ready to go to the Training in the morning when one of her villager came by and asked me to immediately go to her house. On the way he explained that her daughter-in-law was in labour pain and that she was about to deliver a child. I then immediately decided to see the mother first and then only go to the training. When I reached the house I was horrified to see that there was a cord prolapse and the only helper/assistance for the expectant mother was her sister-in-law. I was very nervous as I have never been to such situation. However, hiding my nervousness, I decided to help in the delivery process giving my best effort. Ultimately, the mother gave birth but the baby did not cry. It looked very blue and thinking the baby dead, the family members then started to mourn as the baby did not show any signs of life.

However, I immediately realized that the child might have been asphyxiated as I had learnt the skills to identify and manage the asphyxiated baby few days back. I took permission to try out the techniques explaining to the family members that this technique might help to revive the child but it is not certain. First I used the Dee lee suction tube to suck out the thick fluid in nose and mouth and cleared the breathway but the child did not cry. I then used the bag and mask as learnt in the training. On the fourth attempt, the newborn coughed and started to cry. I then stopped using bag and mask and convinced the mother and the family members to take the mother and the newborn to the Health Center to avoid any complications that can arise thereafter. The family members were very happy because I had saved the life of a male child, who has high societal values. The mother had already given birth to 3 children including a twin but only 2 daughters had survived. The mother and the family did not know how to thank me as they were overjoyed.

They even called me as a “Living God”, but I explained that it was just application of skills which I learnt recently. Had I not taken the training, I would not have been able to save the newborn’s life. So I thank our trainers and the organizers for transferring us such a life saving skill.

After hearing about the event, all the participants and the guest that were present in the hall gave a standing ovation to The FCHV , IRHDTC facilitator and Supervisor from district health office.

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Visit of the DHO team for conformation and information collection. It took 2 hours on foot and 1 hour of jeep travel to reach the house.



House of the mother



Courageous FCHV
Mrs Thama Pandey



Mother taking care of her neonate.



Family members with FCHV- Husband
in middle