

Final report on the project

“The positive effect of father’s involvement during maternity care for his wife”

Introduction

The team applied for the project funding from Share-Net in response to its call for proposals of 05/05/2017. The purpose of this project was to develop a platform for engaging and educating fathers to support mothers and fetuses as a vital component of maternal care in Jordan. This project came to fill the gap in evidence regarding the role of fathers in support pregnant wives. The focus of this project, therefore, has been to increase awareness of the benefits of father’s inclusiveness and instigate a change in clinical practice and behavior to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for mothers and fetuses. A team of three Jordanian professionals was formed to take up the responsibility of conducting the research and implementing the project.

Submission of the project proposal

The proposal was submitted on 20/07/2017 using the Share-Net portal. The proposal was reviewed and replies were provided as appropriate. The proposal was approved on 04/09/2017 through a formal communication by Share-Net and the contract was signed by both parties by October 4, 2017.

Project plan

As soon as the project proposal was approved a project implementation plan was discussed and developed taking into consideration both internal and external factors including obligations stipulated in the project document, the commitments of the team members and the deadlines. The plan specified who will do what and the timeframe for each of them including securing the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, identification of the healthcare centres to be included, preparation of the pamphlet, its review, design, printing and distribution, identification of the research assistants, the public campaign, the actual visits to the healthcare centres, training of research assistants and development, testing, dissemination of the questionnaire and the pamphlet. Each of these components in the plan was set for a specific date to complete.

Steps taken to implement the project

The following major steps were taken in the course of implementation of the project:

1. Securing the approval by both the University of Jordan Science and Technology (JUST) and the approval by the Ministry of Health of Jordan. This has required both official writing to both institutions using the appropriate formats and personal visits to follow up on the procedures. Copies of approvals attached;
2. Development of the pamphlet, design and production. A major part of the work on the project was exerted to develop the content of the pamphlet to ensure that it includes

scientific material that is written in a language that is easy for fathers to understand and that the material is culturally acceptable. The content was reviewed by experts to ensure validity, then by linguists to ensure appropriateness and then was given to a specialized designer for its layout and final production. The pamphlet was designed by a professional graphic designer and printed on high quality glossy paper in order to encourage people to take it home and read it. The pictures in the pamphlet were carefully selected to ensure suitability and copyright. Copy of the English version of the pamphlet is attached;

3. Training of research assistants. 10 research assistants, mainly nurses, were identified. A workshop was conducted to provide the necessary training on the content of the pamphlet and communication with mothers and fathers visiting the healthcare centres. In addition to the workshop each of these assistants was given briefing to ensure competency to deliver the knowledge impeded in the pamphlet and to gauge the feedback from pregnant women and the fathers;
4. 1000 copies of the pamphlet were produced by a professional printing house in full colors using glossy paper. These copies were handed to pregnant women and their husbands during her antenatal visit in healthcare centers. Copy of the Arabic version attached;
5. At the end 965 women were approached in the 10 healthcare centres which are distributed in Jordan representing urban, rural and refugee camps. Each couple was briefed on the content of the pamphlet and handed a copy for reference at home. In the case of absence of the husband a copy was provided with a specific request to share with the husband at home;
6. Feedback questionnaire. The Arabic version of the questionnaire was designed, reviewed and tested prior to its distribution to couples visiting the primary care centers (An English translation of the questionnaire is attached). The questionnaire consisted of three sections:
 - a. the demographic data for the couple;
 - b. the quantitative part Likert scale which includes 20 questions; and
 - c. the qualitative part consisted of 8 questions.

500 copies of the questionnaire were made and handed to the woman after two months from receiving the pamphlet. 374 completed questionnaires were returned. Pregnant women were requested to complete the questionnaire based on their utilization of the pamphlet. The purpose at this stage was to assess the value of the pamphlet as a tool to change the knowledge, attitude and practice of the husbands towards their pregnant wives. The same information will be analyzed and published as a scientific paper in one of the international professional journals in the field.

The project team had a review meeting with the research assistants which revealed a number of positive reactions by the research assistants and the mothers that received copies of the pamphlet and who were provided with explanations. They indicated that the language was easy to understand, short sentences and clear. They found the pamphlet useful and their husband liked it. They liked the evidence-based approach when the pamphlet quoted scientific evidence form the literature. They liked the whole approach used in the pamphlet and strongly recommend similar pamphlets targeting mothers in their postpartum (postnatal) period which goes for over two years.

The research team would like to take this proposal further and look for support from both Share-International and the Higher Population Council in Jordan.

In conclusion, the project achieved its objectives as it has succeeded in changing the knowledge, attitude and practices of men towards their pregnant wives. The very limited budget was enough to implement the project objectives at a very limited scale. Future action will include printing quantities of the pamphlet and their distribution through the Ministry of Health, private sector clinics, UNRWA clinics and to clinics run by international agencies in Jordan.

Thanks and appreciation

The research team would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the Share-Net International for its financial support to this project, and to the Higher Population Council for their support.