Ensuring midwifery led continuum of care in the marginalized teagarden community of Moulvibazar district since 2016

CIPRB Wishes All the Midwives Contributing Services for the Mothers and Families on the Occasion of International Midwifery Day 2017
“Bagan Mayer Jonno Intervention” An integrated approach to improve reproductive, maternal and neonatal health in five Teagardens of Moulvibazar: Jointly implemented by CIPRB, Bangladesh in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and Teagarden authority with the support of UNFPA, Bangladesh since February 2016. The intervention introduced and trialed midwife led continuum of care the selected five gardens. As a part of the this, five graduated midwives haven recruited with aim to ensure quality of care for the mothers, newborns and adolescent for better health. The intervention also focuses on identification of high risk mothers and timely referral.

Ensuring Quality Antenatal and Postnatal Care in Teagarden Community

Professional midwives are committed to ensure quality services at the teagarden dispensaries for the pregnant mothers by providing antenatal care including some essential tests. Like this, immediate postnatal care is given to each of the mothers within first 24 hours. As a result, five midwives working in five gardens provided a total 1400 antenatal care of 450 mothers at different trimester. Besides this, postnatal care also been given to 279 mothers within first 24 hours after childbirth. Service at door and at facility combine together minimize the mothers to deliver by untrained birth attendant and that positively effect in improvement of health seeking behaviors of mothers and their families.
Safe delivery initiative

Tea garden mothers are now experiencing safe delivery conduction by the professional midwives. Since their employment in five gardens in August 2016, till date five midwives delivered 99 normal deliveries of which 64 were conducted in home and remains in the teagarden dispensaries. In the meantime, the midwives also referred 102 mothers with maternal complications at different pregnancy period to either district or sub-district (upazila) govt. health facilities in consultation with the teagarden health department. The initiatives positively reduce the maternal and neonatal deaths in the hard to reach teagarden community by ensuring continuum of care.

Voice of a Midwife

“Today I am a professional Midwife because of my younger brother left us when he was aged 23 days, I come to realize that only a safe delivery could save my brother’s life” – Ms Sabana Begum, a professional qualified midwife working in the Bagan Mayer Jonno Project shared during discussion

Why you choose Midwifery as a profession?

Sabana: When I was younger, I lost my only younger brother. Delivery occurred at home by our relatives, they did bathing immediately after delivery. My brother developed pneumonia, treated by a village doctor and survived 23 days. On that day I determined to do something to stop death, finally I choose midwifery as profession.

How you are contributing for the people at this moment?

Sabana: Now I am working in “Bagan Mayer Jonno” project. I am responsible to provide quality antenatal care, safe delivery, postnatal care including referral. I also engaged in community awareness building and advocacy. Mothers in the teagardens are still behind of seeking quality of health care, I able to bring those mothers to garden dispensary to provide services.

Your feelings to work with the marginalized community

Sabana: Mothers in the teagarden usually want to deliver at home, they are mostly from Hindu religion, they have a number of religious customs and barriers. I am a Muslim, after joined here I worked on bridge the gaps and they always welcome me to work. I counselled and convinced the mothers to come in garden facility and they did.

What midwives can do further for underprivileged mothers?

Sabana: Mothers in the gardens need continuous support and care from skilled providers, their practices for many years which mayn’t change in a day, ensuring a quality of services by professional midwives definitely make changes their practices.

Survival Story of a Mother

Anjana, a 20 years’ older pregnant mother worked in the tea garden had her first pregnancy. She came to the garden dispensary for antenatal care for three times, labour pain started in a morning when she was on 36 weeks, the family didn’t understand and waited for a day. Then professional midwife was called and she visited the home found the mother already developed complications (obstructed labour), midwife immediately referred the mother to Kamalganj upazila health complex and coordinated entire process. Doctor in the UHC delivered the baby in the labour room and both the mother and baby survived.

Returning back to home the mother, Anjana expressed—

“I didn’t understand during labour pain was there any problem or not. Midwife apa helped a lot, she arranged everything for me, when the doctor delivered the baby, they were discussing if I made delay to come, my baby will die. Only because of our apa, both me and my baby survived”