

**DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY PROFILE ON
SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND HUMAN BEHAVIORAL
ASPECTS FOR IMPROVED MALARIA CONTROL
IN NEPAL**



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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Public Health,
Health System Development Programme
College of Public Health, Chulalongkorn University
1997

ISBN 974-637-374-9

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Bangkok, Thailand.

ABSTRACT

Out of about 20.32 million population of Nepal, approximately 13.17 million (65%) are at malaria risk. Despite of government efforts to control malaria transmission, periodic epidemic outbreaks and persistent transmission in the several areas with tropical and sub-tropical climate, have shown that malaria is still a public health problem in Nepal.

One of the important aspect of any program is availability of update information. In the malaria context, information about all aspects of malaria epidemiology of an area is essential for the reason that the distribution and intensity of malaria vary from one place to other. Many factors such as socio-economic, elements of human behavior, environment, biological factors and provision of health services act together or separately for this and determines the extent of transmission.

At present, epidemiological information on malaria is available throughout the malarious areas of the country. But there is lack of information on socio-economic and behavioral factors conducive for malaria transmission in different villages of Nepal. Studies have shown that these aspects pose a influence both on malaria transmission and control. This calls for identifying those factors in respect to improve malaria control and develop a information profile. So, the objectives of this study is to develop a socio-economic and human behavioral information profile of Panchkhal village so that a suitable control measures could be recommended for the improved malaria control.

The proposed study will be a cross-sectional survey for exploratory purposes with a qualitative approach. The techniques for collection of required and relevant information will be interviews, observation of study site and households and review of available documents and service statistics. A field observation as a part of data exercise was done in two villages of Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand to test the appropriateness of data collection techniques i.e., pre-test of observation checklist (see Appendix I). Similarly, questionnaire guidelines was also tested through interviews with key informants at Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.

The outcome of the research results will be presented to the planners and administrators of Nepal Malaria Control Program. They are expected to apply research results in the formulation of appropriate anti-malaria intervention in that area and will improve the situation.