

**AN INVESTIGATION ON FEMALE COMMUNITY HEALTH
VOLUNTEERS' (FCHVs') ROLE AND IMPACT IN HEALTH
SECTOR OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN VILLAGES OF
PARBAT DISTRICT**

**A THESIS
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
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WITH SPECIAL PAPER PARASITOLOGY**

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RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Mrs. Teeka Sharma Bhusal has completed this dissertation work entitled **“AN INVESTIGATION ON FEMALE COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUTEERS’ (FCHVs’) ROLE AND IMPACT IN HEALTH SECTOR OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN VILLAGES OF PARBAT DISTRICT”** as a partial fulfillment of M.Sc. degree in Zoology under my supervision. To my knowledge this work has not been submitted for any other degree. Her work is an original one and deserves for recommendation and is approved for the examination.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

On the recommendation of supervisor Prof. Dr. Ranjana Gupta, the thesis presented by Mrs. Teeka Sharma Bhusal entitled “**AN INVESTIGATION ON FEMALE COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUTEERS’ (FCHVs’) ROLE AND IMPACT IN HEALTH SECTOR OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN VILLAGES OF PARBAT DISTRICT**” has been accepted to be a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in Zoology with Parasitology as a special paper.

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ABSTRACT

Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), through their voluntary services have served as an important source of information for their communities, a link with government health services and a source of direct services in a number of important areas. FCHVs have contributed extensively to the health and well being of their communities, in particular to the women and children in rural areas of Nepal.

The study was carried out in the southern VDCs of Parbat district during April 2009 to March 2010 with the general objective to explore the contribution of FCHVs for primary health care and their understanding and roles for the prevention of infectious and communicable diseases in the study area.

A total of 63 FCHVs, some health officials and community members from seven VDCs were taken as the respondents in the study. All of current FCHVs were literate, majority of them were from privileged families (few Dalit FCHVs) and of reproductive age (age between 21 and 45). FCHVs have utilized the available health services and the adoption of preventive health practices among community members as voluntary health educators and promoters, community mobilizers, referral agents and community-based service providers in areas of health as per the trainings received.

They have played an important role in contributing to a variety of key public health programs, including family planning, maternal care, child health, vitamin A supplementation/ de-worming and immunization; and infectious and communicable diseases at the community level. About 65% FCHVs of the study area reported that they provide information and education on the infectious diseases affecting their locality and refer suspected infectious disease cases to health facilities for diagnosis.

FCHVs are perceived as strong promoters of community health care services as well as social leaders of the community. The FCHV Program has undoubtedly contributed towards women's empowerment. Being permanent residents, has been an added advantage to the community, especially in preventive health care services through outreach at the household and local group level.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHW	Auxiliary Health Worker
ANC	Antenatal care
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
CB-IMCI	Community Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
DALY	Disability-Adjusted Life Years
DHO	District Health Office/Officer
DoHS	Department of Health and Services
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short Course
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FHD	Family Health Division
GoN	Government of Nepal
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HP/SHP	Health Post/ Sub Health Post
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
MCHW	Maternal and Child Health Worker
MGs	Mothers Group
MOH/P	Ministry of Health and Population
NFHP	National Family Health Program
ORC	Outreach Clinic
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
PHCC	Primary Health Care Center
PNC	Postnatal Care
RHDP	Rural Health Development Project
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHW	Village Health Worker