

MANAGEMENT MODEL OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATIVE RABIES VACCINE FUND

Piyathida Tridech¹ and Supatra Liumwarangkul²

¹Department of Public Health Administration, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok 10400, Thailand; ²Veterans Hospital, Ministry of Defense, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

Abstract. The objective of this study was to set up a management model of a Rabies Vaccine Fund by using community participation. It was a Participatory Action Research-PAR (Research and Development) during January-December 1999. The target population were the Local Administrative Organization (LAO) committee, community leaders and village health volunteers. The research instrument was the focus group discussion purposively set. The result showed that the Rabies Vaccine Fund was successful, sustainable with no rabies case and the fund increased. The management model of Rabies Vaccine Fund consists of the fund committee, community participation in fund raising, delegation of work, fund regulation, animal vector registration and immunization, and provision of health education through village cable line. The recommendation is that promotion of this type of Rabies Vaccine Fund should be one alternative of a rabies protection and control program.

INTRODUCTION

Rabies is a major zoonosis problem in Thailand causing substantial loss of lives and property. But the disease can be prevented by strengthening immunization of animal vectors and exposed patients. Though the responsibility of rabies control activity is under the supervision of the Department of Livestock Development, Department of Communicable Disease Control and the Local Administrative organization but the community participation is essential as well. Community participation is a key strategy leading to sustainable development (Ministry of Public Health, 1997, 1999), since the community will work together making decisions to solve their own problems, which is part of the management process (Tridech *et al*, 1996). This finding is in accordance with the study of Tridech *et al* (1999) as well as the study of Saengyai *et al* (1999). We evaluated the rabies fund by studying the characteristics of the management model of Rabies Vaccine Funded by community participation in Putlao sub-district, Bang Pahan district where Saengyai *et al* (1999) earlier set up a vaccine fund but failed later.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study design

The study was conducted in 1999 in Putlao sub-district, Bang Pahan district, Ayutthaya Province. It was a Participatory Action Research-PAR (Research and Development). Target population

were the Local Administrative Organization (LAO) committee, community leaders and village health volunteers. The research instrument was the purposive focus group discussion with key informants from the community. The process of setting up the Rabies Vaccine Fund was as follows :

1. The researchers set up a purposive focus group discussion with 4 village leaders, 8 health volunteers and officers from Putlao Health Center, Ayutthaya Provincial Health Office and Office of the Communicable Disease Control Region 1. They agreed with the funding concepts. Later on they got the approval and financial contribution for setting up a Rabies Vaccine Fund from the LAO committee monthly meeting.

2. Since it was a PAR research technique the researchers supervised and evaluated the performances of the fund committee every 3 months in order to adjust the direction and operation of the fund by suggestions and recommendations. The sense of belonging of the fund should be strengthened and built up in the village. Finally, it met the objective of the research.

Data analysis

Since it was a qualitative research, the result in this study was expressed by the success or failure of the rabies vaccine fund.

RESULTS

At the end of the study, it could be concluded that the management process of the successful

Rabies Vaccine Fund is as follows :

1. The health volunteers were trained by District Livestock Development Section to give the vaccine to animal vectors in the village with Baht10 commission per dose.

2. The sub-district health volunteer was responsible for book-keeping controlling finance and vaccine stock.

3. The regulation was set by the Rabies Vaccine Fund committee. The vaccine price was Baht 40 per dose with Baht 15 profit. Ten baht was paid to the health volunteer who gave immunization and five baht was accumulated and added to the fund. For those who could not pay for the vaccine directly, they could pay on a monthly term. No free of charge case is allowed.

4. Routine health education about the rabies control system was carried out by the committee through village cable line.

5. Every animal vector in the village was registered and immunized by health volunteers.

6. Every villager was responsible for animal vector surveillance. He would inform the village leader or village health volunteer immediately when he found unimmunized animal vectors.

So under this study the successful and sustainable management model of Rabies Vaccine Fund showed that there was no rabies case in Putlao sub-district and the fund increased. The characteristics of the Rabies Vaccine Fund must consist of the following factors:

1. All LAO committee, community leaders and village health volunteers have to be members of the committee.

2. The fund is owned by every villager.

3. Community participation in fund raising.

4. Delegation of work among the committee.

5. Set up fund regulations.

6. Animal vectors registration and immunization.

7. Provision of health education through village cable line.

DISCUSSION

The management model of community participative Rabies Vaccine Fund which consisted of a fund committee taking care of all rabies control activities was successful. Throughout the year 1999, there was no rabies case and the fund was sustained, compared with the year 1998 when a school-girl in Putlao subdistrict died of rabies. At the end of 1999, every animal vector was registered and immunized. The villagers asked for immunization whenever they possessed new animal vectors. The concept of community participation and sense of belonging through vaccine fund raising is valuable. Above all there must be a committee taking care of the fund operation. This management model should be implemented and extended by the authorities in order to prevent and control rabies throughout the country.

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