A brief report of training on Early Warning signs and symptoms of childhood cancer in Bharatpur, Chitwan

Background:

The number of children suffering from cancer in Nepal is estimated to be around 1500-2000 each year. However, only a small portion of these new cases approx. 250 reach B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, A state of art cancer hospital.The fact that despite being all kinds of facilities available at B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, the hospital receives only a small portion of the expected new cases of childhood cancer every year brought about the need to conduct this training to orient primary health care providers about the concepts and realities of childhood cancer and most importantly, to help them recognize and timely refer such cases to concerned higher centers. This kind of training was conducted first time at the B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital and was chosen as the site of such training due to easy accessibility to the health workers of Chitwan districts.

The training:

This training was organized by Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust (RGMT), with technical support and coordination from B.P. Koirala Memorial

Cancer Hospital and Together Against Childhood Cancer (TACC), and funded by World Child Cancer (WCC).

The Health Directorate, Hetauda , Bagamati Provincial Government was contacted and timing and location of the training and participants were fixed . The training was conducted in the hall of B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur on 17th June, 2024.

The trainers were:

1. Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma: Senior Consultant Paediatric Oncologist. B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital

2. Dr. Sudhir Adhikari : MD Pediatrics, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.

3. Dr.Samjhana Phuyal; MD Pediatrics, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.

4. Dr.Niva Tiwari; MD Pediatrics, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.

The participants invited were:

- Director/Representative from Health Directorate, Hetauda , Bagmati Provincial Government.
- Chief from District Health Offices (Chitwan).
- Chairman, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.

- Deputy Director, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.
- Sr. Consultants, B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.
- Medical officers and Nursing staffs working in Pediatric oncology department from B.P. koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital.
- Head of Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from Bharatpur Hospital
- Head of Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from Bharatpur Eye Hospital.
- Head of Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from College of Medicine Sciences, Bharatpur
- Head of Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from Chitwan Medical College & Teaching Hospital.
- One Medical officer working Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from Nico Children's Hospital.
- One Medical officer working Pediatrics Department and one Nursing Staff from Bakulahar Hospital.
- Primary health care providers, including two participants each (one Medical officer and one Nursing staff) from four primary health care centers of Chitwan district.

A total of 38 participants attended the training, who were invited via a formal letter from Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust through Health

Directorate , Hetauda , Bagmati Provincial Government as well as via phone calls.

List of participants:

S. No.	Name	Organisation	Post
1.	Dr. Bijay Raj Neupane	B.P.K.M.C.H	Chairman
2.	Dr. Umesh Nepal	B.P.K.M.C.H	Deputy Director
3.	Dr. Bhawna Bagle	B.P.K.M.C.H	Sr. Consultant
4.	Ms. Sarika Shrestha	Ichhakamana PHC	Staff Nurse
5.	Ms. Mamita Tamang	COMS	Staff Nurse
6.	Dr. Prabin Khatri	COMS	Pediatrician
7.	Dr. Santosh kunwar	Ichhakamana PHC	MO
8.	Ms. Apeksha KC	Kalika Nagar PHC	Staff Nurse
9.	Dr.Swapnil Sharma	Kalika Nagar PHC	MO
10.	Dr.Amrit Bhusal	KahiarahaniPHC	MO
11.	Ms. Ashika Bhusal	Khairahani PHC	Staff Nurse
12.	Ms. Nabina Paudel	Niko Children's Hospital	Staff Nurse
13.	Ms. Sita Dhital	Shivnagar PHC	S.A.H.W
14.	Ms. Sova Sai Mahato	Bharatpur Hospital	HNS
15.	Ms.Shova Paudel	Bakulahar Hospital	HNI
16.	Dr. Binod Rijal	Bhandara Hospital	Medical Officer
17.	Dipti Chepang	Bhandara Hospital	Staff Nurse
18.	Ms. Sajani Kayastha	Bharatpur Eye Hospital	Paed. Coordinator
19.	Dr.Manisha Shrestha	Bharatpur Eye Hospital	Paed. Ophthalmologist

20.	Ms.Sita Rana	B.P.K.M.C.H	Staff Nurse
21	Ms. Anima Dawadi	B.P.K.M.C.H	Staff Nurse
22.	Dr.Sujit Koirala	B.P.K.M.C.H	MD- Paed
23.	Dr. Aviskar Chapagai	B.P.K.M.C.H	Medical officer
24.	Dr. Ram Krishna Yadav	B.P.K.M.C.H	Medical Officer
25.	Dr. Pramod paudel	Bharatpur Hospital	Pediatrician
26.	Ms. Nirajana Rajbhandari	B.P.K.M.C.H	Sr. Staff Nurse
27	Dr. Ashish Baral	Baghmara Hospital	Medical Officer
28	Dr. Nawaraj Kharel	Gaidakot PHC	Medical Officer
29	Ms.Sabitra Shrestha	Gaidakot PHC	Staff Nurse
30	Ms.Unnati kumari	Baghauda Hospital	Staff Nurse
31	Ms. yam Kumari Gurung	CMCTH	Sr. Staff Nurse
32	Dr. Swekchha Adhikari	CMCTH	Pediatrician
33	Dr. Kishor Upreti	Niko children’s Hospital	Pediatrician
34	Mr.Hemraj Magar	B.P.K.M.C.H	Nursing officer
35	Dr. Suman Ram shrestha	Bakulahar Hospital	Pediatrician
36	Dr.Dinesh Sharma	DHO	Head
37	Dr. Navin karki	Health Directorate	Department Head
38	Dr. Ramesh Timilsina	Health Directorate	Planning Head

Contents of the training

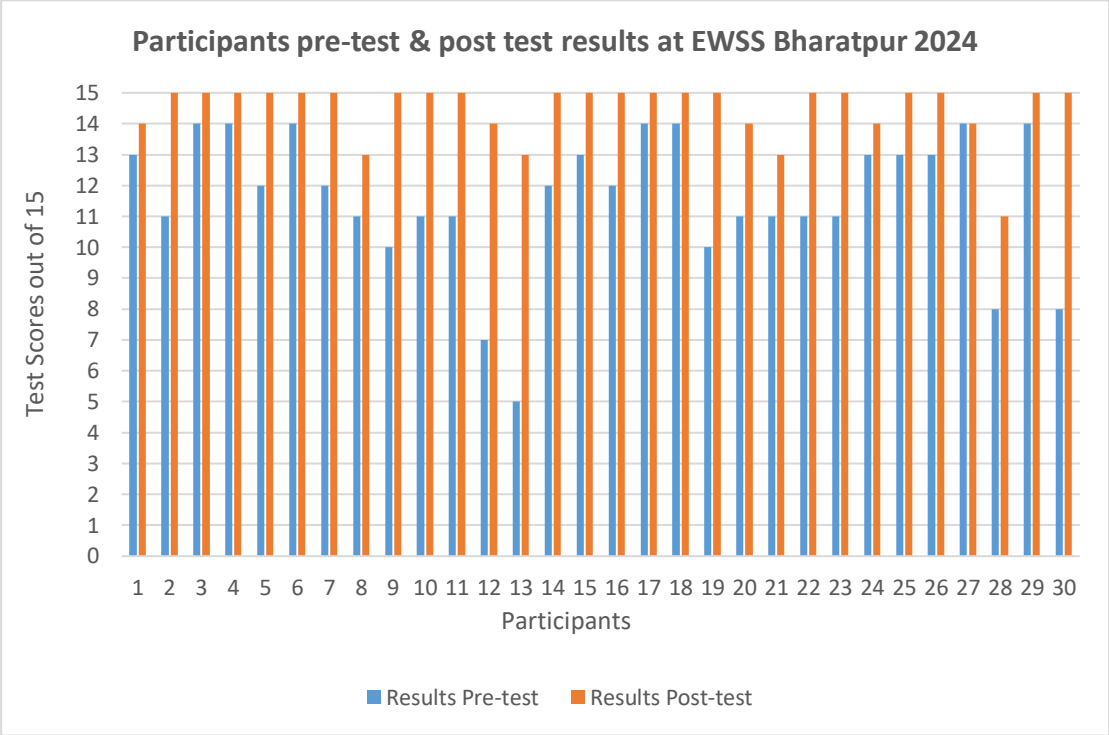
The one-day orientation training underwent in a friendly manner with the participants eager to learn and apply new information acquired.

The trainers and the sessions covered were as follows:

Sessions	**Trainer**
Introduction and overview of training	Dr. Krishan Sagar Sharma
Basic Concepts of Cancer and Pediatric Oncology	Dr. Niva tiwari
Common Cancer in Children	Dr. Sudhir Adhikari
Childhood Cancer: Myths and differences from adults	Dr. Samjhana Phuyal
Early Warning Signs of Childhood Cancer -Fever, Bleeding, Limb pain/Body pain, Eye reflex, Neurologic symptoms (focal deficits), Abdominal lumps	Dr. Krishan Sagar Sharma

Suspicion of Cancer in children: Presenting symptoms -Fever, Bleeding, Limb pain/Body pain, Eye reflex, Neurologic symptoms (focal deficits), Abdominal lumps	Dr. Krishna Sagar sharma
Management of suspected child with cancer -Overview of treatment and outcome	Dr. Niva Tiwari
Oncology emergencies: Brief review TLS, Hematologic, SVC, etc.	Dr. Sudhir Adhikari
Support systems for treatment -Government support/ Insurance/ Philanthropic supports/ Other	Dr. Samjhana Phuyal

Pre test / Post test Score



Recommendations:

The coverage needs to be increased, including all primary health care workers.

A follow-up session could be helpful in the future for refreshing the knowledge of the participants.

A standard operating procedure document could be developed, that would help in standardizing and facilitating the organizing and coordination of this training in future.

Involving local level government representatives in this training could further increase the effectiveness. This needs to be considered in future trainings.

To increase the awareness among public, extending the training to community level through FCHV (Female Community Health Volunteer) needs to be considered in the future

Acknowledgement:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr.Bijay Raj Neupane, Chairman, B.P.K.M.C.H , Dr. Bhawna Bagle, Sr. Consultant, B.P.K.M.C.H, Dr. Dinesh sharma, Head-DHO(Chitwan), Dr. Navin karki, Dept. Head- HD,Hetauda, Mr. Rohit Gupta, Chairman, RGMT for guidance, continuous encouragement.We would also like to thank Health Directorate , Hetauda , Bagmati Provincial Government for continuous support, communication and facilitation with local levels, health workers and venue for organizing the training.

Some pictures from the training

World Child Cancer
TRAINING ON
EARLY WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
(EWSS) OF CHILDHOOD CANCER
17 June 2024
Organized By:
B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur.
Supported By:
Implementing partners:
AMGEN
My child matters
Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Conclusion:

The training was conducted smoothly and successfully. There were active and enthusiastic participations from all the participants during the training. In overall, the training was effective at delivering the warning signs and

symptoms to the healthcare workers working at the peripheral grass root level.