

Annexure

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Participant Characteristics and Guide

FGD No. _____

Village Name: _____

Block: _____

Gender of participants: Male/Female

Name of Moderator: _____

Name of Note taker: _____

Location: _____

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Date of FGD: _____

FGD started at _____ AM/PM

FGD finished at _____ AM/PM

Total participants in the FGD: _____

Participant details –

Sr. no.	Participant code	Age	Education	Occupation	Marital status
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

Opening Remarks

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group. You have been asked to participate, as your point of view is important. We realize you are busy and we appreciate the time you are sparing for us.

The goal of today's meeting is to understand your knowledge and perceptions about snakebite and experiences of seeking health care for a snakebite victim. We are conducting such FGDs at various places in four blocks in Maharashtra and Odisha states. We aim to determine the status of information you have and practices you undertake for prevention and management of snakebite envenomation in your area. The data collected from all the sites will be analysed and the results will be used to develop culturally acceptable IEC material in your local language for improving community awareness regarding snakebite prevention. Today's discussion is one part of a larger study whose overall objective is to ultimately reduce the morbidity and mortality arising out of snakebites in your area.

With that, we would like to inform you about a few basic things to keep in mind while participating today:

- a) We expect everyone in this group to be an active participant.
- b) We are looking for your opinions, beliefs and experiences. That means there are no "right" or "wrong" answers. You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group and differing points of views are encouraged.
- c) We expect you to speak freely without hesitation but we also request you not to interrupt others while they are talking. Once they are finished, you can go ahead with your point.
- d) You do not have to speak in any particular order. When you do have something to say, please do so. There are many of you here and it is important that we obtain the views of each of you.
- e) Note taking and audio recording is for reporting purposes only and will be used for analysis. Names will not be attached to the notes or audio transcripts. We will be assigning codes to each of you and those codes only will be used while taking notes and analysing audio transcripts.
- f) Your participation is limited to this FGD session only. Given that, the team will not get back to any individual participating in the session afterwards.
- g) All responses and feedback given by you will remain anonymous.

Introduction

Before we start, I would like to introduce myself. I am _____. I will be acting as the moderator for this FGD. My role is to guide and facilitate this discussion. Alongside me, is _____. He/She will be acting as the assistant moderator and note taker for this FGD. We both work at ICMR – NIRRH, Mumbai. We will be asking you some questions regarding today's topic to seek your responses. If you do not understand any question, feel free to interject and ask.

Guide

1. Can you tell us which are the commonly occurring snakes in your area?

Probe: Difference between venomous vs. non-venomous snakes, the big four, any other species, dry bites, place of occurrence of snakes, usual hiding spots, usual time of bites, profile of the victims, fate of snake after the bite

Cards: The moderator will circulate photos of commonly found snakes among the participants and ask every one of them to identify the snake species and if it is venomous or non-venomous

2. Can you tell us about the symptoms of snakebite?

Probe: Known snakebite case vs. unknown bite case, different symptoms for different species, onset, duration and progression of symptoms, any other bite/disease causing the same symptoms, when to suspect a snakebite based on symptoms

3. What is your source of information about snakes and snakebites?

Probe: TV, radio, internet, WhatsApp, posters or informative leaflets, medical officers, health facilities, healthcare providers, faith healers, peers, experience of being a victim, experience of taking a victim to facility, school teachers/Anganwadi, ASHA

4. Have you heard of the term ‘First Aid’? What first aid is usually provided to a snakebite victim?

Probe: Use of tourniquet, splinting the limb, local practices, who provides the first aid, herbal or traditional healer, faith healing, usefulness of the first aid, any lived experience of the same

5. In your opinion, what is the most appropriate treatment for snakebite?

Probe: Any specific medicine to treat snakebite – in any system of medicine, treatment by faith healers, heard of anti-venom, if yes – from where?

6. What is the preferred place for seeking management of snakebite and what are the reasons for preferring that place?

Probe: Public vs. private health facility vs. faith healers, accessibility including distance and mode of travel, affordability of inpatient services, availability of human resource, drugs (ASV) and other equipment, closest health facility to the village with its advantages and limitations

7. Has anyone of you ever-experienced snakebite or know anyone who has experienced snakebite? Could you narrate the experience for us?

Probe: Type of snake, time and place of bite occurrence, site of bite on the body, symptoms, what happened to the snake after the bite, place of first aid, what first aid received, from whom, first health facility, experience there, ASV availability and usage, days of admission, complications, treatment outcome, referral for further management, challenges faced while seeking health care and referral

8. What according to you are the reasons for such a large number of snakebites in your area?

Probe: Knowledge about snakes, lack of preventive measures, lack of awareness on health seeking, sociocultural beliefs and myths, treatment availability

9. What according to you must be done for the prevention of snakebites and snakebite deaths in your area?

Probe: Improvement in knowledge and perceptions, use of personal protective items like high length shoes, torch, stick while walking in dark, not putting hands in crevices without due precautions, not sleeping on floor, using bed nets while sleeping, avoiding open defecation practices, health seeking behaviour, community awareness including early seeking of healthcare, red flag signs, availability of accessible and affordable health services in the area, availability of emergency transport services

10. What will be the best way to increase awareness about snakebites in your area?

Probe: Awareness programs including posters, flip charts and wall messages, audio - visual aids and their effective utilisation in the community, role of public health facilities and healthcare providers, role of faith healers, role of community leaders including Sarpanch, Gram Sabha and teachers.

Exit questions

1. We talked a lot about snakebites, their prevention and management. Apart from all the things we discussed, do you wish to share anything else with us regarding today’s topic?
2. Does anyone want to make any point that you wanted to while discussing but could not?
3. Do you have any questions to ask us? Please feel free to ask

Concluding remarks

We thank you for the generous time and valuable inputs that you have given us today. Your participation in this important study is highly appreciated. We hope you have found the discussion interesting. If there is anything that you are unhappy with or wish to complain about, or want to give a feedback, you have already been given a copy of the PIS. Please feel free to contact on the given numbers.