

**A Report on
Training Private Sector Pharmacists/Pharmacy Personnel on
Diarrhoea Treatment Practices & Usage of Zinc in Nepal**

Submitted to:

POUZN-II

Population Service International (PSI) Nepal

Kathmandu



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Executive Summary

In May 2008, PSI/Nepal awarded a training programme to INRUD/Nepal to train private sector pharmacists/pharmacy personnel on diarrhoea treatment practices and usage of Zinc in six districts (Bara, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Saptari, Sarlahi and Sunsari) of Nepal. Accordingly, in May/June 2008, INRUD in collaboration with NCDA, organised a series of a half-day, small group face-to-face trainings in financial support of PSI/N. In each district, the trainings were held at two locations/sites with total of 12 locations. In a day, in each location, in most cases two sessions were conducted (one from 07:00 am to 10:00 am and another from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm), each session being facilitated by two trainers.

The overall objective was to train a cadre of private sector health care providers (pharmacy personnel) in prescribing and/or distributing zinc and ORS to caregivers of children with diarrhoea and also to provide the appropriate treatment information to these consumers, thus establishing new practise standards for the treatment of diarrhoea.

The course covered different aspects regarding the appropriate use of zinc tablets for the treatment of diarrhoea in children. The role of private sector pharmacists and drug retailers was also discussed. Participants were also informed about the main zinc products available in the market and their manufacturers. Each participant received 2 strips (20 tablets of zinc).

In total 1285 persons were trained in 17 working days.

A pre-post evaluation based on the participants' answer to self-administered questionnaire showed that there was an improvement/ change in knowledge from 46.6% to 72.9%. Besides, the training process was economically and politically feasible and culturally acceptable for the private sector pharmacies.

With its limited scope, the present training activity could not cover all the pharmacy shops of the six districts. There is demand of such training from the other shops that couldn't participate during the training course. It is recommended that, an implementation plan be developed and the training be continued to cover at least one person from the remaining shops and, other service outlets served by paramedical health workers in different districts.

Besides, though the training principally targeted the staff working in private sector pharmacies, it was observed that in some cases even the qualified health workers like doctors, pharmacist, and several paramedical health workers (HAs, CMAs, VHWs, Staff Nurses, ANMs and AHWs) who owned or worked in the pharmacies were themselves present. Particularly in Dharan many doctors participated as observer. Therefore this shows there is a keen interest of this kind of training among the public and private health

workers in the study district. So to address this demand a necessary program has to be implemented that will train health service providers as well private pharmacies regarding the use of Zinc in treatment of child with diarrhoea in future.