

ABSTRACT

More and more demand for evidence-based practices triggered the search of health related information in this era. To cope up with the demands the systems are finding difficulties in producing the good quality information. In Sri Lanka Registrar General's Department is responsible for producing cause of death information and mortality statistics through civil registration system by full registration of the population. Data on deaths, classified by various characteristics of the deceased, especially age and sex, is necessary to calculate life tables and estimate the probability of dying at various ages. Such information is invaluable for assessing and monitoring the health status of populations, and planning interventions etc. Producing this information is not simple as one may think. Operating and maintaining a civil registration system requires the accurate and continuous registration of population vital events from birth to death, recorded when they occur and under strict national standards. This involves many stakeholders which includes many sectors namely Registrar General Department, Department of Census and Statistics, Department of Registration of Persons, Ministry of Health and so on. The problems also multiple and multi-sectoral which is starting from diagnostic accuracy to accuracy of coding the data and information product.

This project was designed with the main objective of improving the quality and timeliness of the Cause of Death Information and makes it available for the users in appropriate formats on time. Mortality data transfer from appropriate format by electronic means from the Additional District Registrars office to the Vital Statistics and coding the cause of death data and producing the information products were targeted in this intervention project. Unstructured in-depth interviews of stakeholders and literature reviews were used as primary problem identification method and the solution finding method. Three main interventions are being planned and implemented.

- Developing a mortality data capturing software and use it to transfer the data from the districts to vital statistics unit at the center
- Use IRIS software for coding the Cause of Death while developing its dictionary in local languages.
- Training the staff and providing consulting assistance of medical doctor for coordinating the sectors and for providing clarifications.

While successful results are being achieved in capturing the data and coding the cause of death at the in-house testing, it is been planned to pilot test the software and conduct the training programme in near future.