



ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka has a robust school health programme managed by the Ministry of Health to ensure that children are healthy to make maximum use of educational opportunities and capable of promoting the health of the family and the community. There is a well-planned set up for the information flow from MOH office level to the district and national levels. This programme is still using paper based Quarterly School Health Return (QSHR), although most of the parallel public health programmes are using web-based systems to send information.

In the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) area, Galle there were problems with regard to timeliness, accuracy and completeness of the QSHR sent from the 20 MOH Offices in 2015 and 2016. This study was conducted with the objective of designing and implementing a web-based School Health Information System (SHIS) to improve the timeliness, accuracy and completeness of school health information of Galle RDHS area.

Before intervention, timeliness, accuracy and completeness of QSHR were assessed after analyzing 80 returns sent from all MOH areas in 2016. A web based SHIS was developed after a consultative meeting with relevant stakeholders. Users of 05 selected MOH areas were trained to enter school health data into the system during the second quarter of 2017. The three parameters after intervention (2nd quarter of 2017) were compared with parameters for the comparable quarter before intervention (2nd quarter of 2016). Qualitative interviews were conducted with selected group of users to obtain additional information on timeliness, accuracy and completeness of data before and after

implementing the new SHIS. After the intervention, timeliness had improved from 20% to 80%, accuracy from 20% to 60% and completeness from 40% to 80%. These improvements were not statistically significant.

Although the intervention appears to be successful in improving the quality of school health information flow, further studies using larger samples are needed to establish the effectiveness, especially when implemented on a long-term basis.

Key words: web-based school health information, timeliness, accuracy, completeness