Section D: Narangwal Revisited

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An Introduction to this Section, by Henry Taylor

- Narangwal was foundational in Carl’s personal development and was the primary research project for the International Health Department
- Illustrates what can happen to a field demonstrational project many years later
- It led to a lot of research and projects around the world
- In the summer of 2006, a series of events occurred in a few months
  - Here’s Carl with what happened next ...
40 Years after the Narangwal Trials Began ...

- There was not much mention of it
- The researchers had benefited from exploring new methods
- Following the Alma Ata conference in 1978, there was a debate about community ownership of health efforts versus a more top-down program implementation
The Cochrane reviews examined the integration of vertical interventions for primary health care. They rejected the Narangwal research for inclusion in the review. They were examining again the core issue of the Narangwal study—which was the integration of vertical top-down interventions.
Process for Responding

- Three of the original team met in Baltimore
- Communicated with other team members now all over the world
- The team re-examined the books and publications that had resulted from Narangwal
- The Cochrane reviews were rejected based on the last published study
A series of articles discussed a hypothetical case study (based upon Narangwal) of a community-based nutrition study. Concern was that the study did not meet current ethical standards. It was believed that it represented exploitation of the villagers.
• Please read:
  – The Cochrane review of: Strategies for integrating primary health services in middle- and low-income countries at the point of delivery. (Briggs and Garner, 2006)

• Also read:
  – *The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* case study and responses. (Cash, 2007; Kutty, 2007; Mala and Amar, 2007; Ravindran, 2007; Shatrugna, 2007)

• Make postings of two to three paragraphs each in the appropriate online discussion forum addressing the questions on the next slide
Questions to Discuss on the Bulletin Board

- **Question 1**
  - The Cochrane review referred only to the single 1987 published paper in *Social Science and Medicine*; that paper had many references which were obviously not read by the reviewers.
  - Read the Cochrane review documents carefully to identify not only the criteria for inclusion in the review but also their reasons for rejecting the paper after three separate reviews.
  - What do you think were the *real reasons* for rejecting the Narangwal project?
Questions to Discuss on the Bulletin Board

- **Question 2**
  - For the review in the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, please comment on your impression of why the reviewers were so negative about the Narangwal nutrition project
  - [http://www.ijme.in/issue152.html](http://www.ijme.in/issue152.html)

- Give us your frank opinion about what kind of thinking is going on in a developing country such as India about international research