



Mobile medicine

Sarubai Salve goes to work twice a day. She leaves her home once at nine o'clock in the morning, and then again at six o'clock in the evening, to visit people in her village of Jawalke. The village has about 240 families, and with another woman called Babai Sathe, Sarubai is responsible for the health of the village. The women visit pregnant women and give medicine to some of the older people. Today they are visiting their first patient. Rani Kale doesn't come from Jawalke. She lives about an hour away but her village doesn't have anyone like Sarubai to help mothers-to-be. Sarubai is checking Rani and she is worried about the position of the baby. Rani might need to go to hospital.

Half an hour later, Sarubai and Babai visit another mother with a three-month-old baby. While they are checking the baby, Sarubai also gives the mother advice on healthy eating and vaccinations. Jawalke is a very different place because of the two women. They regularly deliver babies and continue to help as the child grows up. There is a shortage of doctors in this region, so village health workers are important because they can give medicine and advice.

A mobile team visits Jawalke once a week. The team includes a nurse and a doctor. The mobile team meets with Sarubai and they look at any of her patients with serious medical problems. The health workers are an important connection between the mobile team and the local people. Currently there are 300 village health workers in the region and the number is growing.

1 Read the article. Choose the correct option (a–c) to answer the questions.

- How often does Sarubai visit people in the village?
a once a day
b twice a day
c twice a week
- How many doctors are there in the village of Jawalke?
a one
b two
c none
- Where does Rani Kale come from?
a Jawalke
b another village near Jawalke
c we don't know
- Sarubai meets Rani because she is
a ill.
b pregnant.
c sick.
- Which of these statements is true about the health workers?
a They only deliver babies.
b They do the same job as doctors.
c They have many different responsibilities.
- What is the purpose of the mobile team?
a To do the job of the health workers.
b To provide more medical help.
c To train the health workers.
- How do we know from the article that the village health project is successful?
a Because they are training more health workers.
b Because patients say they are happy with their health workers.
c Because the region doesn't need any more doctors.

Glossary

vaccination (n) /ˌvæksɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ medicine you put in the body to stop disease