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K A R O L I N S K A I N S T I T U T E T

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Curriculum Vitae

I am from South Korea and have stayed in Stockholm since in the autumn in 2000. I was born in a rural area in eastern part of Korea, Kang-Won province. During school time, I could spend much time on playing and enjoying nature around me. Now it is still one of the nature-preserved areas with many forests, hills and mountains.

After graduation from College of Nursing Science in Seoul National University, I had worked in Medical and Surgical Intensive Care Unit in a hospital for 4 ½ years since 1995. The specialty of the unit was to care the patients of organ transplantation such as liver and kidney. That period was the hardest and meaningful time for my life and career. Then I changed the working area to industrial health, a medical center caring office workers in a company for 1 ½ year. During the time, I took it as a latent time for my life. It gave me the insight to see the society wider, and the patience to wait to understand life.

After my marriage in 2000, my husband, a PhD student in KTH, and I came to Sweden and then I had to manage myself to survive in a first foreign country that I had ever had in my life. Now I feel Stockholm is my second hometown. Although I am waiting to move to another country, USA. In two years, I am going to go back to Korea. Then I hope I can contribute to make Korea better in terms of safety especially for children and the other vulnerable people by using the knowledge and experience I have gotten from Sweden and my study.

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The Role of Voluntary Organizations for Childhood Injury Prevention –

A Case Study in a WHO Safe Community – Lidköping, Sweden

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Abstract

Introduction. Injury is one of the major causes of death and disability of children worldwide. Childhood injury prevention efforts have been increasing as the target groups and the strategies of childhood injury prevention have been comprehensive. Lidköping Municipality has been carrying out comprehensive injury prevention program since 1984. Several years later, the community-based injury prevention program was developed to the concept of "Safe Community" by WHO and the Swedish National Safety Promotion Program. Lidköping still carries out its injury prevention work following the concept of Safe Community.

Objectives. This study investigated the role of the Voluntary organizations (VO:s), which have been involved in childhood injury prevention program in Lidköping by describing what activities they have carried out, how they do and in which conditions the VO:s contribute to constructive childhood injury prevention activities.

Methods. Questionnaire survey by interviews, telephone conversation, and email with key persons in the VO:s and study visit were conducted. Materials produced about Lidköping Municipality Injury prevention program and Internet sources were used. *Results* 12 organizations are mentioned in this study. 10 organizations were participated in questionnaire survey and two organizations were studied through materials and Internet sources. 1) They took action independently and were involved in various childhood injury prevention activities (CIPA). They led, advocated CIPA and disseminated their experiences to the public. It is noted that every organization is in different participation level. 2) They also set up safety network around Lidköping Municipality with official and non-official organizations. 3) The conditions for their constructive CIPA were positive feedback from the public and strongly committed actors in the VO:s. In addition, the characteristics of voluntary organizations such as that they are composed with mothers, parents, teachers and neighbors, who contact children in their daily lives, make the activities more reasonable and effective.

Concluding remarks. The VO:s involvement should be considered and advocated in a community based childhood injury prevention activities for many reasons. They can provide essential support and ideas for identifying and utilizing existing community sources. Also it is a trend to work together with different organizations to reach to great extent effects. However, their role must be different in area to area, because the set-ups in a community such as community networks or infrastructure are different and it is the prerequisite to understand what kinds of community resources or community networks exist.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Childhood Injuries

Injury is one of the major causes of death and disability of children worldwide. According to the WHO's Injury Chart book in 2000, injury-related death rate among aged 0-14 is about 10% of the total number of children deaths in the world. For children aged under 5, Drowning and Road traffic injuries are among the major 15 causes of death and for children aged 5-14, Road traffic injuries is the second biggest cause of death followed by drowning. (1,2) The age distribution of global injury-related mortality rate in 2000 are shown in Figure 1.

The major types of childhood injuries are falls, drowning, road traffic accidents, fire-related, poisoning, interpersonal violence and suicide. There is a difference in injury patterns among age groups. A Swedish study shows that children aged under nine are the most vulnerable to traffic- and falls-related injuries, and as becoming old, suicide and violence-related injuries emerge. Also the injury incidence increases with age getting old. (3)

During the last decade, scientific study to prevent childhood injuries has been increasing as the target groups and strategies have been more comprehensive. For example, the target groups have varied from children themselves to the people who contacts children in their daily lives such as parents, teachers, childcare staff, and coaches of physical activities along with professionals. (4) Also the strategies have been expanded based on evidences. Many studies reflected socio-economic perspectives such as social deprivation, because it was proven that there is a strong correlation between social deprivation and childhood injuries. (3,4,5) High level of community participation is also considered as an effective and promising discipline of a community-based intervention to reach to great extent effects and sustainability. (6)

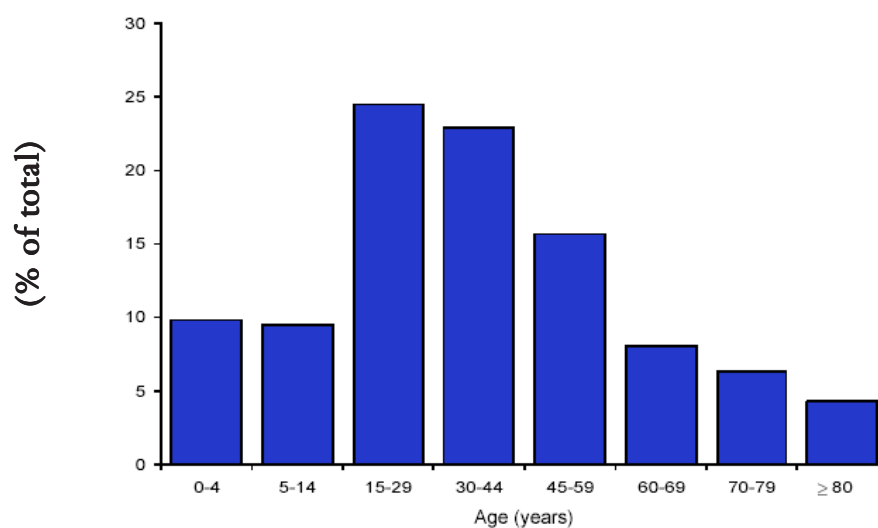


Figure 1. Age distribution of global injury-related mortality rate in 2000 (WHO Injury Chart book)

The main features of studies for childhood injury prevention are the road, the home, the leisure time activities, community wide and mass media interventions. (4) Several studies dealing with Burn, traffic injuries, home injuries, and playground safety show that community-based interventions are effective. (7,8,9)

Given the complexity of the injury problem, there are unlikely to be simple solutions, which result in dramatic changes in injury rates. (4) Now, the preventive efforts are not any longer concentrated only on high-risk groups but also oriented towards the society as a whole.

1.1.2 Childhood Injury Prevention in Sweden and Lidköping Municipality

In Sweden, the childhood injury prevention efforts date back to 1950's. Berfenstam and Ehrenpreis (a pediatrician and a pediatric surgeon respectively) were the initiators that made childhood injuries an issue in Swedish society. Later many official, non-official Swedish organizations and professional groups joined these efforts. While the number of death-related injuries among children 0–14 year of age was 450 in 1954, the number was fallen to 88 in 1988, after more than 30 years. It should be noted that the decrease of the number in other countries like USA during the same period was not so significant as in Sweden. This significant decrease of childhood injuries in Sweden was the results of Swedish efforts with adequate statistical database for injuries and the supportive and enthusiastic cooperation of the injury prevention coalition to carry the work within their own organizations. (10) According to the Unicef Reports in 2001, in a recent international comparison of child deaths in the age group 0-14, Sweden shows the lowest rate, 5,2/100,000 children, followed by the UK and Italy. (both at 6,1) The USA has a rate of 14,1/100,000 and Korea has 25,6.

In Lidköping Municipality, its injury prevention efforts date back to the early 1980's. Before the municipality launched the injury prevention program, it served as a control area for Falköping Accidents Prevention Program (FAPP) for several years. Based on the experiences from FAPP, which used two approaches, community-oriented approach as a guiding principle and organization-oriented approach as a starting point, the Lidköping Municipality's primary health care committee decided to start the community-based injury prevention program, Lidköping Accidents Prevention Program (LAPP). LAPP focused on unintentional injuries and targeted children and elderly. Several years later, the community-based injury prevention program was developed to the concept of "Safe Community", which has six criteria emphasizing participation and collaboration.

During 1983-1991, when the program was implemented, the injury incidence rate decreased annually with 2.4% for boys and 2.1% for girls aged 0-14 compared with a smaller decline in one comparison area and an increase in the other. (11) As the results of LAPP and continuous efforts to prevent injuries, the municipality was designated as a first Safe Community in the world in 1989 and the designation was renewed in 2003 by WHO and the Swedish National Safety Promotion Program.

Safe Community Movement (SCM) was developed from community-based injury prevention programs of Falköping, Lidköping, and Motala Municipality. Also the concept of this movement is originated from "Health for All" strategy and Ottawa Charter, which emphasize enabling individuals and communities to overcome health problems, and making supportive environment and healthy public policy for it. (12,13)

SCM is for the community to implement an injury prevention program over a period by collaboration with various public and private participants at local level. Local networks including governmental and non-governmental organizations, take part in the program actively and in principle, the targets of the program cover all ages, environments and situations. (12,14) It is because many interventions for injury prevention were scattered and uncoordinated, therefore they didn't reach the optimal goals. (15)

Safe Community has to fulfill the following six indicators.

1. An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross-sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community;
2. Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations;
3. Programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups;
4. Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries;
5. Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change;
6. Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.

1.1.3 Safe Community Movement in Lidköping

LAPP was based on the positive result of FAPP. At the beginning of 1984, one of the six reference groups, working on different health issues like tobacco, alcohol, mental health, food and exercise, youth relations in Lidköping Municipality, was a group for preventing unintentional injuries. This reference group formed working party for childhood injury prevention. (11)

Even though the reference group was dissolved in 2002, the childhood injury prevention work has been expanded. Now the work covers intentional injuries as well. After breaking up the reference group, the activities for childhood injury prevention have been integrated into the ordinary work of each sector and organization. The activities have been in five categories such as building surveillance system, information, training, supervision and environments changes considering different age groups and settings like school, road and home.

The interventions in SCM have active and passive prevention strategies such as giving information, education and training, which direct towards individuals, the environments modification of hazardous physical environments, and supervision. Above all, building injury surveillance system is prerequisite for the intervention. (15)

An ongoing *injury surveillance system* is set up in Lidköping Municipality. According to the injury registry data in Skaraborg County, the injury incidence in Lidköping in 2002 is 154/1000 among the children aged 0-5 and 161/1000 among the aged 6-12. The injury registry data shows when and how the injuries happen in Lidköping Municipality. (27) The health sector in Lidköping Municipality has been carried out injury registration for many years. Between 1978 and 1989, Lidköping and Falköping Municipalities in cooperation with the county council conducted a joint project to register injuries. Lidköping continued this until 1994. Traffic injuries (1984) and school injuries (1985-88) were added in registering system. In 1998, Skaraborg County started injury-registering project in the whole county. Since 1998, injuries have been registered according to ICD 10 during visits to doctors and dentists at local health centers, hospitals and dentist surgeries. (14)

Information and training are also important aspects of the prevention activities. For example, "Child-Welfare Centers" give update information on child safety. They cooperate with another organization such as "consumer affairs advisors" to provide information on various safety items, and effective and safe products. Also they invite parents with newborn babies to advise safety matters like poisoning event and how to deal with it. Local newspaper also plays a role by publishing articles about child safety. Various voluntary organizations give courses concerning of childhood injuries. Emergency Service provides training targeting all children in preschool and students in 5th grade.

Supervision is also effective way to prevent injuries and discover injury risks. The 'Building and Planning Office' inspects all municipal playgrounds at Lidköping's schools and

day-care centers every month. The inspection protocol is in accordance with the EU standard for playground.

Hazardous environmental changes are made to improve gym floors for the decrease of slipping injuries and to change playground more cushioned for the decrease of fall-related injuries from play equipments (Figure3). (11,20)



Figure 3. Playground in school in Lidköping.

In 1996, Public Health Council was set up in Lidköping Municipality (Figure 4). Now it is consisted of 20 members of politicians and middle management employees from local government, health and medical care, police and social insurance office. It has a drafting committee, which embraces seven work groups concerning of health issues. They are for children, youth and elderly, and regarding crime prevention, mental health, asylum issues, and road safety. One of the aims of the Public health Committee is "Reducing injuries and violence". The working group for children in 2003 is comprised of representatives from:

1. Kindergartens
2. Child health center
3. School health service
4. Individual and family care (individ-och familjeomsorg)
5. Organization for handicapped children (barnhabiliteringen)
6. Save the children federation, and the inhabitants. (20, 21)

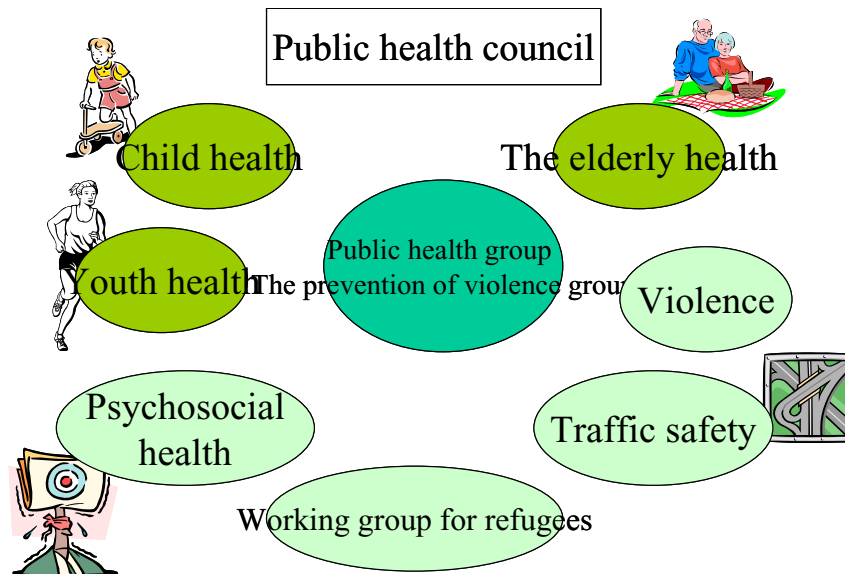


Figure 4. Public health council in Lidköping Municipality

It is evident that the more involved community sectors and voluntary organizations become, the broader will be the realities embraced. There should be a greater emphasis on local and national injury surveillance and community participation that would promote community ownership. (12) An official document from Lidköping Municipality describes that in practice, democracy, participation and collaboration at all levels is keywords in a Safe Community work. (16)

1.2 Important Concepts

Voluntary organization (VO) is defined as any organization (political parties, recreational clubs, etc) where people are free to join and leave, and members establish their own objectives, goals and the means to achieve them. VO:s are not institutions in the sense of social structures devised to organize action in the main areas of social life, such as firms, schools, and so on. Pickvance (1986) identified four usual criteria; they are 1) non-commercial orientation, 2) they are public organizations formally open to all, 3) they are formally constituted organizations, often with an elected administration, and 4) they are non-official, but established by law. (17)

Intermediate group and interest group are also used as an alternative of Voluntary organization. Intermediate group is any group that can be seen as occupying an intermediate position between central state institutions and primary group such as family. (17) Interest group is an organization whose purpose is to influence those already in power. (18)

Community participation is the involvement of residents in the community in the formal process of policy-making and implementation. It is obvious that more participation will make the program more effective. The level of participation can vary from high to low.

Arnstein (1969) suggested that there are three degrees of participation in community-based public health work. It is called "Arnstein's ladder of participation". It depends on the level of delegated power, which means how much the public is involved in decision-making process of setting priorities, planning and implementation.

The degrees are:

1. Non-participation, which means that those with power like physicians educate or cure and the public are merely recipients.

2. Degree of tokenism, which means that the public has voice but may not be noticed as the state of information or consultation.
3. Degree of citizen power, which means that the public are involved in planning and decision-making through joint committees, delegated representatives or complete control. It is the state of partnership, delegated power and citizen power.

Community participation is expected to develop community ownership, which brings the sustainability of a community-based program. Sustainability is the state where the effects and results of intervention can last after the completion of intervention. According to the Jakarta Declaration (1997), participation is essential to sustain efforts. It can increase the likelihood of modeling and peer pressure, leading to widespread adoption of a safety behavior. (6)

Community participation also advocates democracy, which values social equality and respect for the individuals within a community.

1.3 Objectives

The objective of this study is to describe the role of voluntary organizations for childhood injury prevention in a safe community by describing what kind of activities the VO:s have carried out for childhood injury prevention in Lidköping, how they have carried out, and in which conditions the VO:s contribute to constructive childhood injury prevention activities.

2 Methods

2.1 Study Area – Lidköping Municipality

Lidköping Municipality is one of the 15 municipalities in former Skaraborg County (now included in Västra Götalandsregionen), which is located between Göteborg and Stockholm in western Sweden and situated near Sweden's largest lake, Vänern (Figure 2). Lidköping Municipality comprises of 10 rural areas and the main town of Lidköping.



Figure 2. Location of Lidköping municipality

The number of inhabitants is about 37,000, among which over 60% of the total population (about 25.000) lives in central region, the main town of Lidköping. The number of children aged 0-15 is about 18% of the total population (about 7.000).

The municipality is the biggest employer with about 50% of employees in this area, followed by Västra Götalandsregionen (health and medical personal) with about 12%, and Skaraborg Air Force Base with 10%. Besides, there are shipping industry, machine and tool manufacturing industries, and other small and mid-size companies. (19,20)

The central hospital in Skaraborg County is situated in Skövde Municipality and it is about one hour away from Lidköping by bus. The county has three hospitals providing medical care on a 24-hour basis, of which two in Skövde and Lidköping (up to 1995), had pediatric departments with places for in-patient care. In Lidköping, there are local health centers, emergency center, hot line and dental care centers. (19)

Lidköping has also several types of caring center for children. They are 1) kindergartens caring children aged 1-5, 2) family day nurseries for the aged 1-12, 3) After school recreational centers and special center for children, 4) elementary and middle school for the aged 7-15. (19)

2.2 Questionnaire Survey

The list of 13 VO:s having participated in childhood injury prevention activities was given by the public health planner in Lidköping municipality, who has been participating in injury prevention work since the beginning of LAPP.

The questionnaires were consisted of four parts; 1) About the organization itself, 2) the activities relating to childhood injury prevention, 3) the process, and 4) their personal experience. (Appendix I) It was not tested before survey.

The invitation letters were sent to all the organizations. Email addresses of the participants were used to communicate with each other while planning the survey. The participants received the questionnaires one-week advance via email.

The interview schedule for the survey with three persons was made one-week in advance. All interviews were carried out individually during one day. The conversations were tape-recorded. It took about one hour.

Telephone survey was carried out for 4 persons. The time of telephone survey was arranged before telephone conversation. The conversations were noted. It took about 30minutes. Three participants wanted to do survey via email, because they felt more comfortable writing in English than speaking. The participants were the chairman, the secretary or a member of each organization. Two organizations were studied through materials and internet sources.

They were 13 organizations, of which 12 organizations were studied. They were;

-Survey by Interview

- Adults Patrol in Town (Vuxen på Stan) – The "Adults Patrol in Town"(APT) is municipality-based organization and there is national network comprising about 400 organizations in Sweden. APT in Lidköping started 11 years ago. In the beginning, the members were 12. Now it has 300 members. Their activities focus on violence prevention and the risk factors such as alcohol and drug.
- Football club (Rackeby IK)- The "Football club" (Rackeby IK) in Lidköping started in 1929. This club belongs to the national sports organization, which connects to a national educational organization called SISU. SISU arranges courses and conferences on performance development, health matters, and club development. They have 11 teams for boys and girls. Children aged from six can play football in a team.

- Federation of Swedish Farmers (Lantbrukarnas Riksförbund)- The "*Federation of Swedish farmers*" (LRF) is a national organization and an interest organization for those who own or work in farm and forest, and for their jointly owned companies in the Swedish agricultural co-operative movement. The organization has 157,000 members in the whole country.

-Survey by telephone

- National Society for Road Safety (NTF) – The "NTF" is a national organization and an umbrella organization. NTF consists of more than 70 members associations as well as 23 regional NTF associations.
- Civil Defense Association – The "Civil Defense Association" is a municipality-based organization, but has national level's association. CDA is originated from World War II. After the war, they changed their ordinary work. Their first concern is "Emergency Situation" such as lack of water, electricity and so on.
- Hockey club (HC Lidköping) – The "HC Lidköping" is municipality-based organization. The HC started in 1976. It has 250members of young people, and about 50 leaders of parents. It has 7members on board.
- Football club (Råda BK) – The "Råda BK" is municipality-based organization. It started in 1932 and now the number of members is 640, of which 240 members are children aged 7-15. It has about 60 group members who are adults.

-Survey by email

- Save the Children Federation (Rädda Barnen) – The "Save the Children" (SC) is an international organization. "Save the Children" represents the world's largest independent global organization for children's rights with programs in over 100 countries. Sweden is one of the members.
- Female car driver association (Sverige Kvinnliga Bilkårens Riksförbund; SKBR) – The SKBR is a national organization, which was originated from army service and civil defence in 1938 and trained women to drive. After the war, the SKBR added "safe traffic" as a goal for their work. It has been working with traffic safety in different ways for at least 50years.
- The organization for Outdoor Activity Promotion (Friluftsförbundet) – The "Friluftsförbundet" is a national organization that acts on the issues of promotion of outdoor activities and skiing. In Sweden, it is about 100 years old and has 100,000 members and in Lidköping, it is about 30years old and has 350 members. It has 30 leaders involved and taking care of 180 children.

-Survey by material

- Red Cross – The "Red Cross" is an international organization. It has been a partner of Lidköping's childhood injury program since the beginning of LAPP.
- Adults Education Association (SISU Idrottsutbildarna) – The "SISU" is a national organization, which educate adults. SISU-Idrottsutbildarna (SISU IU) is especially for issues of sports. It was built in 1985. It has 21 district offices including Skövde office in Väster Götland area, starting in 1986.

2.3 Materials

In Nov. 2003, study visit for this report's author was arranged. To get general picture of childhood injury prevention efforts in Lidköping, the visit was organized with several sectors, which were participating in injury prevention efforts for children in various aspects. They were kindergarten, a family center, a school, fire station, and traffic safety engineer.

Since the start of LAPP, many articles, documents and reports have been published. The materials cover the period from 1980's and until now. They were documents and reports from the municipality, and articles and thesis written about the injury prevention efforts. About 20 materials were reviewed for this study.

Internet sources were also used. National or international organizations, for example, "National Society for Road Safety" (NTF) and "SISU Idrottsutbildarna" has their own Webb page offering plenty of general information.

3 Results

1. Adults Patrol in Town (APT)

They work for teenagers aged from 10 to 19. They meet 10-12 times a year including 6 regular meetings. The main activities of APT are as follows.

- Night patrols every Friday and some Saturdays. 6-7 adults do night patrol every time. Two of them from the organization and the others from parents group.
- Alcohol-free Disco for youths 5-6 times per year.
- Meeting with parents who have children in 6th grade several days a year. During the meeting, the organization advocates their activities and asks them to join the night patrolling.
- Organizing events for teenagers in crisis such as violence and crime.

The interviewee, who is a chairman of this organization, expressed that the injury prevention issue is very important in Lidköping. Also they have received very positive responses from the public and statistics. In Lidköping, there is no case of violent wall painting.

They collaborate with many different groups in Lidköping Municipality at all time; Parents' associations, schools, health centers, caring people for children and youth, church, social office and police. The police are a crucial co-worker for their activities. They share their experiences and knowledge with the co-workers when they have meetings.

In addition, they participate the municipality's meetings, especially the ones related to public health sector. Whenever the public health planner has meeting, she invites him as a representative of this organization and the organization gets financial support from the municipality. However, it should be pointed out that they don't make documents or reports about their activities, due to lack of time.

2. Football Club (Rackeby IK)

The number of members is 450, of which about 200 are children and youth. They meet once a month. The interviewee is the chairman of this club.

In addition to the activities related to football, they were involved in several injury prevention activities.

- All the team leaders in the club, who are parents, have to participate in the courses, which are organized by SISU.
- The members, who get injuries needed hospitalization or hospital care, fill up the injury survey form made by a insurance company, Folksam.
- During the game, they have several disciplines to protect their children from injuries. They are;
 1. Supporting fair play
 2. Educating how to be a good friends and how to get along well with their mates.
 3. Following safety rules such as wearing knee protectors and not wearing earring.

This club doesn't have a special relationship with the municipality or other organizations in terms of safety promotion.

3. Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF)

The interviewee is the leader of a project called "Farmabus" for farmers and children safety, which was organized by LRF. The project started for children, but now they also include the farmer's safety issues. In the beginning of the project, it covered only Skaraborg County, but several months later in 2001, it became a nation-wide program. The project has organized several activities for children safety in farms and it will end this year. Activities will be integrated into their ordinary work.

The activities are;

1. Giving information of safety issues if farmers ask. They ask their needs by email and telephone.
2. Patrolling farms with farmers and their families to see if there are risk surroundings of farms such as uncontrolled dangerous places, machines such as tractor, and domestic animals.
3. Giving courses for farming schools, riding schools, horse tourist companies, etc if they are required.
4. Giving life saving course to farmers.

The interviewee said that the safety issues for children in farm areas are very important and it takes time, because the farmer's attitude is very hard to change and they are often too optimistic about safety issues.

They don't have special collaboration with each municipality, but each municipality is aware of the activities of LRF. It worked together with Public Health Institute in Falköping and the leader of Farmabus participates often in meetings with other organizations like Emergency service and other children safety organizations. Every municipality in Skaraborg County has a couple of people, who do farm patrolling and organize courses. There are two people in Lidköping.

4. National Society for Road Safety (NTF)

In the regional office, there are 5 persons. They work together with local health care authorities in Västergötland Region, Swedish road administration, and many organizations. The regional office organizes many activities covering all ages.

The NTF had been several projects for child safety such as "Bicycle helmet initiative" and "child seat loan program". The project for traffic safety so called 'Zero Club' was implemented during 1998~2001 in Lidköping. They worked with child health care centers in Lidköping. The activities of NTF in Lidköping are:

- Inviting parents for information about child safety such as child seat since 1996 and loan program of child seat since 1991, who have new borne babies 4 months~8 months. Twice a year, the acting members visit Lidköping.
- Giving information to child health care centers' staffs.

Besides, in the project of "Zero Club", NTF helped schools by giving information in 'traffic day' in schools. It happened once a year during 1998~2001. During the period, they contacted 1000 families in Lidköping. The project invited parents by letters having new borne babies.

NTF in Skaraborg County collaborates with many voluntary organizations, municipalities and Västergötland Region. It gets positive responses from the residents and many organizations have worked together since long time ago.

The project, "Zero Club" was stopped because of lack of financial supports from the municipality. Their activities have been changed as they have gotten more knowledge and statistics from Västragötaland Region.

5. Civil Defense Association (CDA)

The number of the members is about 100. About 8-9years ago, they started "Child injury prevention work"- producing materials for children. They are

- "Hitta Vilse"(Finding Vilse), which is about how to find the way home, how to cope with being lost on a way for 6-year-old children.
- Kattesse & Roffe, which is for home safety for children up to 12. It deals about like how to deal with electricity.
- "Hembert", which is about survival at home for children up to 12.

The organization contacts to schools, but in many cases the schools organize classes for this issue by them selves. There is a special instructor to teach them how to use these materials. The response from the public and schools is that the materials are good

The organization collaborates with Lidköping Municipality. They meet whenever they need to talk. CDA in Lidköping doesn't make documents and reports, but the national level's organization produce magazine 4-5times a year.

6. Hockey Club (HC Lidköping)

The target group is the aged 6-16. It has 14 teams and 10 groups. Each group is composed with 5-6 leaders. The Activities for childhood injury prevention in HC Lidköping are;

- Every leader has to take courses organized by Västragötaland Region. Hockey organization (VGRHO). The courses are 'Step one' and 'Step two'. The 'Step one' course focuses on the aged under 13, taking three days and the 'Step two' course on the aged 14~16, taking six days.
- They report injuries when they happen to the VGRHO.

The telephone interviewee is the chairman of HC Lidköping and he expressed that the courses are very good.

In September, there will be a new course by VGRHO. It is about how to play hockey safely. The HC doesn't cooperate with other organizations.

7. Football Club (Råda BK)

The number of members is 640, of which 240 members are children aged 7-15. It has about 60 group members who are adults. The activities for children safety in Råda BK in Lidköping are;

- "New cycle way to the football area", which mean only bicycles can go through the way, no car and no other motor traffic aren't allowed to go through.
- Several principles for the children to play safely.
 1. Players have to wear protectors.
 2. Cannot wear earring. Necklace during matches.
 3. Keeping atmosphere friendly among the players.

The cycle way was made with collaborating with the municipality. Schools can also use the way to practice riding bicycles for school children.

8. Female Car Drivers Association (SKBR)

Many members of SKBR in Skaraborg are mothers. Around 25 members are working on children safety issue in the County. Every fall, SKBR organizes "Evening class" with children and parents. Schools in Skaraborg County contact SKBR to have this course. The course uses "learn by doing" method. The course is about;

1. How to use reflectors
2. How to use bicycle helmets, children's safety seats in cars
3. The safe interiors in cars

During the course, SKBR also advocate and introduce their work. It has received positive responses from the participants and the "evening class" is well known in the county. The interviewee said that their activities are carried out logically and effective, because most of the members are mothers. SKBR is very satisfied with it.

Apparently, they don't have a special relationship with statutory institutions and other organizations, but they said that they are willing to cooperate with them whenever a serious event occurs. NTF is their main partner. Occasionally, the regional NTF offers cooperation on an activity.

SKBR in Skaraborg disseminate their experiences and knowledge by sending the magazine, "Bilkåristen", to the whole members and in local level, by sending letters with information to the local members.

9. Save the Children (Rädda Barnen)

SC in Lidköping Municipality is one of the six child health board members in the municipality. SC in Lidköping focuses on children safety issues among other child health issues. Their activities are discussed in the board. SC has the responsibility for children safety issues delegated by the child health board in the municipality. Last year, they observed children if they were able to swim in swimming course and competition, because learning how to swim is important to prevent drowning. This year they observe children in roads and streets and teach them how to behave on roads and streets. They also inform teachers of it.

10. The Organization for Outdoor Activities Promotion –Friluftsförbundet

The organization covers the age group from 3 years old. They have several safe strategies whenever they do activities such as bicycling, paddling and activities of handling knife, axe, saw and a firework. They are also involved several safe activities. They are;

- How to manage when the children get lost by using 'Hitta Vilse'
- Traffic policy when they are outside about 'how to behave'.
- The instructors/leaders of groups take course of 'First Aid'.

These activities are a part of their ordinary work. The interviewee expressed that they concern all the time when they do outdoor activities. They participate in course organized by Red Cross and use the material made by Civil Defence Organization. They get financial support from the municipality.

Their work has been evolved, because new issues always come up.

11. Red Cross

They organize several courses related to injury prevention. The courses include primary and secondary prevention such as life saving practice when severe injuries happen. The courses related to injury prevention are about;

1. The First Aid practice such as heart and respiratory resuscitation.
2. How to deal with traffic accident such as warning, doing "First Aid" and extinguishing a car fire.
3. Safe riding and driving for children targeted for school bus drivers.
4. Children injuries at child care centers targeted for the staffs.

12. Adults Education Association (SISU Idrottsutbildarna)

In Väster Götland area, it has a local office in every municipality in this area. In Lidköping Municipality, there is a local office, which educate unemployed persons. The district offices in Skövde, which is in charge of the area, Väster Götland, manage sports education for adults, who contact children and youth in their daily lives. It offers educations of sports, ethical issues in sports, cultural activities and so on.

SISU IU in Väster Götland cooperates with 11 education organizations, which include 54 types of sports, and 28 municipalities in this area. Every year, about 11,000 leaders of sports clubs participate the education programs.

Among the SISU IU programs, there is a special project for leaders, who teach and develop the sports for children and youth such as sports clubs' leaders, trainers, instructors, team leaders and referees. 35 sports clubs in Väster Götland area have participated in the project. The national sports association commissioned SISU IB to educate the leaders until 2004. The summary of results is shown briefly in Appendix II.

Discussion

The VO:s in Lidköping have been participated in injury prevention activities and have taken actions in various ways. The activities covers unintentional and intentional injuries; violence or the risk factors such as drugs and alcohol. The VO:s activities include not only injury prevention activities, but also safety promotion activities such as advocating and lobbying. Courses or organizing events were the main activities for some VO:s. During the courses or events, the VO:s advocate the injury prevention work to the participants and try to induce commitment from them. These activities can help more residents to participate in the activities. They disseminate their knowledge and experiences by publishing magazines or sending local letters to the members. For example, SKBR publishes magazine, "Bilkåristen", and sends letters to local members. Their activities seem to be well allocated with specific tasks based on their specificities. The VO:s have been involved in activities related to school children and their parents. And for the preschoolers, the childcare centers take many actions. Most of the parents with preschoolers visit the centers regularly.

The VO:s set up safety network around Lidköping Municipality. They communicate and cooperate with each other and also with the statutory institutions. Only one organization, "Save the Children Federation", sits on the official board in Public Health Sector. However the other organizations collaborate to some extent with the statutory institutions in Lidköping, if there are events of their interests. They seem to be willing to cooperate with other organizations. This cooperation could be influenced by the social and political atmosphere in Sweden. This circumstance encourages public participation as much as possible in a highly democratic society (10). It is noted that every organization is in different participation level.

In Lidköping, the reference group for injury prevention was dissolved in 2002. The injury prevention activities is now integrated into the ordinary work of organizations. It might be different before 2002. Now the VO:s seem to take actions independently and the coordination of the all injury prevention activities seems to be less active. Some organizations said that they didn't have special relationship with Lidköping Municipality. According to

the experience from FAPP, after the reference group was broken up, the injury prevention efforts had been diminished (14). Given the short time after the dissolution of reference group, it is early to talk about the effects of dissolving the reference group in Lidköping. Further study needs to be conducted on this aspect.

Three reasons can be mentioned for the VO:s constructive action. Firstly, they have been given positive feedback from the public and the municipality. Most of the VO:s expressed that they are satisfied with the responses from the public. They have received positive responses from the parents and children. Secondly, the VO:s are composed of mothers, parents, teachers and neighbors, who contact children in daily lives. A study shows that parents are an important factor for children injury prevention. (26). For example, many of the members of SKBR are mothers, so it makes the activities reasonable and logical. Thirdly, the members are strongly committed to the activities of the VO:s. Most of the VO:s have been committed strongly to the injury prevention efforts. The interviewees, who are the chairman, the secretary or a member of each organization, expressed that the injury issues are very important in Lidköping Municipality. Some interviewees said that time and financial matters are the barriers for their accomplishment.

Nearly every organization has its own website and this gave general information of the organization. However, it was not easy to find documents that describe the details of the VO:s' activities for Lidköping's childhood injury prevention. Even some of the VO:s don't make documents or reports of their activities. Much of the details were complemented from Internet sources and the survey.

Questionnaires for survey should be well organized, following the conceptual framework of a study with the researcher's clear understanding of the study subject. Otherwise, the goal of the study cannot be reached. (22).

Time and language restraints also existed. Some of the participants felt uncomfortable with speaking in English. However, all the participants were willing to give information and cooperated well.

The process of the survey was designed to meet the criteria for good ethical practice by respecting their autonomy (23). The interviews were voluntary and they all were given the information in advance.

The validity of the description and interpretation of this study should be considered. In description, the validity threats can be inaccuracy or incompleteness of information. Using audio and video recording of observations and interviews can solve this problem, and transcription followed by same words of these recordings. (24,25) In this study, the interviews were tape-recorded and the telephone conversations were noted. The words that the interviewees said and the materials used were written.

In interpretation, the validity threats can happen in such ways; not listening for the participants' meanings; not being aware of and bracketing the own framework and assumptions; asking leading, closed, or shout-answer questions that don't give the opportunities to participants to reveal their own perspectives (24,25). In this study, open questionnaires were sent to the participants in advance and this allowed the participants to give more comprehensive answers.

Concluding Remarks

Voluntary organizations in a community should be considered and advocated in community-based programs for children for many reasons. It is also a trend to work together with different organizations to reach to great extent effects. They can provide essential supports of new ideas, and identifying and utilizing existing community resources. Their involvement can be cost effective because most actions are being integrated into the organizations routine

activities. With the more various VO:s, the ranges of the activities can be broader. The role of the VO:s in community based programs must be different from area to area, because they have different set-ups in terms of community network or infrastructure in the community. It is the prerequisite to understand what kinds of community resources or community networks exist for programs.

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Mi-Suk Lee, Stockholm, May 2004

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Appendix I Questionnaire

Questionnaires

-About the activities that your organization is doing.

1. Could you describe your organization?

- What is your organization?
- What is your ordinary work?
- What are your most interested issue and specialty?
- How many members are there in your organization?
- What are they?

2. What kind of activities is your organization doing in terms of (childhood) injury prevention and safety promotion?

- What kind of activities are your organization doing related to injury prevention and safety promotion?
- How many members of your organization are participating in the work?
- How long has your organization participate in the activities? (Every activity could have different history.)
- If there is any partners of your activities related to injury prevention and safety promotion, who are they? Where are they from? For example, they could be another organizations or governmental network.

3. What is the background in which your organization is doing these activities?

- How did you become to know the activities?
- In the beginning of this work, who were the initiators for this work?
- What was the motivation that your organization decided to start this work?
- What is the most interesting thing for your organization while doing this work?
- What was your members' opinion about the activities in the beginning?
- What is the members' opinion now about the activities?

4. How are you doing these activities?

- How does your organization deal with these activities? Is there a certain meeting or schedule for the activities? If there is, how many times do you meet for those activities?
- Who are in charge of the activities?
- Is there a certain channel or system for those activities?
- What and how is the relationship with Lidköping Municipality?

5. How have these activities been changed since your organization started those activities?

- Are there any changes after starting the activities in terms of persons, activities? For example, Has the number of participants increased? Has the number of activities changed?
- Why did it happen? What was the reason?

6. How does your organization share these activities and results with your members? Is there any report to inform to the members about these activities?

-About your personal experience of injury prevention and safety promotion activities.

1. Could you describe your work/role in your organization?
2. Could you describe your work related to injury prevention and safety promotion?
3. What do you think about injury and safety issue in Lidköping?
4. What is your recommendation for developing community participation? What is the most important concern to work together with governmental organization?

Appendix II. Table of the results

What	How	Conditions	Interviewee
1. Adults Patrol in Town (300members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Night patrols 2. Alcohol-free disco 3. Meeting with parents 4. Events for teenagers in crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meeting 10-12 times a year including 6 regular meeting -Collaboration with parents' associations, schools, health centers, social office and police. -Meeting with public health sector in Lidköping -Disseminate their experiences by meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The chairman -Interview by visit
2. Football club (450 members, of which 200 are children and youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking courses from SISU 2. Adopting safe strategies during game 3. Reporting the injuries to insurance company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meeting once a month -No special collaboration with other organizations or municipality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chairman -Interview by visit
3. Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF) www.lrf.se	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giving informations 2. Patrolling farms 3. Giving courses-life saving courses to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meeting farmers whenever the farmers ask. -The farmers contact them by phone or email -No special collaboration with municipality, but working with other organization and institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The leader of project. -Interview by visit
4. National Society for Road Safety (NTF) www.ntf.se	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giving information to parents and staffs. 2. Sponsoring 'Wearing helmet campaign. 3. Having been involved several projects and visiting Lidköping twice a year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strongly committed children -Positive response from the farmers and the wives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Project leader in NTF of Väster Götland Regionen. -Survey by telephone
5. Civil Defense Association (CDA)- about 100 members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The materials are 1. "Hitta Vilse" 2. "Kattesse & Roffe" 3. "Hembert" 4. Help schools to use these materials for their safety educations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Positive responses from the readers and users of the materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A member of CDA -Survey by telephone

6. Hockey Club (HC Lidköping)- 250 members of children and youth.	1. Taking courses organized by VGRHO. 2. Adopting strategies to play safely. 3. Reporting injuries to VGRHO.	-HC Lidköping collaborates with the Regional Hockey organization. -No special activities with Lidköping Municipality.	-The chairman of HC Lidköping -Survey by telephone.
7. Football Club (Råda BK)- 640 members, of which 240 are children aged 7~15.	1. Initiating "New cycle way to the football area". 2. Adopting principles for safe play.	-The members meet 10 times a year. -Collaborate with Lidköping Municipality and schools.	-The chairman -Survey by telephone.
8. Female car driver association (SKBR)	1. Giving 'evening courses' to school. - Parents and children 2. Advocating and introducing children injury prevention during courses. 3. Disseminating their experiences by magazine or local letters	-Schools contact directly SKBR -Around 25 members work on this issue. -No special relationship with official and non-official organizations, but NTF sometimes offers cooperation on an activity	-The chairman -Survey by email.
9. Save the Children Federation www.savethechildren.net	1. Observing children on roads and streets 2. Teaching them how to behave on roads and streets	-One of the members of working group for child health board in Lidköping -They meet about 8 times a year	-The secretary -Survey by email -
10. Friluftsförbundet	1. Focusing on safety matters whenever they do activities like bicycling, paddling, and using a knife, axe and saw. 2. Instructors/leaders take course of 'First Aid' from Red Cross. 3. Concerning the issue of 'Getting lost' by using 'Hitta Vilsen' of Civil defence organization.	-Collaborating with Red Cross and Civil Defence Organization. -Getting financial support from the municipality.	-Survey by email
11. Red Cross	1. Giving courses as their ordinary work.	-It has been a member since 1980's -No data about collaboration	-They sent material explaining the courses
12. SISU IU www.sisuidrottsutbildarna.se	1. Giving courses for adults who contact children in their daily lives- it is a project planned by the national sports association.	-Collaborate with 11 education organizations in Väster Götland area. -35 sports clubs participated in the courses. -Local organizations give their requirements for courses.	-Studied through Internet source.