

CHILD ANEMIA TOOLS

The Child Anemia Reduction Program (CARP) training module was developed to build the capacity of front line health workers in India to effectively communicate and counsel clients (mothers or caregivers and their young children) to improve their health and reduce child anemia. Working within India's established outreach program in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, knowledgeable and skilled health practitioners contribute significantly to strengthening the health system at the village level. Using an integrated set of health practices to effect change in the community, the training module can be adopted and adapted by organizations interested in improving nutrition and maternal and child health.

Uniquely designed for front line health workers, the activities of the three day training are highly interactive, participatory, and experiential, with minimal traditional teaching. Training materials are simple and clear, with pictures. Women health workers learned about anemia through a creative exercise of being tested for their own hemoglobin level which led to a higher level of motivation and commitment in reaching out to mothers of children aged 6-23 months. Through a self-learning exercise, participants create action plans by using records/data from their own area to identify the number of pregnant women and young children who will be eligible for the program as well as estimating the supplies required. A strong emphasis is placed during training on the development of communication techniques to effect behavior change and the practice of counseling skills to offer a package of services that include the provision of iron and folic acid (IFA) syrup, advice on complementary feeding, deworming, and malaria prevention. A self assessment form to be completed after home visits further supports health worker capacity building. Medical Officers in-Charge are also actively involved in supervising program efforts.

TOOLS

1.1 CARP Training Module and Training Capsule

I.1 CARP Training Module and Training Capsule

The Child Anemia Reduction Program (CARP) training module was developed to build the capacity of front line health workers in India to effectively communicate and counsel clients (mothers or caregivers and their young children) to improve their health and reduce child anemia. Based on the success of A2Z's CARP in reducing child anemia, a recommendation was made to incorporate an abbreviated two-hour training session into future trainings related to India's IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child Illness) Program. To meet this need, A2Z produced a shorter set of training materials about anemia control called a "Training Capsule".

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION:

The Child Anemia Reduction Program (CARP) training module was developed to build the capacity of front line health workers in India to effectively communicate and counsel clients (mothers or caregivers and their young children) to improve their health and reduce child anemia. Based on the success of A2Z's CARP in reducing child anemia, a recommendation was made to incorporate an abbreviated two hour training session into future trainings related to India's IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child Illness) Program. To meet this need, A2Z produced a shorter set of training materials about anemia control called a "Training Capsule".

JOB AIDS:

The program developed several useful job aids: Counseling cards, Self Assessment Form, Calendar, Tin Plate poster for front line health workers and a Self-Help card for the Medical Officer In-Charge. The accompanying publication “Tips for Facilitators” is suitable for use with either the training module or the training capsule

INTENDED USERS:

A wide global audience of funding agencies, governments, NGOs, and academic institutions that wish to bring visibility to the neglected issue of child anemia. In particular, the training module can serve as a tool for experienced program managers to incorporate an innovative approach into their nutrition programs as well as those who can be empowered to initiate child anemia activities.

DEVELOPED BY:

A2Z Child Anemia Reduction Program (CARP) in India, 2010

IMPLEMENTED IN:

Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand states in India

BENEFITS:

A major feature of CARP was the incorporation of the reduction of child anemia within an integrated set of basic health practices to improve the health of mothers and children.

Intended for use with front line health workers possessing a high school education plus two years of training, the use of the training module has been shown to make a difference in decreasing child anemia in rural populations. The three day training can be conducted as a stand-alone program for improving nutrition and health and child anemia reduction or an abbreviated module can be incorporated as a two hour session into existing nutrition or maternal and child health programs.

The participatory nature of the training draws on the knowledge and experience of the front line health workers making learning less intimidating. The job aids offer valuable resources for use with mothers and caregivers as well as a means for the health workers to assess their own performance.

LANGUAGE:

English, Hindi

GO TO RESOURCE:

<http://www.a2zproject.org/~a2zorg/node/44>