Participatory Rural Appraisal for Community Assessment of Health Needs in Rural Haiti Village

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Learning Objectives

• At the completion of this educational session:
  
  – The learner will be able to describe the utilization of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as a guide to empower local community leaders in a global health setting.

  – The learner will be able to identify at least two PRA tools and how they are used to assess community health needs.

  – The learner will be able to summarize common health needs in rural Haiti.

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Background and Significance

- Population of 10 million people
- Poorest country in the Western Hemisphere
- Ranks 168 out of 187 on the Human Development Index

(Who.int, MidwivesforHaiti.org)
Health in Haiti

• One in every 14 children die before age 5
• One out of every 83 women die during childbirth
• In rural Haiti, 75% of women deliver at home without any trained provider
• For the poorest of families, 90% have no prenatal or skilled care at birth

(WHO.int, MidwivesforHaiti.org)
Review of the Literature

• Previous Participatory Health Assessment conducted in rural Haiti
  – Key findings: loss of productive land, minimal irrigation & sanitation resources, priorities of maternal health, malnutrition, diarrhea, and general distrust of organizations
• Limited research has been conducted in Haiti

(Sethi & Belliard, 2009)
Methodological Approach

- Qualitative Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) study
  - Generates knowledge of a social system with the aim of bringing about change
  - Cyclic process of action, reflection, and interpretation

- Conceptual Model for Partnership and Sustainability in Global Health (Leffers & Mitchell, 2010)
Participatory Rural Appraisal

- **RRA**
  - use of RRA tools
  - workshops involving local people

- **Community meetings**
  - analysis of local conditions
  - prioritising issues
  - identification of action
  - creation of institutions and mechanisms

- **PRA TEAM**
  - participation as "catalysts"
  - participation as equals
  - participation as "advisors"

- **Community**
  - participation as "respondents"
  - participation as equals
  - participation as protagonists

- **Community RRA (PRA)**
  - use of RRA tools
  - workshops to analyse findings
  - preparation of plans and proposals
Setting: Beloc

A rural village in southern portion of Haiti

Population of approximately 4,000 Haitians
• Approximately 80% of residents walk over 2 miles daily for fresh water from river, stream or cistern
• Over 50% of residents live in inadequate or unsafe shelter
• Less than 10% of homes have accessible bathroom or sanitation facilities
• Less than 5% of homes have any type of energy source
PRA Tools

1. Mapping
2. Scoring
3. Transect Walk
4. Focus Group Discussions
5. Institutional Relations Exercise
6. Root Cause Analysis/ Preference Ranking
PRA in Action
Findings

- Identified needs
  - Local clinic/pharmacy
  - Food security
  - Water catchment
  - Latrines
  - Business opportunities
  - Paving asphalt road
- Developed action plan & disseminated written report
Reflection & Implications

- Mutual goal setting & establishing priorities to foster ownership of health strategies
- Empowerment
- Trust & relationship building
- Deeper understanding of health needs in rural Haiti
- Creation of long term sustainable partnerships/interventions to improve health outcomes of the communities
Limitations

• Limited generalizability
• Timeframe of 1-2 weeks for assessment period
• Limited number of tools that local participants can be trained to implement
Questions?

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References


