

THE SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF THE IMCI TRAINING COURSE IN LAO PDR

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Abstract. The purpose of this article is to explore whether the style and content of the IMCI algorithm and delivery of the training course match the needs and capacities of the Lao health workers. Unlike other IMCI studies that rely on external indicators, this study uses an open-ended qualitative approach to focus on the perspectives of the trainees through observation and trainee interviews. The findings showed that IMCI is a practical tool for health workers, and the interactive course is an effective way to teach it. Health workers responded that learning the algorithm was challenging due to the novel format and guidelines, but easy due to its clarity and straightforwardness. The main problems concerned the adaptability of guidelines and shortage of time. Incorporating in-depth clinical explanations and inviting facilitators with medical knowledge and experience using IMCI may be key to resolving such issues.