

Interview Guide

ANX – Community member FGD

A multi-stakeholder approach towards operationalising antibiotic stewardship in India's pluralistic rural health system

DRAFT Focus Group Discussion Guide – Community members

Objective: To understand (a) the nature and prevalence of Antibiotic usage (ABU) in community; health seeking behaviour in community and knowledge and awareness about ABU. (b) to understand the individual, community and health system level drivers of ABU (c) to identify the different sources, channels and platforms through which community members obtain different types of information and identify the ones that are most influential for health awareness and why.

Participants:

We plan to conduct the FGDs with groups of 10-12 participants per group. We will bring together groups that differ by gender and by their demographic profile such as groups of young mothers, and older adults. This is because ABU behaviour patterns and reasons for these as well as the influence of knowledge and information channels and of social norms may vary by demographic profiles.

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Guidance for interviewers and note-takers**Before the interview, please ensure the following**

- You have gone through the interview guide and have familiarised yourself with the questions
- The recording device is working and is set up properly
- You have enough pages in your notebook to note the conversation, in case the provider does not consent to being recorded.

At the beginning of the interview

Explain/read out all the required information about the research and the confidentiality issues before starting with the questions. Please use the information provided in the informed consent form.

During the Interview

- Try not to refer to the guide during the interview, but at the end make sure you have covered all the topics. Do not read out the questions.
- Ask the questions in a logical manner, and not necessarily in the same order as the topic guide. If the interviewee has already fully answered a particular question spontaneously do not ask the same question again just because it is the next question in the topic guide.
- Do not ask very sensitive questions in the beginning as this will make the stakeholder suspicious. For example, do not ask questions about incentives from antibiotics at the beginning.
- Remain attentive and listen carefully to each answer. Do not interrupt when the interviewee is speaking unless the discussion is going into a totally irrelevant area.
- Before asking any question, think about how you are wording the question. Please do not ask leading questions. Keep them open ended and do not give the answer in your question. For example, instead of asking poultry farmers early on in the interview 'Do you mix antibiotics in your chicken feed?', ask 'What are the ingredients that you mix in the feed for your chicken?'

At the end of the interview

- Make sure you get the interviewee's signature on the consent form.
- Try to get some pictures, especially if the setting is interesting.
- If the pictures include any clearly visible and identifiable human subjects, it would be best to get their signed consent as this is required for any kind of publishing of photographs.

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1. Local illnesses and illness management

- What are the illnesses that people experience here?
- What do you mean by illness? (**Probe**-what do you think, Why fever ,cough and colf ,diarrhoea occurred asked with example). Can one disease spread to one perosn from another? If yes, then what do you think the reason of it? Does it happen with all diseases? If not, then what are the different ways in which diseases can spread?
- For which illnesses do you need medicines (probe for symptoms like fever with cough or diarrhoea) [**Probe separately for infant, children, pregnant women, old persons**], At what stage, do you need to take a medicine to treat an illness?
- From where do you usually get medicines? Or- For medicines, whom would you consult[**Probe for all different sources of providers that people access**];
 - a. **Informal providers (probe-** How many are there in your locality; Why people go to him/her/them; How do you approach him/her; Explore the reasons for procuring his/her service for e.g. he treats disease fast with better medicine... whether you stick to one provider for treatment for any specific disease/period/medicine)
 - b. **Formal providers (probe-** Is the provider local/comes from outside; How many Dr are there and how are they approached? Why do people go to them; pros and cons associated with his services for e.g. medicines are expensive/cheap etc.)
 - c. Nearby pharmacies, grocery stores ; (probe: Go there only to buy medicines or do they also prescribe and consult)
- For how many days do you normally take medicine in case of an illness like a fever with cough? What advice is given by the dr/provider during dispensing of medicines?

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2. Awareness and knowledge of antibiotics

(Before using the term antibiotic, try to gauge through in-direct questions if people are familiar with antibiotics and use the term spontaneously)

- Can you tell what you know about which medicines are given for which diseases by health providers here? Please explain with examples
- Are there any medicines that need to be taken as a time bound course? What are these medicines and what can you tell us about their prescribed course?
- What will occur if these medicines are not taken for the specified period- what do you think? **(Probe- why do they think so?, who told them about this?, if any belief or idea works behind it what is that, Do they follow any local person or any source of information and if yes then why?)**
- What do you understand by the term antibiotic? **(probe- Have you heard of antibiotics?; When and where have you heard of antibiotics?; What do you call these locally?; Can you name any antibiotic?- We can also show them different packets of antibiotics and ask if they have seen them before and used them);** What are antibiotics used for?
- What effect do ABs have on illnesses and why? **[Probe- for understanding of how antibiotics cure diseases; what are the advantages of antibiotics? Can you share any examples and experiences with us? Are there any harmful effects of antibiotics? Any side effects? Can you share any examples and experiences with us? What happens if you take an antibiotic too often?].**
- How important it is to get antibiotics to cure a disease, what do you think? **[Probe how frequently they get an AB; Whether they ask the provider to give an AB in every visit]**

3. Use of antibiotics (Attitude ,Barriers and Motivation)

- When and why do you need to use/ take an antibiotic? How do you use them **[Probe for oral and injectables, dosages, strength, course – daily and for how many days; prescriptions, dispensing or purchased directly from a pharmacy/drug store]?]**
- When do you start using an antibiotic and when do you stop? **[Probe the reasons for using antibiotics in that way – any suggestion or their habit, do they follow anyone; affordability, believes etc, whether they decide it on his/her own or they take advice from someone or they follow any habits from past experience].**

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- Where do you get antibiotics? **[Probe all formal and informal sources of advice and ABs, including self-medication];** Where is it easiest to get an antibiotic?
- If someone suggests you take an antibiotic for a specific duration, for e.g to take it twice a day at 8am/pm for 5 days... how likely are people here to maintain the full course of antibiotic **[Probe for right dosage, timing and days, what they do if they forget to take one at time]**.
- How do people use antibiotics here for adults, children, men and women? **[Probe for using Abs in compare to different age groups, gender and in relation to role of different members in their family]**?
- What do you think, what can help people to complete the AB full course as suggested?
- Are there any similarities or differences between the types of antibiotics you get from different providers that you go to **[probe for formal/informal, public/private]**.
- Do you stock medicine / AB in your home? Why and for how long? Are there any differences; If you need to take same antibiotic again in future? How long will you take that antibiotic; How many times during last year did you or someone in your family needed an antibiotic? Have you ever experienced any change in the curative power of an AB you have used frequently? Please share your experience

4. Affordability

- Can you tell us about the prices of some of the common antibiotics you purchase?
- How does the price of ABs influence how you use them? **(Probe-How much do you normally buy at one time? What happens if you are unable to buy the full dose at a time? And when do you buy the rest? ; If you can't afford one particular AB (prescribed/ suggested) then what do you do?)**

5. Sources of information and influence on antibiotic use (community / health system)

- From whom do you get to hear about antibiotics? **[Probe for the main sources and how do they inform you about new antibiotics; Do any drug companies or salesmen come here and advertise about new antibiotics? Is there any other type of marketing done by anyone else? ASHAs, ANM and from medical doctors in sub centre or PHC, district hospital]**
- Have you ever attended any health awareness camp where they spoke about benefits and harmful effects of ABs? If yes, where, when, who arranged it? What did you learn from there?

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- Are there any other sources like from radio, TV, newspaper, local plays where such messages are given?
- How do local healthcare providers like the ASHAs and village doctors influence how you use different types of medicines including antibiotics? What are the instructions they give you and how do you follow those?
- What is the role of doctors at PHCs and in private clinics on how you use antibiotics? What are the instructions they give you and how do you follow those?
- What is the role of local panchayat leaders in influencing healthy behaviours and proper medicine use?

6. Knowledge and awareness generation platforms

- Do you get/attend any other information/awareness related training/ camp/message / Counselling apart from treatment support from sub centre or PHC/ any other organisation/ Committee? When, on what describe, if any.
- Do you ever get/ notice any communication materials **[Poster/ brochure/leaflet/ in sub centre or PHC regarding health issues]**
- Do you attend/organize Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND)? Tell us about VHND. **[Probe for issues discussed, type of participants, frequency of the meetings, type of counselling, nature of messages]**
- How does the Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) work in your Village? **[Probe for who are members, how often they meet; issues discussed]**
- Does this village have any other groups or committees which works for health awareness generation **[Probe for SHG; women/ child protection/health committees/ and Panchayat Health committees and other group]** If yes, who are the members, what they work for? Type of health messages imparted].
- Tell us about your experience with health awareness program **[Probe for previously arranged in the village with examples from last 6 months; How it was done; who did it; what was the topic]**

Suggestions for an intervention

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Do you think the existing information that is available is effective to give messages to the patients and the general public ? If no, then what do you think, what can be done to reach out to people more effectively?

- What are different community platforms can be used to provide behaviour changemessages
[Probe: any particular for ABU]
- What kind of information and communication tools will be useful **[Probe for Posters; Hoarding; Street play; Meeting/ Camps; Electronic advertisement etc]**
- Who are the influential people whom villagers trust and respect, who can be part of the campaign**[Probe for local/ outsider/ community leader/ASHA/ Formal doctor; RHCP/Panchayat]**
- If we want your contribution, in this program, how can you help us?

Thank the participants for participation. Ask if there is something that they would like to add or if there are any questions about the study that the interviewer can provide answers to.