



# Replicating Community Health: A Study of Local Engagement in Mauritian Medical Initiatives

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## Abstract

Community engagement is a recognised component of public health initiatives, especially in maternal and reproductive health. A prior study in Mauritius established a framework for understanding local participation in medical programmes. This replication study re-evaluates that framework's applicability and robustness in the current Mauritian context. The primary purpose was to replicate the original investigation into the role of local communities in supporting medical initiatives in Mauritius. The objectives were to verify the original findings on key engagement mechanisms and to assess whether previously identified success factors remain pertinent. This was a qualitative replication study employing a multi-method approach. We conducted focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with community health workers, local leaders, and programme beneficiaries across four districts. Data were analysed using thematic analysis and compared against the original study's framework. The findings largely corroborated the original study's model, confirming the same three core themes of trust, communication, and shared ownership. However, a new sub-theme of 'digital intermediation' emerged, with a majority of participants citing mobile messaging groups as a crucial, novel tool for sustaining engagement. The original framework for community engagement in Mauritian medical initiatives remains fundamentally sound. This replication confirms the enduring importance of established principles while highlighting the evolving role of technology in mediating community-health system interactions. Programme designers should integrate digital communication strategies into community health models while preserving core, trust-based interpersonal interactions. Further research should quantify the impact of digital tools on specific health outcomes. Replication study, community engagement, public health, Mauritius, qualitative research, medical initiatives This study provides empirical verification of a key model for community participation in health, strengthening the evidence base for participatory approaches in Mauritian and similar settings.

**Keywords:** *Community engagement, Public health, Maternal health, Sub-Saharan Africa, Replication study, Participatory research, Health initiatives*



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