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| **Health Literacy in a Social Context: Measurement, Research Gaps, and Future Directions** |
| **Objectives.** Health literacy is often defined as “the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health decisions.” But individuals rarely experience chronic illness, confront health crises, and/or make health decisions alone. A socially contextualized consideration of health literacy is strongly supported by theory and aligns with definitions of health literacy used in many international settings.A small, but growing body of empirical health literacy research looks beyond the individual level to social structures in which people live (e.g., families, social networks). However, this research lacks a cohesive, international research agenda, with fragmentation across research disciplines, health topics, and countries.This workshop will provide tools, hands-on experience, and fruitful conversations to encourage and support research and action considering health literacy in a social context. Such knowledge is critical for designing effective interventions to promote better health and reduce health inequities, especially in cultural groups with a communal perspective on health, migrant groups drawing on social networks to navigate health systems, or those seeking to integrate cultural perspectives on health.Specific objectives: (1) Review global research evidence about health literacy in a social context, especially for health equity; (2) Discuss research gaps; (3) Consider appropriate measurement tools; (4) Practice using relevant tools; and (5) Generate new research ideas and discuss next steps in this research agenda.**Format**1. Review global research evidence about health literacy in a social context Format: Lecture with questions and answers (20 min)
2. Discuss research gaps

Format: Small groups (10 min)1. Consider appropriate measurement tools and methods

Format: Lecture with questions and answers (20 min)\*Break (5 min)1. Practice tools and consider strengths and weaknesses

Format: Small groups (40 min)1. Discuss research opportunities for this topic

Format: Open discussion (10 min)**Learning goals**At the end of this workshop, participants will:* Identify the landscape of empirical evidence around this topic, relevant theoretical frameworks, and research gaps.
* Experience relevant measurement tools as an interviewer and an interviewee.

Formulate new project ideas to meet critical evidence gaps for health promotion in communities leveraging social relationships. |