

Background

- The Social ABCs¹ is a manualized, evidence-based, caregiver-mediated early intervention (NDBI)² for toddlers showing social-communication challenges, developed and researched in Canada
- A community implementation model of training has been developed to expand access to intervention services in Canada, but was not offered clinically anywhere else in the world prior to this work
- Following an intro workshop in India supported by KBHN and the I-CAN network, the Canadian team partnered with a child development centre in Goa to pilot remote training of Indian staff using the Canadian training model, and clinical delivery of the Group Social ABCs³ model in India

Objectives

- To determine feasibility and acceptability of remotely training staff at a child development centre in Goa, India to implement the Social ABCs, using the Canadian training and certification model
- To co-create a locally sustainable train-the-trainer program for India

Method

Participants

- 2 staff of the Sethu child development centre in Goa
 - Masters- and bachelors-level education in behaviour science and occupational therapy
 - ~10 years experience working with children and/or autism
 - No formal training in any other evidence-based NDBI's

Training Model

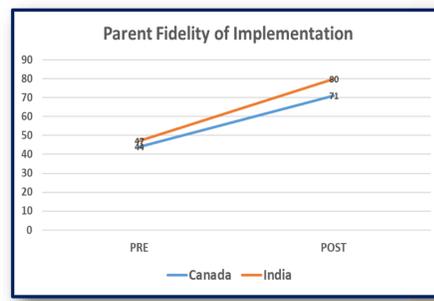
- 6 month learning:** (1) 4-day workshop, (2) observation of Canadian team, (3) virtual co-delivery with Canadian team, (4) independent delivery with meta-coaching/observation, (5) independent delivery,
- 6 months implementing** with local families
- 6 months trainer training** of 2 new staff
- Weekly 1-2 hour supervision meetings throughout
- All training took place virtually via Zoom for Healthcare

Key Findings

- Remote training can be used successfully as a cost-efficient method of training international teams in the Social ABCs
- No modifications were made to the original Canadian Social ABCs coach or parent training materials or training, suggesting that virtual training and delivery may be effective in other countries and settings
- Parents in India reported enjoying the program and demonstrated comparable fidelity of implementation to Canadian parents
- Children in India demonstrated comparable gains in the program targets

Results

- Following the 6-month training, both **trainees achieved > 85% coaching fidelity** with 3 three parent-child dyads and were certified as Social ABCs parent coaches
- No adaptations to the program** materials or parent coach evaluations were made
- To date the India team has completed 10 Social ABCs group cycles, **seeing 53 families with high parental satisfaction**
- All parents improved in the intervention strategies, with an **average of 80% fidelity** (n= 38) (comparable to Canadian data).

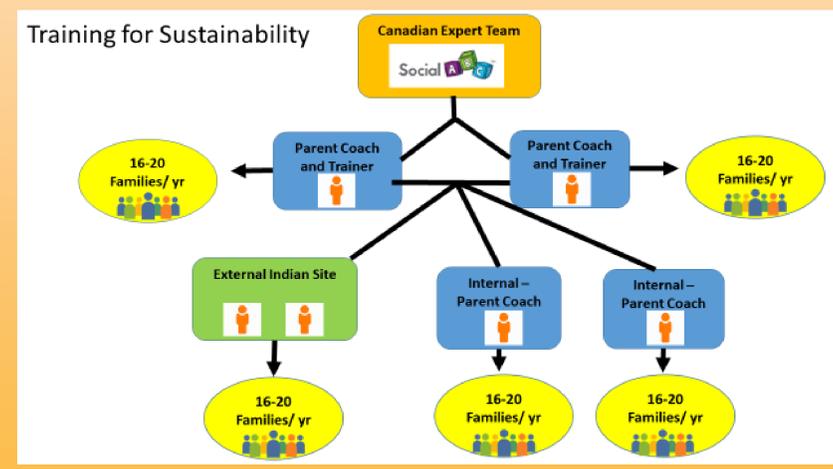


Training For Local Sustainability

- Moving towards a trained-trainer model, the newly certified coaches identified and led the training of 2 new staff at the centre using the same model (staggered start), under the supervision of the Canadian team
- Having in-house staff trained to a trainer level sets up the centre for sustainability and growth, ensuring consistent and increased access for local families, at a much lower cost than obtaining ongoing training from the Canadian team
- Trainer certification will be achieved in the Fall of 2022, with training provided to an external Indian centre

Implications

- The Social ABCs virtual training model may be an effective, low-cost option for training international groups in evidence-based intervention programs, including low resourced areas, across a variety of professional backgrounds and experience levels
- More similarities than differences were found across Canadian and Indian families and programs, suggesting that the program can be adapted to various cultures and settings
- Families reported high rates of satisfaction with the program, suggesting that providing quality, cost-effective caregiver-mediated intervention to lower-resourced areas is a powerful option



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REFERENCES

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