Good Participatory Practice (GPP) Online Training Course: Evaluations and Progress Over Four Years

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BACKGROUND

To improve and advance the adoption of stakeholder engagement practice in biomedical trials, AVAC and its partners launched the Good Participatory Practice (GPP) Online Training initiative in 2014 as a potentially scalable e-learning and community practice model for research teams, advocates and sponsors.

Elements of the 12-week course include
- SELF-PACED ONLINE CONTENT on a customized Learning Management System;
- CYCLES OF ACTIVE LEARNING using assessments, written assignments, discussion forums & video webinars with global experts;
- PERSONALIZED FEEDBACK and CONTINUOUS EVALUATION.

We used an iterative development process to refine our techno-pedagogic approaches. Ten course iterations have been developed with 308 participants from 21 countries.

METHODS

1. A post-course online survey assessed changes in knowledge and perceived self-efficacy, using retrospective ratings and Likert scales.
2. Response rates ranged from 77% - 100%.
3. Focus groups were conducted to validate survey results and solicit feedback about improvements.
4. Data from eight courses and 162 learners were analyzed and broadly compared.

RESULTS

Learners were equally distributed by gender.
A majority were implementers between 30-39 years old.

Satisfaction ratings were consistently high across courses (mean: 4.6 out of 5).

70% of total learners described the facilitation as “excellent.”

Learners reported greatest improvements in their self-efficacy to identify stakeholders, seek input on their plans, and develop measurable objectives (from 2.5 “slightly confident” to 4.4 “very confident”). Learners rated most components as “valuable” but gains and satisfaction were highest for courses that offered a choice of learning pathways and multiple technologies to promote interaction.

CONCLUSIONS

Continuous quality improvement can strengthen e-learning outcomes.
To further explore course impact and transfer of GPP knowledge, skills, and values taking place in the field, a 6-month follow up evaluation is currently being conducted with 2018 course participants.

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