



Causal Loop Diagramming | Model Conceptualization Exercise

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Objective: Define women's maternal health in terms of one or more feedback loops.

Instructions:

1. Working in small groups of three or four, identify variables that you believe enhance women's maternal health. Write these variable names in the green ovals.
2. Identify variables that you believe constrain women's maternal health. Write these variable names in the red ovals.
3. Think carefully about how these variables may be connected. Draw arrows to indicate how one variable may influence another.
4. Describe the effect of the link. Use + (plus) if the increase in an antecedent variable has the same effect on the dependent variable. Use – (minus) if the increase in an antecedent variable has the opposite effect on the dependent variable.
5. Identify any feedback loops among your set of variables that include women's maternal health.
6. Assess the polarity of the loop. Balancing loops have an odd number of (-) links. Reinforcing loops have only (+) links. Remember, reinforcing loops serve to augment or amplify change over time; balancing loops serve to bring things into a steady state or equilibrium over time.
7. Be prepared to present your model to the full group.

 = Enhancers
 = Constrainers

