

Supplement to: Wu Q, Zhu X, Wang X, Meng N, Li J, Peng A, Zhang Y, Chang S. Effectiveness of a combined online and in-person training model in improving village health workers' counselling quality and infant and young child feeding practices: a mixed-methods study in rural China.J Glob Health. 2026;16:04177

Table S1. Characteristics of community health workers (VHWs) assessed by counselling quality*

Characteristics	Intervention group (n = 35)	Control group (n = 36)	Total (n = 71)	<i>P-value</i>
Age in years, MD (IQR)	39 (36–44)	42 (38–45)	40 (38–44)	<i>0.2552</i>
Sex				
<i>Female</i>	35 (100.0)	36 (100.0)	71 (100.0)	
Education background				
<i>Middle school</i>	7 (20.0)	5 (13.9)	12 (16.9)	<i>0.4921</i>
<i>High school</i>	28 (80.0)	31 (86.1)	59 (86.1)	
<i>Professional high school</i>	6 (17.1)	3 (8.3)	9 (12.7)	<i>0.3669</i>
<i>Technical secondary school</i>	3 (8.6)	6 (16.7)	9 (12.7)	
<i>Junior college or University</i>	26 (74.3)	27 (75.0)	53 (74.6)	
Daily work				
<i>Basic public health checkup for children</i>	7 (20.0)	7 (19.4)	14 (19.7)	<i>0.9531</i>
<i>Newborn home visit</i>	26 (74.3)	29 (80.6)	55 (77.5)	<i>0.5273</i>
<i>Postpartum home visit</i>	28 (80.0)	31 (86.1)	59 (83.1)	<i>0.4921</i>
<i>Distribute Yingyangbao</i>	21 (60.0)	28 (77.8)	49 (69.0)	<i>0.1053</i>

*Presented as n (%) unless specified otherwise.

Table S2. Project Implementation: categories and subcategories

Main category (4)	Subcategory (23)
Changes among VHWs	Knowledge improved become more professional Enhanced service delivery capacity Increased confidence in communication Established deep trust with families
Changes among Caregivers	Knowledge improved feeding practice improved solved feeding problem Satisfied the counselling
Existing Problems and Obstacles	Caregivers and children: ● Remote residence ● High population mobility affecting service continuity ● Frequent turnover of caregivers ● grandparents take care of children ● Deeply entrenched traditional beliefs ● Busy for farm work VHWs: ● Insufficient professional knowledge ● Unable to explain identified feeding problems in depth ● Unable to answer specific questions raised by caregivers ● feel lacking enthusiasm and find the work troublesome
Project aid-tool	Clear at a glance concise and easy to understand

authoritative

enhanced counselling efficiency
