Sacred Valley Health: A Global Organization with a Local Impact

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Disclosure

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Objectives

Critically reflect upon….

• components that contribute to the sustainability of international health education programs.

• potential benefits of interdisciplinary and interagency partnerships between international health education programs, universities, and professional associations.
Introduction

• Research has demonstrated global health experiences have a lasting positive impact on students (Smith & Curry, 2011).

• Global experiences are enhanced when partnered with sustainable organizations (Powell, Gilliss, Hewitt, & Flint, 2010).

• Sustainability is more likely to occur with programs focused on long term transformative change (Powell et al., 2010).
Sacred Valley Health

• US 501 c3 nonprofit organization working in Ollantaytambo, Peru

• Mission: promote health in the underserved, rural communities of Peru’s Sacred Valley through increased access, education, and community empowerment.

• Trains community elected promotoras (community health workers) to provide basic health care and health education

• Community health workers increase access to health and improve health outcomes (Lewin et al., 2006)
Promotora Program
Impact of SVH Promotoras

• Facilitated access to care for more than 2,550 community members
• Provided medical treatment to 887 individuals
• Educational home visits to 768 individuals
• Performed 115 community presentations
  • Educating more than 3,140 individuals
Docente Program

- Train the Trainer implemented in 2014
- Training 8 new promotoras in 4 communities
  - Increase access to health services
  - Improve health outcomes
  - Empowerment
    - Part-time employment to 5 women
Keys to Collaboration

- Beneficial to both parties
- Shared mission and vision
- Clear expectations
- Pre-departure education
- Embracing the adventure
- Strong leadership
Partnerships with SVH

- Interdisciplinary groups
- Nursing schools
- Public health programs
- Medical schools
- GlobeMed
- Sigma Theta Tau
  - University of Rochester Epsilon Xi chapter
Partnership Achievements

• 17+ university trips in the last 3 years
• Health education campaigns
  • 2014 - 579 children and 312 adults
  • 2015 - 418 children and 173 adults
• 2016 projections for participants
  • 97 university students
  • 10 high school students
Qualitative Student Feedback

Emerging themes:
(1) an appreciation of the global perspective of health care
(2) improved understanding of preventative services and education
(3) enhanced cultural knowledge and competence
(4) a desire for continued service opportunities
Implications for Future Collaborations

• University partnerships
• Sigma Theta Tau
  • Foster interdisciplinary collaboration
  • Global experience
  • Individual professional development
  • Increase chapter member engagement
Thank you!


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