ABSTRACT

There is increasing need for nurses to demonstrate global health competencies that address population level health and disparities beyond practicing borders. In an effort to embrace the dynamic capabilities and global influence of the nursing profession, RN-BSN faculty at one Historically Black University (HBCU) integrated principles of problem based learning to develop an assignment in which RN-BSN students could apply concepts of global health nursing to real world issues. Information concerning this educational innovation can inform nurses on strategies that may enhance the development of global health competency and professional global identity in baccalaureate completion programs.

PURPOSE

The aim of this poster presentation is to describe the global health nursing action assignment as an innovative educational strategy designed to promote global health competency among RN to BSN students.

BACKGROUND

- Global Health encompasses transnational health issues and determinants of health through critical analysis and sustainable solutions for health improvement in populations worldwide (Wilson & Colleagues, 2016).
- The United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity for baccalaureate prepared nurse leaders to address global needs within their scope of practice.
- However, there is a critical need for nurses who are able to demonstrate competencies related to global health nursing in order to address transnational health care needs of individuals, families, and communities (Opollo et al., 2012).

Project Overview

The global health nursing action paper was designed as a problem-based educational activity in which RN to BSN students could assess global health problems and develop practical and sustainable nursing actions that could be employed in one community.

Project Aims:

- Describe a current global health issue affecting a vulnerable population within a local or global community of practice.
- Create a realistic community-based nursing proposal aimed at improving health outcomes within the vulnerable identified population.
- To develop population-level interventions using global health action concepts within a nursing framework.

Assignment Procedures

1. Disparity identification - Students were instructed to identify a current global health issue affecting a vulnerable population within a local or global community.
2. Faculty reviewed and approved each topic.
3. Paper components
   - Global Health Issue Overview – Vulnerable community and population demographics must be described with literary and statistical support for the global health issue.
   - Epidemiological Significance – Included the determinants and distribution of the health issue identified in the community and population of interest.
   - United Nation’s 2030 SDGs Linkage – Students were required to describe how the selected health issue linked to the United Nations’ 2030 SDGs.
   - Nursing Discipline Linkage – Using a nursing theory, students were required to discuss how the issue could be addressed within the scope of nursing practice.

Exemplar Student Projects and Reflections

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<tr>
<td>Health Need/Need Track for Prevalent Middle School Children</td>
<td>• Promotion of healthy food track based on available evidence to promote increased fruit and vegetable intake and decrease sugar-sweetened beverage intake.  • Integrate nutrition content into existing curriculum and physical education classes.</td>
<td>This insight gained for the writer of this project is an appreciation for the challenges in procuring funding to support a healthy eating project.</td>
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<td>Depression and Mental Health Education in African American Community Churches</td>
<td>• Conduct a mental health awareness and education program within African American community churches.  • Present educational materials based on survey results.  • Provide ongoing support and community outreach to target population.</td>
<td>An important lesson from this project is an appreciation for the importance of mental health awareness and education within African American community churches.</td>
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<td>Addressing Physical Inactivity in Hispanic/Latino Women</td>
<td>• Conduct a survey to assess the prevalence and potential correlates of physical inactivity among Hispanic/Latino women.  • Conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention to increase physical activity among Hispanic/Latino women.</td>
<td>This project has taught me how to use data to inform evidence-based strategies for improving health outcomes among Hispanic/Latino women.</td>
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<td>Breastfeeding Promotion for Rural Birthing Children</td>
<td>• Implement a breastfeeding program at a rural birthing hospital to increase rates of exclusive breastfeeding.  • Conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.</td>
<td>This project has taught me how to use data to inform evidence-based strategies for improving health outcomes among rural birthing children.</td>
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SUMMARY

- One of the challenges for nurse educators in RN-BSN programs is creating learning opportunities that facilitate socialization, competency, problem-solving skills and broader role development of the baccalaureate-prepared professional nurse.
- The purpose learning innovation was to promote critical thinking and broader appreciation of nursing abilities towards solving real-life healthcare disparities within the scope of nursing practice.
- This learning innovation assignment assisted students with transition to baccalaureate nursing practice and development of professional identity required for professional practice in the 21st century global community.