

Academic Preparation in Short-Term Humanitarian Healthcare

Victoria Carlson-Oehlers

MSOE School of Nursing, USA

Abstract

Statement of the Problem: There has been a great increase in the number of undergraduate students who participate in short-term international programs that provide healthcare in developing countries. These programs offer the unique experience of international service learning and cultural awareness. Recent literature asserts that participant preparation is critical to enhancing the experience for both participants and residents of host countries. As academic programming focuses more on international experiences for undergraduates, a serious debate exists on how these programs are ethically educating students to prepare them for participation in short-term international humanitarian experiences. The author teaches a university course designed to prepare students for their first short-term experience. The course introduces students to the concept of transcultural healthcare and other important topics such as ethics. The author has conducted a study of undergraduate students to determine the efficacy of this course in preparing them to conduct one-week humanitarian healthcare missions in Central America.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: This study explores student perception changes based upon the intervention of taking this well-designed preparatory course. Participants taking such a course are more likely to understand the culture of the host country, demonstrate character, and develop a strong rapport with residents of the host country. The author's methodology consists of a mixed-method survey design with a control group that examines the perceptions of students participating in a short-term humanitarian experience. The control group consists of students who did not enroll the course, versus the intervention group that did enroll in this course. The results of this research also indicate that the theoretical framework of Servant Leadership, which is instrumental in overall structure of this course, has great value in preparing undergraduate students for short-term international humanitarian healthcare missions.

Article Information

Conference Proceedings: World Congress on Nursing & Healthcare (Paris)

Conference date: 18-19 November, 2019

Inovineconferences.com

***Corresponding author:** Victoria Carlson-Oehlers, MSOE School of Nursing, USA; Email: [dixont\(at\)gram.edu](mailto:dixont(at)gram.edu)

Citation: Carlson-Oehlers V (2019) Academic Preparation in Short-Term Humanitarian Healthcare. J Pediat Infants.

Copyright: © 2019 Carlson-Oehlers V. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.