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Effects of overseas undergraduate clinical experience and service-learning opportunities

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Global service learning (GSL) is an action-oriented, pedagogical approach that engages students in the core values of the home institution and educational opportunities offered in the selected location. Such high impact practices were embraced by the American Colleges ever since the Peace Corps was established in the 1960s. The prominent educators, such as John Dewey and Earnest Boyer, encouraged service learning within educational programs (Shultz, 2011). At present there is a growing interest in establishing sustainable international collaboration in professional health education programs (Plumb et al., 2013). In this context, one American college regularly encourages students to go on a GSL trip from 1882. However, nursing students' GSL was initiated from 2012 to multiple destinations: India, Dominican Republic and Haiti. Each destination is chosen with different learning goals. Students learn about a new culture, language, health practices, opportunities, challenges and above all, how to communicate with limited language skills. Such students' engagement develops their professional as well as social skills (Sen, 2011). In addition to cultural and professional learning, students completed 70-80 hours of acute care clinical experience also. These GSL trips involved an instructor from the home country as well as educators and preceptors from the destination country also. The experience is a combination of clinical learning, service to marginalized communities and site visits and fun shopping on a daily basis for 3 weeks. The presenter will discuss the details of planning, operation, budget and learning outcomes of the GSL experience based on five GSL trips to India.

Biography

Elizabeth Simon, R.N., A.N.P.-B.C., Ph.D., is a professor of nursing. Prior to coming to NYIT in 2018, she was a professor of nursing and dean of the School of Nursing at Nyack College. She also previously served as faculty and post-master's nursing education coordinator at Hunter-Bellevue School Nursing at Hunter. She has more than 25 years of nursing education experience and more than 30 years of clinical experience. She is a board-certified adult health nurse practitioner who has authored, reviewed, or edited books on critical care nursing; book chapters on transcultural issues and a book on non-communicable diseases. She has published several articles in peer reviewed journals and periodicals and has presented at various national and international forums. Her academic degrees include B.Sc. (N.) from the College of Nursing, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab University, India; M.S. in Critical Care Nursing from School of Nursing, Columbia University; Ed.M. in Nursing Education from Teachers College; M.S. in Adult Health Nurse Practitioner from Hunter College; and Ph.D. in higher education from Walden University. She also taught critical care nursing during the 2015-16 academic year.

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