Project Name: Technology in Global Health Education: Evaluation of a Distance Learning Program for Ghanaian Nurse Anesthetists

Project Status: Completed

Faculty Name: Ariely, Sumedha

Start Date: 2015-06-01

End Date: 2015-08-01

Description: In low-resource countries, it is often immediate necessity that drives the development of the healthcare workforce. Training varies from formal university-based programs to on-the-job apprenticeships as well as situations of self-teaching. This can result in an unstable supply of properly trained practitioners, and often creates opportunities for significant gaps in knowledge or skill preparation. In an attempt to standardize curriculum and ensure similar or higher standards of clinical competency, Ghana has placed a great deal of attention on moving healthcare educational programs to universities. In September of 2014, collaborators from Duke and the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale, Ghana launched the first-ever Executive Style Distance-based training program for healthcare workers in Ghana. This project is supported by the Bass Connections Program, and the purpose is to assist UDS in the development and implementation of a degree-completion option for Ghanaian nurse anesthetists who wish to or must remain in their communities and continue to provide anesthesia care. The program will utilize an innovative approach borrowing from the blended method of distance learning known as the "Executive-style program." The program will rely heavily on a technology-based educational platform utilizing a tablet and mobile applications to organize and deliver course content. Additionally, twice a trimester, nurse trainees will attend executive sessions on the campus of UDS and engage in active learning activities designed to reinforce and build upon curriculum taught at a distance. The development and delivery of the entire program will involve a team-based model of mentoring, participating, and evaluating. The team involves students, educators, clinicians, and researchers from Duke and UDS.

Outcomes:

Policy Implications:

Related Topics: Education

Locations: Tamale, Ghana