Agency Info

Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, Inc. (GK) is a Philippine-based poverty alleviation movement focused on ending poverty for 5 million families by 2024.

Learner Objectives

• To gain experiences and encounters in a Gawad Kalinga village community within the framework of exercising cultural competency skills for community health improvement
• To engage in the process of getting the pulse on community needs in order to initiate sustainable community health programs

Background

• GK implements community development programs involving housing, nutrition, education, social enterprise, etc.
• This trip allowed for interaction with community leaders and patients in two GK communities to determine areas of need.
• Student activities included:
  • Healthcare worker interviews
  • Community focus group discussions
  • Tour of local healthcare sites
  • Faculty precepting
  • Primary care clinic

Community Profile

• 78 households
• 89 male and 106 female adults (18+ years), 108 children
• Top 10 causes of mortality: heart disease, CVA/stroke, pneumonia, cancer, diabetes, multi-organ failure, tuberculosis, accidents, COPD, GI disease/liver cirrhosis
• Top 10 causes of morbidity: acute upper respiratory infection, hypertension, infected wound, skin diseases, diarrhea, urinary tract infection, anemia, tuberculosis, parasitism, dengue

Cultural Competency Case Report

• A 61 year old Filipino male with hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and 3 prior cerebrovascular accidents who was brought in by his wife and daughter for chronic disease management.
• The patient and his family reported a diet consisting of 3 cups of white rice per meal per day.
• Rice is more accessible for the poor in a country where the average yearly family income was $5735 in the year 2012. Filipinos consumed an average of 119 kg of rice per person in the year 2009-2010.
• In Filipino culture, families play a large role in healthcare decisions.
• We advised this patient, his wife, and daughter to collaborate on dietary changes that consist of less rice and more vegetables and fish.
• A few days later for a follow-up visit, the patient confirmed with his family that the recommended changes took place and agreed to maintain them.

Future Opportunities

• Two nurse scholars from the local school will help with data collection regarding student-led investigations on blood pressure and nutrition.
• Opportunities exist for future students to create sustainable projects through a longitudinal online relationship with key stakeholders in the Philippines using social media.

Conclusion

• Based on this learner’s experience, Global Health Pathway Philippines experience is an example of a transnational collaboration for community health that promoted cultural competency skills education and sustainable community impact.

References

1: Philippine Statistics Authority National Statistics Office (NSO) 2013
2: Southeast Asian Regional Center (SEARCA) for Graduate Study and Research 2012

Acknowledgments

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Photos by Kenneth Tangonan

TripAdvisor sponsored homes at GK Ark of Noah
MRS. MARLYN PUATU, A VILLAGER FROM GK ARK OF NOAH, HOLDS A PHOTO OF HER FORMER HOME

GK Ark of Noah in Bulacan, Philippines

TATAY (FATHER) ROGELIO, 82 YEARS OLD, BIKING AROUND THE VILLAGE

GK ARK OF NOAH BASKETBALL COURT

Photos by Kenneth Tangonan

GUARDIAN OF THE NOAH (TATAY) ROGELIO, 82 YEARS OLD, BIKING AROUND THE VILLAGE