

Medical Volunteerism

A Curriculum On: Ethical Constructs, Sustainability, and Personal Implications

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Background

- Religious medical missions - 1850s₁
- Secular medical volunteerism - early 1900s, increased with governmental and NGOs - 1960s₂
- Growing concerns regarding practices and outcomes₂
- Continued increases in personal and financial involvement, up to \$4 billion yearly₃
- No widely accepted didactic training or legal constructs
- Accounts of medical volunteers acting outside their scope of training or qualifications₄
- Sparse data addressing the practices, ethics, or short- and long-term outcomes

Objectives

- Review the existing literature
- Determine commonly repeated themes
- Outline lesson plan
- Highlight and encourage future research on volunteer practices and outcomes

Literature cited

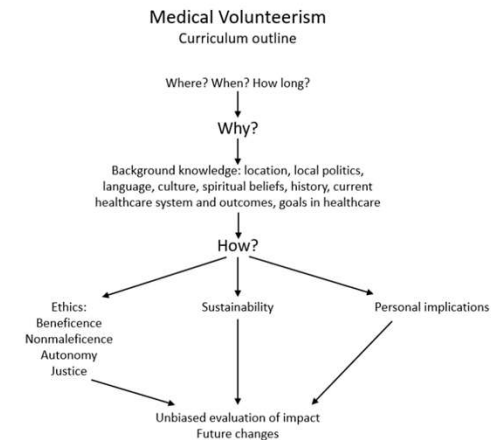
1. 'Medical Volunteerism in Africa: An Historical Sketch', Olakanmi O, Perry PS MSJ. History of Medicine 2006;8(12):863-870.
2. 'More harm than good? The questionable ethics of medical volunteering and international student placements', Bauer I. Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines 2017;3:5.
3. 'The Trouble with Medical "Voluntourism"', Sullivan N. Scientific American 2017.
4. 'The medical student global health experience: professionalism and ethical implications', Shah S, Wu T. Journal of Medical Ethics 2008;34: 375-378.
5. 'The Ethics of Medical Volunteerism', Stone GS, Olson KR. Medical Clinics of North America 2016;100(2): 237-246.

Methods

Literature review of published works searched with terms such as "medical volunteerism," etc. Repeated themes were then used to format a concise lesson plan and PowerPoint that both follow the literature review.



Results



Conclusion

- No formal guidelines and expectations upheld across international borders
 - International medical volunteer work should follow similar standards/laws as international medical research₅
- Future directions
- Utilize lesson plan and PowerPoint
 - Increase research
 - Continue to modify the lesson plan regarding research done in the future