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Global Health Concerns: Can Nurses Make a Difference?

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Melan, Haley, "Global Health Concerns: Can Nurses Make a Difference?" (2020). *Student Research Poster Presentations 2020*. 26.

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INTRODUCTION

Global Health involves the study, research, and practice of medicine with a goal of improving the health of populations all over the world (Cmalvikce, 2017). Pandemics, climate change, pollution, access to food and clean water, life expectancy, noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and cancer, and health education are very important global health concerns, where nurses can make a positive impact (Cmalvikce, 2017).

SIGNIFICANCE

- Nurses are the largest cadre of the global health workforce, providing 90% of health care worldwide (Edmonson, McCarthy, Trent-Adams, McCain, & Marshall, 2017)
- Since 1900 the global average life expectancy has more than doubled and is now above 70 years (Cmalvikce, 2017)
- 32 million nurses across the planet deliver healthcare and education (Cmalvikce, 2017)
- In the United States, 84% of the population rated nurses the most trusted profession (Cmalvikce, 2017)

POSITION STATEMENT

Nurses have a positive impact on global health concerns through research, education, and care.

SUPPORT FOR POSITION

Research

- Continuing to increase in terms of global health among nurse investigators
- Increases student nurse interest with interconnectedness of global concerns (Edmonson et al., 2017)

Education

- Helps all patients and all populations of every race, culture, religion and gender
- Can prevent future health disparities among the world population (Edmonson et al., 2017)

Care

- Continues to have a positive global impact on patients
- Varies from country to country, so ideas can be shared to better one another's quality of care (Edmonson et al., 2017)

Nurses having an impact on global health has been done in the past through research, education and care. Research is the backbone on nursing practice and determines how nurses proceed with patient care. Education makes the nurses aware of these changes, but also allows the nurses, themselves to be educators for patients, families, and the communities. Care is the hands-on physical act of making a positive difference, not only for patients but for the environment and the world.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

“Within the field of nursing, this includes improving education and promoting policies which allow for expanded clinical scope of practice, especially in low-resourced, high-need settings” (Edmonson et al., 2017, para. 3).

“Structures must also strengthen existing and new global health nursing science, support robust global health education for future nursing scientists and facilitate nurse involvement in the shaping of global health policy” (Gimbel, Kohler, Mitchell, & Emami, 2017, para. 10).

“Using the Research, Education, Policy and Partnership framework, academic entities can ensure core areas are addressed when developing and implementing strategies to promote effective nurse participation in global health research, education and policy development through effective partnership” (Gimbel et al., 2017, para. 6).

Nurses need to continue to educate themselves. Being educated on the most up to date information will not only help themselves, but others around them when educating others.

Nurses can attend educational seminars about addressing global health concerns, conduct their own research, and then proceed to educate others. Using this education and research, nurses can adjust their patient care to better suit the patient and they can also bring their knowledge into the community to help the environment and, in turn, the world.



Daily Nurse. (2017.)

CONCLUSION

Nurses can have a positive impact on global health in various ways. Research, education, and the overall quality of care will help to continue to increase life expectancy, decrease pandemics, aide in climate change and pollution, and help to education about health in general. Global health concerns is an interdisciplinary task, but nurses, providing 90% of global health care, have a major impact on the global population.

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