

Community Based Education and professional competencies : a study of institutional structures, perspectives and practices in Pakistan

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Propositions

1. Integrative health care is only possible through an interdisciplinary, nonhierarchical blending of conventional and complementary health care team who is guided by consensus building, mutual respect, and a shared vision.
2. Community Based Education to health professionals is all about engaging with communities while at the same time learning from them essential attitudes and skills applicable at all levels of health care settings.
3. Health professional students' capabilities are best harnessed for wider community practice, when their competencies are developed based on best practices identified at the field level.
4. Cultural competence is a critical building block of health care and health professionals' education, central to professionalism, communication, quality of care and improving health outcomes.
5. Community Based Education requires strategic and sustainable efforts at all levels of Health Professions Education including well aligned institutional structures, curricula and human resources.
6. Role-modelling and advocating Community Based Education by academic leaders, increases its acceptance and adoption by faculty members, students and other staff.
7. Institutionalization of nurses' role in management and provision of community health care will only occur when their competence in care, disease prevention and health promotion is acknowledged, and valued to the same level as physicians' competence in cure.
8. For community-based participatory research it is critical that health professions institutes and local communities engage in mutually beneficial partnership on community defined research needs and scholarship priorities.
9. In shaping the career choices of health professionals, the impact of non-health sector policies such as economics, education and infrastructure is generally underestimated by policy makers.
10. **This proposition is in realltion to recent elections in Pakistan:** "The essence of democracy lies in educated and empowered people, without these two elements the democrattic process will remain unfair and inequitable.
11. **This proposition highlights my experience of studying and raising children along side. Both of my children were born while I was studying, during second year of undergraduate my daughter and when I was completing graduate school my son was born; and now while I am doing PhD, both of them are in their teen years.** "The pleasure of studying and writing thesis

multiplies to a great extent when the student has alternate challenges to divert attention for a while –like bearing and rearing children”.