Putting Culture in the Curriculum

COHEHRE project group
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COHEHRE

- Consortium of Institutes of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation in Europe

- Established in 1990

- 37 member institutes from 16 countries
To enhance inter-professional cooperation within health and social care education
- Capacity building
- Development of new products
- Dissemination of outcomes of new products
- Consultation and external advice for members
Rationale

- Increasing globalisation and migration
- European perspective
- Multicultural client group/workforce
- Need for intercultural competencies
Background to project

- Project group set up in 2005 funded by COHEHRE
- International
- Interprofessional
- 7 countries/10 Institutions later 5 countries/ 8 Institutions
Aim of project

- To produce a framework for the development of national curricula to ensure that healthcare practitioners provide culturally safe care to their clients.
Curriculum objectives

Health care professionals should:

- Demonstrate cultural awareness in practice
- Be able to assess needs and health status of individuals taking account of cultural beliefs and practices
- Be able to care for people whose culture is different to their own in a non discriminatory manner
Steps taken

- Outline of present curricula
- Agreement of terminology
- Agreement of programme outcomes
- Analysis of current literature
- Creation of a Framework for creating a curriculum on a European basis
Agreed Terminology

- Culture
- Cultural awareness
- Cultural competence
Literature review/group work
outcomes

- No clear curricular recommendations existed
- Clear cultural focus necessary
- Need for Intensive programme to address educators cultural competence
- Staff preparation essential for success
Results to date

- Recommendations for the Curriculum Framework
- Creation of a CD-rom
- Delivery of a faculty workshop
- Provision of ongoing support for faculty members
- Dissemination
<table>
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<th>Curricular Themes and questions</th>
<th>Curricular Content</th>
<th>Some examples of learning and teaching methods</th>
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<td>Cultural awareness</td>
<td>Terminology</td>
<td>Simulation games, role-gaming e.g. experiential methods (in classroom)</td>
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<td>How do students develop cultural awareness through health care education?</td>
<td>Political, social and cultural factors</td>
<td>Critical incident writing method (from cultural encounters in practice)</td>
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<td>Self-awareness</td>
<td>Cultural safety issues in practice/in class</td>
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<td>Communication techniques</td>
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<td>Layers of Culture</td>
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<td>Cultural shock</td>
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<td>Cultural knowledge</td>
<td>Health literacy</td>
<td>Blended learning</td>
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<td>What cultural, general and specific knowledge do students require in order to increase their cultural awareness?</td>
<td>Health/illness beliefs in caring and curing</td>
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<td>Assessment methods</td>
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<td>Cultural theories/models</td>
<td>Face-to-face learning</td>
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<td>Migration – Current, historical, the World, Europe, own country, locality</td>
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<td>Migration as it affects clients, health care staff and health care systems</td>
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<td>Cultural shock</td>
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<td>Cultural skills</td>
<td>Skills to deliver culturally congruent (sensitive) care</td>
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<td>What skills should students attain and practise to increase their cultural awareness and deliver culturally competent care</td>
<td>Identification of cultural encounters</td>
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<td>Culturally safe interaction</td>
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<td>Evaluation of health care interventions</td>
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<td>Mentor preparation</td>
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<td>Reflective journal writing</td>
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<td>Portfolio composing</td>
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Faculty workshop

PUTTING CULTURE IN THE CURRICULUM

A PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITY OVER A DAY AND A HALF
AT THE START OF THE 2009 COHERRE CONFERENCE

THE TEAM CONDUCTING THE WORKSHOP
Come from number Institutes. They are Helene Kelly, Lisa Koikonen, Nita Muir, Helen Oke, Ratja Sairamo, Ellen Richardson, Lib de Vinger

Purpose of the Workshop
Discuss and develop a framework for putting culture into the curriculum based on published research and authors’ experience

Aims of the Workshop
• Raise teachers’ awareness of the role of culture in the delivery of health care
• Provide an opportunity for professional development and scholarly debate around cultural issues in an international and interdisciplinary forum
• Create supportive networks to continue the promotion of culturally based health care education

This will be an interactive workshop using activities such as Games and “Learning Café” and providing access to supportive materials and an Internet-based support network

Who will benefit?
Teachers of healthcare practitioners
Clinical mentors

Make a note now so you plan to attend next year. This is an innovative programme and one which is of importance to all of our world becomes increasingly multicultural.
Challenges of International project collaboration

- Maintaining coherent and consistent membership
- Language and meaning
- Cultural dimensions as well as professional dimension
- Curricular differences
Proposed publications

- Group processes during the 4 years of working together as an International group
- Description of the project itself
- Discussion of the Framework
- The design and effectiveness of the faculty workshop
Thanks to COHEHRE (Consortium of Institutes of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation in Europe) without whose support this project would never have been possible.

CD ROM; Putting culture in the curriculum, can be ordered at [www.cohehre.eu](http://www.cohehre.eu)