Global health in action: Raising faculty awareness and engagement


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Background

Introduction: Within schools of nursing (SON), disseminating and implementing the United Nations (UN) 2030 agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs) requires strategic direction, innovation, engagement, commitment, and championing.

Aim: Stemming from the UABSON 2017-2020 Strategic Plan: 1) develop a global health (GH) operational definition and framework for action, and 2) apply the framework in the Faculty Productivity Database (FPD) to capture GH activities.

Project Description

• GH Taskforce developed a framework to document faculty activities linked to SDGs
• Integrated framework into FPD through a menu-driven guide capturing activities
• Pilot tested for feasibility, acceptability, degree of fit, and validity
• Developed a toolkit based on top 10 SDGs listing definitions, key indicators, and case studies
• Implemented and evaluated through faculty forums, troubleshooting support, random record review, user surveys, and toolkit updates.

Application into Faculty Database

UABSON Global Health Definition

“An area for practice, teaching, research, or service that transcends boundaries with the intent of improving health, achieving equity and social justice for all people in support of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals (SDGs).”

Conclusions and Implications

Integrating a “think globally, act locally” approach to educate faculty and track activities is a promising strategy to raise awareness and accountability. The GH framework and FPD toolkit:

- Captures how faculty work connects with SDGs
- Intersects SDGs with teaching, research or practice
- Measures faculty engagement with the UN 2030 agenda
- Could be adapted by other SONs or Health Profession Schools globally

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