

The Purdue Kenya Program Sewing Initiative

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BACKGROUND

- The United States Agency for International Development – Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (USAID-AMPATH) Partnership is a program developed by Indiana University School of Medicine and Moi University School of Medicine to address the HIV/AIDS crisis and other chronic diseases in Kenya.
- Upon invitation in 2003, Purdue University College of Pharmacy joined the collaboration to provide pharmaceutical care.
- Pharmacy students can complete an 8-week advanced pharmacy practice experience at this practice site. In this setting, they work at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) as part of the patient care team.
- With the high prevalence of HIV in this setting and the associated increase in orphaned children and single parents, the hospital becomes the entire family's home while admitted.
- The Sally Test Pediatric Center (STPC) at MTRH provides educational and recreational activities for hospitalized pediatric patients.
- Education of the parents will not only enable them to provide for their family, but may prevent future hospital admissions.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this project was to engage students in a service-learning initiative that would further the education and skills of parents at STPC.

METHODS

- Pharmacy clerkship students applied for grant funding through the Office of Engagement at Purdue University for a Community Service/Service-Learning Student Grant to support the activities.
- A sewing machine and supplies were purchased for STPC.
- A local seamstress was employed to educate parents on basic sewing skills.
- Pharmacy students assist in sewing education as their skills allowed. Students also provide care for children while sewing education is being provided.
- Students serve as educational resources for parents being trained. They are available to answer health and medication related questions.
- Students developed educational materials for STPC parents.
 - Brochures about basic health, safety, appropriate medication administration, household poisons, childhood disease prevention, immunizations, and other identified areas of need.

SALLY TEST PEDIATRIC CENTER



Center opened in 2004 (room is 40x40)
Informally started seeing children on the wards in 2000
Goal was to become indispensable to the hospital



- Number of children utilizing the center
 - ~ 25 per day
 - 72 beds in the children's ward, with an average of 100 patients at any given time
 - Approximately half under the age of 2
- Estimated number of abandoned children utilizing the center
 - 8-17 at a time
- Estimated percentage of children with HIV utilizing the center per month and per year
 - 25% or less
- Estimated number of children receiving chemotherapy
 - 8-12 children per day
- Number of parents involved
 - 6 to 10 parents per day: mostly in the sewing program or attending information sessions
- Number of staff employed: 25
 - 5 nurses
 - 4 teachers
 - 4 outreach workers
 - 12 aides who work with the babies and on the wards

PROGRAM IMPACT

- Since the program started in 2008, more than 400 STPC parents have been trained in basic sewing.
- More than 50 pharmacy students have been involved in the program.
- At least 5 people have left the hospital and found a way to purchase their own machine.
- Poor communication after discharge has made it difficult to assess the full impact of the program.



SEWING INITIATIVE

- Materials utilized for sewing project
 - Machine: 20,000 KES (\$250 USD)
 - Material roll: 3,000 KES (\$38 USD)
 - Scissors, needles, zippers, thread, pins, drawing books, and brown pattern paper
- Employee salary for instructor: 6,000 KES (\$75 USD) per month
- Hours worked per week teaching sewing
 - 8am - 4pm with 1 hour lunch break (Monday – Friday)
- Teaches a maximum of 6 women per day
- Average time spent with a mother/father teaching sewing: 3 hours
- Lessons include:
 - Taking measurements
 - Pattern drawing
 - Running the machine
 - Dress making
 - Stitches
 - Making button holes

STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMENTS

- "Overall this was a rewarding and eye-opening rotation everyone should be so lucky to experience"
- "[Kenya] further motivated me to work hard and achieve the goals I have set for myself"
- "... you never know how it is going to come up in everyday life."
- "I valued my experience in Kenya greatly..."

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PLANS

- Sewing provides clothing for families and the opportunity to learn a potential income generating skill.
- Participation allows pharmacy students the opportunity to enrich their experience while completing a rotation in Kenya. It also demonstrates their commitment in caring for their patients and their families.
- Providing these programs and services helps strengthen the relationships, reputation and support for the pharmacy program and services students provide.
- The program is expanding to include beading and crochet techniques, allowing for additional income generating skills training.

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