

## Global Health: Should it be an integral part of Medical Education?

Erin Kelly  
Erin.Kelly@lvhn.org

Sweety Jain MD  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Sweety.Jain@lvhn.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/research-scholars-posters>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you**

---

### Published In/Presented At

Kelly, E. Jain, S. (2019, August). *Global Health: Should it be an integral part of Medical Education?*. Poster Presented at: LVHN Research Scholar Program Poster Session, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).



# Global Health: Should it be an integral part of Medical Education?

Erin Kelly, Dr. Sweety Jain

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania



## Background

- Why is global health in medicine important?
  - Global health teaches humility and character.
  - Participants learn how to be resourceful.
  - Participants also learn patient-centered care.
- How can global health go wrong?
  - Neglect of local desires
  - Poor quality of work from volunteer
  - Undercutting employment opportunities
- What metrics can be used to evaluate a program?
  - Organization
  - Host Community
  - Volunteers

## Objectives

- Improve the effectiveness of an existing global health program through quality improvement surveys of past participants.

## Methods

- Questionnaire featuring open-ended, rating and ranking questions for past participants to complete.
- Prepare participants for upcoming departures according to discerned information.

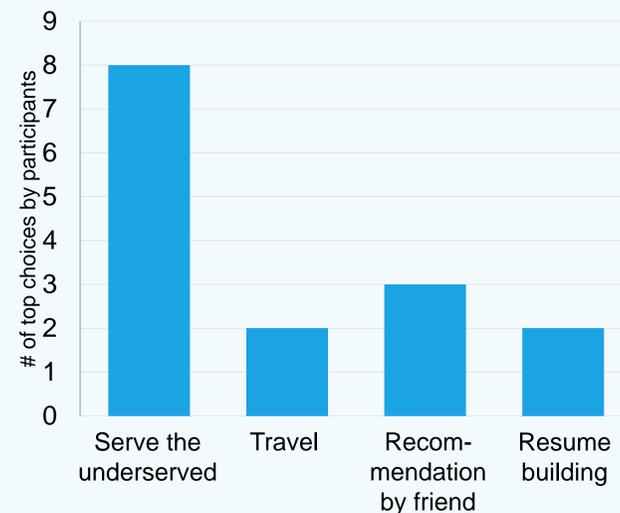


References:

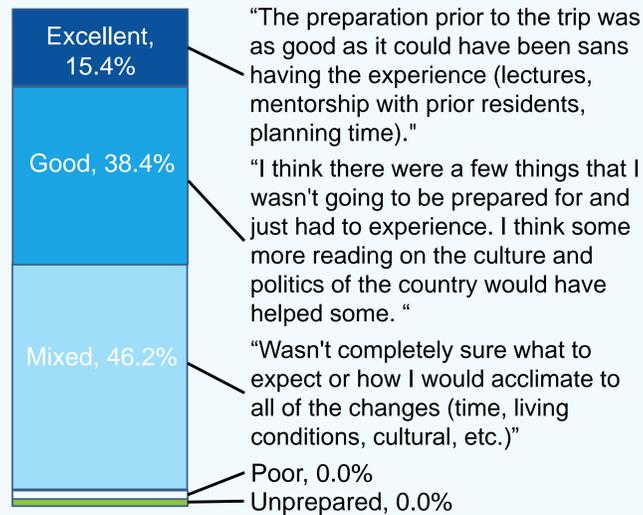
- "Cultural Adjustment & Engagement." *Cultural Adjustment & Engagement | Study Abroad* | Yale University, studyabroad.yale.edu/prepare-go/cultural-adjustment-engagement.
- Lasker, Judith N. *Hoping to Help: the Promises and Pitfalls of Global Health Volunteering*. ILR Press, 2016.
- "Unite For Sight." *Unite For Sight*, www.uniteforsight.org/.

## Results

"What motivated you to apply for this elective?"



"How well were you prepared for this elective?"



"The preparation prior to the trip was as good as it could have been sans having the experience (lectures, mentorship with prior residents, planning time)."

"I think there were a few things that I wasn't going to be prepared for and just had to experience. I think some more reading on the culture and politics of the country would have helped some."

"Wasn't completely sure what to expect or how I would acclimate to all of the changes (time, living conditions, cultural, etc.)"

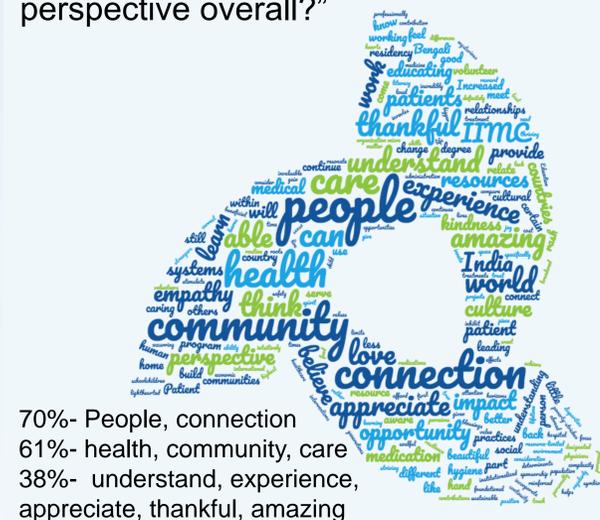
Poor, 0.0%  
Unprepared, 0.0%



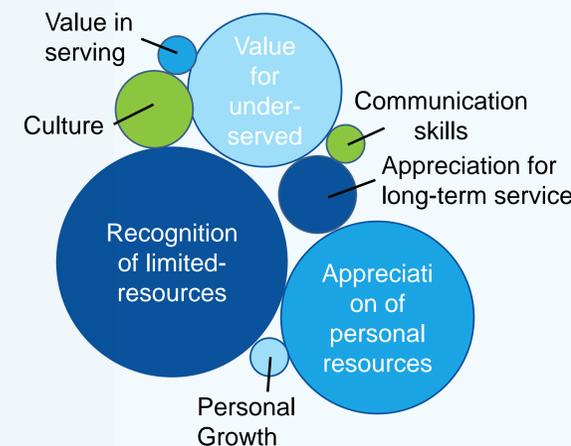
Photo courtesy of IIMC 2016 Class

"You allow your vulnerable, first world dissolve and allow culture, song, ideals, work, and life to permeate your inner world... You add another layer of depth, resilience, and hope to the world. You know in your heart that you are the one that was changed, and can only hope you left IIMC with a small exchange--positivity, joy, and love." -2018 Participant

"How has this experience change your perspective overall?"



"What did you learn from the elective?"



## Conclusion

- Extensive volunteer preparation is crucial for effective work.
- Must evaluate program for impact with patients
  - Do those being served appreciate and value the service?
- Research indicates significant prospective benefit of enhanced administrative support

## Acknowledgements

This research was supported by the Lehigh Valley Health Network Research Scholar Program, the Family Medicine Department and the Pool Fund Trust. Authors would like to thank Dr. Judith Lasker and Hannah Kaplan.

"Most of the U.S. participants are motivated and work well with volunteers, patients and our staff. They will benefit from more preparation."  
– Dr. Sujit Brahmochary, IIMC Host Director

Global health integrated into medical education cultivates well-rounded physicians who become in touch with their patients and community.

Effective global health programs re-evaluate the scope of their program, the host community organization, and those who participate.

The LVHN global health program can develop more detailed preparation and promote the evaluation of patients at the Institute for Indian Mother and Child.