

Contemporary Health

Week 2 – Session 2

Activity 2.2.1

This activity is an opportunity for you to contribute to your e-Portfolio and to develop the following competencies:



Health Advocacy



Systems Thinking

INSTRUCTIONS

- There are 2 Steps to this worksheet.
- Step 1: Characterising the Problem.
- Step 2: Addressing a Global Health Issue

Step 1: Characterising the Problem

Having read the report presented to the United Nations on Racism in Health and Medicine, how would you characterise this problem?

Think about the following:

- How important is this issue in relation to other health systems challenges, globally?
- Who is most affected by this issue and who is disinvested to seek change?
- Who should be held accountable for the issues raised?
- How does this issue relate to local health challenges?

Share your thoughts below:

I would characterize the problem by thinking about the following as, how racism in the healthcare system is implanted within all healthcare systems and structures. Systematic racism in healthcare leads to discrimination of patients in need of medical assistance. Racism in healthcare not only impacts the healthcare industry but the root of systematic racism intersects with other social determinates, such as economic, political and social discrimination.

The effects of racism in health and medicine impacts a wide range of minorities, limiting their access to proper and adequate healthcare. To really address this issue there would need to be a decolonisation of the medical, political and economic industry. There would need to be systematic change starting from medical education otherwise health discrimination, systematic racism and other disparities will continue in the global healthcare systems.

Step 2: Addressing a Global Health Issue

Now that you've thought about the importance or situation of the problem outlined in the report, what do you think should be done about it?

Think about the following:

- What key action points should be taken on a global level to address the issues raised in the report?
- Who should be responsible for addressing these issues?
- How would we know that change is being made on a local to global scale?

Share your thoughts below:

I think that there are various ways to help put an end to the global racism in health. We would firstly need to take accountability and recognise that there is still racism and discrimination in our healthcare systems.

We would also need to decolonize the medical education, starting with the new generation of medical and support staff, so that they do not continue with racist views going forward. For example, something like an anti-racist training at the beginning of the year.

There would also need to be responsibility for change. The government, and institutions would need to make control and be responsible to advocate for change within.

International systems/ structures such as the WHO should monitor and set global benchmarks to ensure that there is equitable healthcare, and that systematic racism will not continue.

In South Africa we do not have control over what happens globally and how they act on their policies but we would need to start making changes locally and then globally. If we focus on the problem areas of racism in our area first, then it would generate a spark that could possibly change the global sector.

Systematic racism can only be stopped if we have an ongoing action, if we keep each other accountable. And if we measure progress locally first and then continue on a global scale.

