

## 2018-19 DH LAC Report – Cultural Awareness & Self Reflection

In collaboration with Luciana Diniz of the ESOL Dept., both ESOL class and DH 101 class met for approximately 35 minutes and spent time “speed” talking with students about their cultures and dental healthcare. After introducing themselves to each other and establishing where the ESOL students were from, the DH students asked one question and spent 5 minutes talking with the ESOL student about their answer. Students were stopped after 5 minutes and then moved to a different student. They introduced themselves again and then posed the second question and interacted for 5 minutes. This process was repeated until all 7 questions were answered. The questions used included:

1. Are there dentists available to everyone in your country? Are there some people who don't have access to dental care?
2. Is dental care in your country expensive? Can everyone pay for dental care in your country? What happens if they can't?
3. When was the last time you were to the dentist and why? Did you go to the dentist when you were younger?
4. What did your parents tell you about taking care of your teeth? (Is it different from now?)
5. When you go to the dentist, who can you see in a dental office?
6. How do you take care of your mouth/teeth?
7. What kinds of foods do you usually eat?

Assessment questions were developed for the DH1 students to answer prior to the discussions as a Pre- Speed Culturing assessment and then followed up by a Post- Speed Culturing assessment, consisting of the same questions. The answers were then scored and compared by a team of 4 faculty members (1 FT faculty and 3 PT faculty members). The scoring team was calibrated using the rubric.

All four faculty scores were averaged on both Pre- and Post- scores, then compared to each other to determine any changes represented by the DH1 students' self-reporting. It was hoped that the post-assessment would reveal that all DH1 students would meet the minimum of a benchmark of “2” or greater to indicate that the DH students had a minimal awareness of other cultures. But regardless of the benchmark, it was hoped that all DH1 students would show an increase in scoring for each student from Pre- to Post-assessment.

# Student Data: Pre-Assessment

## Questions posed to DH1 students

1. How familiar are you with the dental practices of cultures outside of the United States?            0    1    2    3

If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please identify the cultures with which you are familiar and describe some of their dental practices:

2. How aware are you about the need for dental care in other cultures?

0    1    2    3

If you circled

1, 2, or 3, please describe the dental care needs of the cultures with which you are familiar:

3. Are you aware of any difficulties people may have obtaining dental care in other countries?

0    1    2    3

If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please describe some of the barriers to obtaining dental care that exist in other countries:

4. How aware are you of the many different cultures represented here in the US that you may meet in your dental practice?

0    1    2    3

If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please list the cultures likely to be represented in a dental practice in the US:

5. Have you ever considered volunteering in other countries?

Yes - Why?

No – Why not?

## Pre-assessment rubrics for scoring artifacts:

	3	2	1	0
Question	Response shows in depth knowledge; provides three or more examples	Response shows some familiarity and provides 2 examples	Response shows little awareness and provides only one example	Response shows no familiarity and cannot provide any examples
<p>How familiar are you with the dental practices of cultures <u>outside of</u> the United States?</p> <p>0   1   2   3</p> <p>If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please identify the cultures with which you are familiar and describe some of their dental practices:</p>				
<p>2 How aware are you about the need for dental care in other cultures?</p> <p>0   1   2   3</p> <p>If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please describe the dental care needs of the cultures with which you are familiar:</p>				
<p>3 Are you aware of any barriers to obtaining dental care in other countries?</p> <p>0   1   2   3</p> <p>If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please describe some of the barriers to obtaining dental care that exist in other countries:</p>				
<p>4. How aware are you of the many different cultures represented here in the US that you may meet in your dental practice?</p> <p>0   1   2   3</p> <p>If you circled 1, 2, or 3, please list the cultures likely to be represented in a dental practice in the US:</p>				

	Yes	No
5 Have you ever considered volunteering in other countries? Please elaborate:		
	___ Expressed concerns about affordability ___ Wants more information about volunteering opportunities ___ Has already volunteered in other countries ___ Other: _____ _____	___ Expressed concerns about affordability ___ Has already volunteered in other countries ___ Other: _____ _____

**Data collected from Faculty Pre- assessments:**

Number of Students	Have considered Volunteering Internationally	Have not considered volunteering internationally	No response	Total # of artifacts
19	14	1	4	19

**Reasons for answering YES:**

Great opportunity to visit different parts of the world and help people that don't have access to dental care  
 To help educate & also for my own learning/experience  
 to provide proper oral care & instruction to people who don't have access to dental care  
 I feel like God put me in DH school to serve His people who may not receive care otherwise  
 I would love to serve once a year in Peru as a volunteer hygienist to give back to the world  
 It would be rewarding to volunteer in a country with limited access to health care and dental treatments  
 I have been fortunate in my access to care, I would like to have the opportunity to provide access to others.  
 Being able to utilize my skills to make a big difference in patients lives when they don't have access to dental care

I feel like being culturally diverse is very important and with certain areas of the world not being educated on oral health I would love to help.

I have always found the differences in our cultures approach to healthcare fascinating  
 I would love to learn more and help others in need, really want to do this!

My dad is a surgeon and provides care in Guatemala every year and I was able to witness the impact of western medicine on those without access to healthcare.

To travel & learn & experience other cultures

I think it would be very rewarding to help people that need treatment and they also appreciate the care.

**Reasons for answering NO:**

I don't want to get caught in the white savior mindset, which is what happens extremely often when white americans or white europeans volunteer in countries that are primarily non-white.\* Also the US healthcare system is a complete joke and if I'm going to volunteer anywhere, its going to be here, where millions of americans are in need of help while they struggle to exist in a socioeconomic system that was designed to oppress them. This is a loaded topic and I don't have space to get into all of it. Volunteer work is wonderful, but not when it turns into what I described above. Personally, I choose to make conscious effort not to participate in something that is hugely influenced by white supremacy and that includes checking myself when volunteering with cultures and ethnicities other than my own in the US.

**Post-Assessment Rubric for scoring artifacts:**

(Same as Pre-Assessment)

With 2 additional questions:

1. After hearing from the panel, has your opinion about volunteering in other countries changed? Why/Why not?
2. Any other additional comments? Please feel free to add them here!

**Data collected from faculty assessments: Did students change mind about volunteering as compared to Pre-assessment:**

Number of Students	Have considered Volunteering Internationally	Have not considered volunteering internationally	No response	Total # of artifacts
19	14	1	4	19
	Would now consider volunteering	Still would not consider volunteering	No Response	
	17	2	0	

**Reasons for changing their minds:**

- YES:**
1. I met incredible people and learned there is a need especially for preventive care and OHI
  2. I always wanted to volunteer in other countries, this just confirmed my opinion
  3. Dental work in other countries is costly and people need more education/resources available.

**NO:**

1. My life circumstances wouldn't allow it. I also see big need here in the US
2. No. I trust that there are educated and capable people in all countries who are able to help their fellow citizens who are of lower socioeconomic and less educated backgrounds. I don't think volunteering internationally is a bad thing, I just think too many people do it because they get the idea that the US is so amazing and can help the world when most countries have very capable citizens who already do that kind of good work for others.

**Additional Comments:**

1. I loved interacting and learning info from people that have had the experience! :)
2. This exercise was extremely helpful in breaking the ice in talking to strangers and the public, potential language barriers and very informative. I can't wait to take my first mission trip and help others in need!
3. It was nice to meet them and learn more about their cultures. This was a great exercise. I learned a lot about how people who are not from the U.S. view the U.S. healthcare system. Example: one woman told me she knew how expensive it is here so she had her whole family get check ups and leanings before they moved to the U.S.
4. Good experience! We loved this exercise, very interesting, engaging and fun! It was great to learn from our peers from around the world, really inspiring! Hopefully I can travel/volunteer once I graduated from the program.
5. This was a great experience to talk with them and hear how their cultures care/lack of care for their oral health. It makes me proud how much we do here to treat and educate and promote good oral health.

## **Data from Faculty Assessment: See Appendix I**

### **Comparing Pre-Assessment Scores to Post-Assessment Scores**

- Question #1:
  - 5/19 (26%) students met benchmark @ Post- vs. 2/19 (10%) @ Pre-
  - 16/19 (84%) students increased their cultural awareness
  - Avg Score Pre: .31 vs. 1.53 Post score (increase of 1.21)
- Question #2:
  - 8/19 (42%) students met benchmark @ Post- vs. 1/19 (5%) @ Pre-
  - 16/19 (84%) students increased their cultural awareness
  - Avg Student Score Pre: .75 vs. 1.65 Post score (increase of .9)
- Question #3:
  - 7/19 (37%) students met benchmark @ Post- vs. 3/19 (15%) @ Pre-
  - 11/19 (59%) students reported an increase in their cultural awareness
  - Avg Student Score Pre: 1.36 vs. 1.51 Post score (increase of .15)
- Question #4:
  - 9/19 (47%) students met benchmark @ Post- vs. 9/19 (47%) @ Pre-

- 13/19 (68%) students reported an increase in their cultural awareness
- Avg Student Score Pre: 1.54 vs. 1.68 (increase of .14)

**What did the SAC learn about this project?**

***Needs to be finished after SAC discussion....***