



Evaluation of a pilot interprofessional Arclight workshop for healthcare students in Rwanda

Promoting collaborative practice in eye health.

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Background

Preventable and treatable visual impairment affects more than 1 billion people worldwide. Rwanda has an estimated visual impairment prevalence of 3.7% amongst the 12 million inhabitants. Around one third of this demand could be addressed through a more integrated and collaborative approach, particularly in primary eye care services.

All health care systems whether found in high or low resource countries are over-stretched by ever increasing burden of disease and ever reducing budgets with limited human resources. Interprofessional education (IPE) is defined as "occasion when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care" CAIPE (2002). IPE is proven to have positive impact on collaborative practice.

Aims

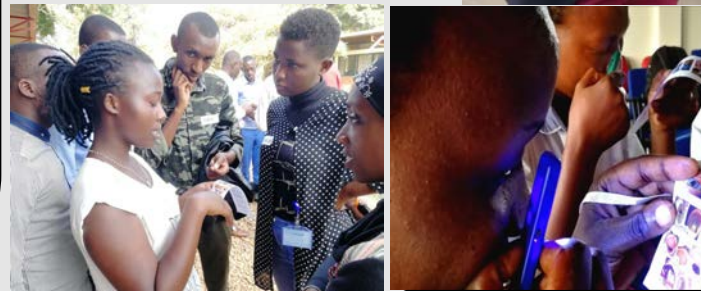
To deliver an IPE ophthalmic care training to different health professional students then evaluate its impact on ophthalmic knowledge and perceived confidence.

Methodology

- 9 half day training sessions were delivered by an inter-professional faculty at the University of Rwanda.
- Training package (with pre and post assessments:)

Visual acuity, anterior segment,
Red reflex and Fundoscopy

The Arclight as a Vehicle to deliver IPE



Professions involved

• Nursing students	=	112
• Clinical Officers (CO)	=	20
• Medical students	=	31
• Ophthalmic (CO)	=	16
Total	=	179

References:

1. O'Carroll V, Sagahutu JB, Ndayambaje D, Kayiranga D, Fiston Kitema G, Rujeni N, et al. Evaluation of a pilot interprofessional Arclight™ workshop for healthcare students in Rwanda: promoting collaborative practice in eye health. J Interprof Care. 2020;00:1–4.
2. World Health Organization. World report on vision. Vol. 214, World health Organization. 2019. 1–160 p.
3. Arclight. Arclight™ | Ophthalmoscope & Otoscope | Solar LED Ophthalmoscope & Otoscope [Internet]. [cited 2021 Jan 27]. Available from: <https://arclightscope.com/>

Results

Confidence Scores

- Overall confidence improved
60% pre to 85% post (p<0.001)
- Clinical medical officers 28%
- Medical students 24%
- Nursing (degree) 30%
- Nursing diploma 26%
- Ophthalmic Clinical Officers 4%

Clinical Knowledge

- Corneal ulcer 41.9% to 73.% (p<0.001)
- Squint 56.8% to 75.5% (p<0.001)
- Cataract 95% to 95%

Conclusion

- ✓ IPE feasible at the University of Rwanda
- ✓ IPE approach could enhance collaborative practice for eye health promotion
- ✓ Students gained eye care knowledge, skill and confidence
- ✓ The Arclight contributed as an effective tool and vehicle for all the professions
- ✓ IPE can complement current blindness prevention approaches in Rwanda.