

THE DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC EDUCATION IN ETHIOPIA: 15 YEARS OF TAAPP

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Background: Ethiopia, in the horn of Africa, now has a population of over 100 million people. Up until 2003, there were only 9 practicing psychiatrists in the country, all of whom were trained abroad.

Aims/Objectives: The Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Project (TAAPP) was created in 2003 as an educational collaboration between the Departments of Psychiatry in Addis Ababa University and the University of Toronto to meet the educational needs of a new three-year postgraduate training program in psychiatry at Addis Ababa University.

Methods: Two UofT faculty and a resident travel to AAU twice a year, for one month. During these 4 weeks of teaching, they have 3 afternoons of classroom teaching weekly, with the rest spent in clinical teaching and rounds. Each one-month curriculum is developed in response to the educational needs of the program.

Outcomes: The first 7 Ethiopian psychiatry residents graduated in 2006. We have shared in training the first 80 Ethiopian psychiatrists boosting the number of Ethiopian psychiatrists to over 90. Over 90% of new graduates stay and work in the country.

Discussion/Implications: The Ethiopian psychiatrists, now a critical mass, have lobbied successfully to change mental health services from an asylum model and toward the integration of mental health services into all levels of health care; requiring the training of all health care workers in mental health. The first six Departments of Psychiatry have been opened by new graduates outside Addis Ababa. Another important partnership has been to promote accessibility of Western mental health services in partnership and integration with the traditional and spiritual healers. TAAPP has expanded from meeting the need for trainers of mental health professionals to include research collaborations, community and humanitarian services, implementation projects, adapting culturally relevant treatment modalities, and curriculum developments which directly and indirectly are impacting the national mental health system.

Author List

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Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to describe the TAAPP partnership and its' essential components.
2. Participants will be able to identify successful strategies in the design and implementation of an educational partnership.

References

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