

# **INTEGRATING CULTURAL HUMILITY AND AWARENESS IN UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHIATRY EDUCATION IN SOMALILAND: AN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC COLLABORATION**

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## **Background**

Somaliland is a de facto state in the horn of Africa which internationally northern part of Somalia. This region is stable and has a thriving democracy and attracts international partnerships in medical education.

Due to the limited number of clinical specialists and medical teachers, the country has several medical schools. In addressing such shortage in teaching faculty international department of psychiatry became the first department of clinical specialty in the country.

Currently, the faculty teach undergrad mental health course to medical students. Faculty are based in the United Kingdom (King's College London), United States of America (New York University and Yale Medical School) with the leadership/coordination of Somaliland native (Amoud University) and a current psychiatry resident at Saint Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

## **Aims/Objectives/Issues of Focus**

- Appraise culturally sensitive and oriented curriculum in psychiatry education at Somaliland medical schools.

- Demonstrate mental health concepts through Somali culture while teaching USMLE level course intended to key clinical competency skills.

## **Methods/Proposition**

Somali literature, music and poetry examples showing clinical aspects of mental health was added into each chapter of the course. The faculty designed a pre and post course survey to evaluate the course impact.

## **Results/Potential Outcomes**

A significant number of students reported the course connected their understanding of mental health to their identity and culture (68%). A 82% of them also pointed out the course made it easier for them to understand the topics much easier and quicker.

## **Discussion/Implications**

The course shows the importance of addressing cultural issues like identity and literature in mental health teaching. It raises students' knowledge of psychiatry as both medical specialty and its relationship to sociology, anthropology and spirituality.

The approach can also be applied to other parts of the world where English culture and language are not the main language of scientific communication.

## **Full List of Authors**

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## Learning Objectives

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

1. Translate cultural concepts as a base of understanding the psychiatry diagnostic criteria, psychopathology and clinical presentations
2. Assess patients' understanding the presentation of patients through well informed cultural perspectives