

Actor Simulations

Incorporating Jewish, Chinese, and Mexican Culture: Addressing Cognition, Anxiety, and Suicide in an Undergraduate Health Assessment Class

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Scenarios

Developed patients with cultural identities which included: A 75 year old Mexican woman named Maria Gonzalez was used in the mini mental health exam. A 36 year old Chinese woman named Amy Liu was used in the anxiety exam, and a 47 year old Jewish woman named Janet Cohen was used in the suicide risk assessment.

Objective

Enhance student learning by performing vignettes, using student actors, to address the assessment of cognition, anxiety, and suicide while also focusing on the culture of patients.



Practice Makes Perfect

Rehearsed Vignettes occurred with the student actor and nurse (professor). The research assistant acted as an audience to provide feedback in rehearsals.

Cultures,	Health Practices	Communications
Chinese	Acupuncture Herbal medicine and tea Tai Chi Mental illness: Brings shame to the family and is stigmatized.	Importance is placed in looking someone in the eye The oldest person is greeted first
Mexican	<i>Mal de Ojo</i> (evil eye) <i>Susto</i> Reliance on a <i>Curandero</i> Mental illness: Brings shame on the family	Women pat each other on the right forearm or shoulder rather than shake hands. Men shake hands until they know someone well, before hugging and back slapping. People stand much closer to each other and have far stronger eye contact than in many other cultures.
Jewish	Mental illness: hidden from family members because of fear of community knowledge Boils: chopped onions make a compress, apply to infections. Colds: fluids, aspirin, rest. Insomnia: glass of wine. Muscle aches: message with alcohol. Sore throat: gargle with salt water; tea with lemon and honey (Spector, 162-164)	Some Orthodox Jews do not shake hands with members of the opposite sex, and prefer to only greet verbally. Jewish people typically speak the language of the country in which they live; yet the language in prayer is Hebrew. All body language and behavior should be modest and proper among observant Jewish people

Evaluation

Student Comments:

The actor (patient) did a good job It's helpful to see "real life situations" vs reading about it in a book
I am a student at St. Joes and I think this would be great to incorporate into our program
Definitely helps as I am a visual learner.

This could also apply to clinical areas getting ready for other exams as well used to conduct physical exam

Course Professor Comments: I think it gave the students the opportunity to see the general way in which all of the conditions could spread out from an interview and reveal more issues. It also allowed them to see how one might intervene with a patient in their everyday world

Overall Evaluation of Effectiveness of Simulations – student rated a 4.8

N=5

* 1= not helpful 2= somewhat helpful 3= satisfactory 4= very helpful 5=excellent