

Ethnogeriatric Training and its Impact on Perceived Change In Cultural Competency and Behavior of Health Care Professionals

Gigi Smith
Department of Occupational Therapy
Center on Health Aging in Multicultural Populations
Research Symposia II
November 4, 2009

Background & Significance

- ▶ Ethnogerontology addresses the study of aging from the perspective of diversity
- ▶ Ethnogeriatric education seeks to improve knowledge, attitudes and skills of the participants
- ▶ Cultural competency
- ▶ Lack of evidence in the literature to support that ethnogeriatric education results in positive effects on the learner, their behavior or skill in working with an elderly, ethnically diverse population

Research Gaps

Lack of research devoted to ethnogerontology & ethnogeriatric education

Lack of evidence in the literature that examines the effectiveness of ethnogeriatric education on changes in participant's knowledge, skills and behavior

Lack of evidence to support positive effects of ethnogeriatric education on older adults from culturally diverse backgrounds

Well's Institutional Model of Cultural Development

- ▶ Continuum of cultural understanding

Cultural incompetence → cultural knowledge → cultural awareness → cultural sensitivity → cultural competence → cultural proficiency

Cultural competence & proficiency = Behavior Change

Stanford Geriatric Education Center



SGEC & SJSU Collaboration

CURRICULUM IN ETHNOGERIATRICS ETHNIC SPECIFIC MODULES



Research Questions

- ▶ What is the interaction between participation in classroom based ethnogeriatric training & a change in self perception of specific knowledge, skills and attitudes?
- ▶ What is the association between these self perceived attitudinal changes and a change in behavior in the clinical setting?
- ▶ What participant demographic characteristics have an influence on (a) changes in self perception of cultural competency & (b) change in behavior?

Method

- ▶ Secondary data analysis
 - **Stanford Geriatric Education Center**
 - Participant information form
 - Pre-training SGEC Survey Questionnaire
 - Post-training SGEC Survey Questionnaire
 - Action Plan Follow Up Survey

Study Limitations

- ▶ Secondary Data Analysis Design

Delimitation

- ▶ Lack of control over follow up process
- ▶ Data obtained through follow up survey may not be sufficient to determine if an actual behavior change took place

Potentially Confounding Factors

- ▶ Participant's comprehension of the content of the training classes based on education level, prior experience, skill of the instructor, motivation of the participant
- ▶ Lack of control of specific content that the individual instructor may have wished to include
- ▶ Multiple unrelated factors that may interfere or prevent the participant with following through with a change in behavior

Implications

- ▶ Add to the body of literature seeking to understand the efficacy of ethnogeriatric education for health care professionals.
- ▶ Provide evidence to contribute to the refinement and further development of ethnogeriatric training programs which lead to the acquisition of knowledge, skills and behavior change in the health care professional and ultimately to improved health outcomes in the elderly, ethnically diverse population.

Thank you!