

Nottingham Doctors Think Globally

In early 2006, Skillshare International agreed an exciting new partnership with the medical school at the University of Nottingham. This enabled us to develop a new Special Study Module on Global Health and Development (SSM) which was offered for the first time in August 2006 to 14 fourth and fifth year medical students in Nottingham, bringing the total number of participants in the East Midlands to 100.

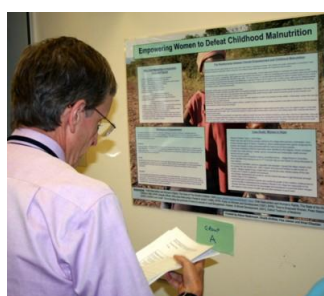
Working in partnership with the medical schools in Leicester and Nottingham, we promote critical thinking about international development and its impact on health; we delivered the first SSM to third year students in Leicester in 2002-3. The SSM exposes students to a wider global perspective of health services and develops a deeper understanding of development issues. At undergraduate level we aim to contribute to the training of global doctors, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and values to develop a personal commitment to egalitarian values in wealth distribution and health care access and to recognise the different factors that contribute to global health inequalities.



Dr. Anne Bridgewater from Nottingham medical school, a former development worker herself, and Dr. Raúl Pardíñaz-Solís from Skillshare International jointly coordinated the Nottingham SSM. One of the main innovations is that the module is targeted at fourth and fifth year students, thereby requiring a more in-depth analysis and engagement with the issues. We have established a committed team of seven returned development workers, academics and supporters to share their knowledge and experience in the field. The Nottingham SSM covers subjects such as infectious diseases, the role of the pharmaceutical industry, indoor air pollution, the impact of worker migration and issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Teaching methods range from

problem-based learning and case studies to debates, participatory learning and presentations. Raúl explained that, *"it can take a while for the students to get into the participatory learning as they are used to more formal learning."*

Once students warm to the idea they can find it a refreshing change. Kate Cocker, a fourth year medical student who completed the SSM in Nottingham, summed up her experience of the module, *"I have learned how important it is to make use of the resources around you and not go into projects with unrealistic expectations. There is a lot more to working in development than handing out a few vaccines."* Dr. Hala Abuateya who taught a session on health and human rights as part of the Nottingham SSM says, *"Students were actively engaged in a good debate. I am impressed by their forward thinking and sensitive approach towards patients."*



Our PPA with DFID means that Skillshare International staff and returned development workers can deliver the programmes in Leicester and Nottingham, and lever in-kind and financial contributions to make the work possible. Reaching more students across the UK will demand additional financial and human resources. Our aim is to expand this development awareness programme to reach students of other health professions such as nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

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