

Identifying Research Priorities for Health Professions Education Research in Sub-Saharan Africa using a Modified Delphi Method

van Schalkwyk et al. (2020)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

health professions education research

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Africa - Congo; Africa - Ethiopia; Africa - Ghana; Africa - Kenya; Africa - Lesotho; Africa - Namibia; Africa - Nigeria; Africa - South Africa; Africa - Tanzania; Africa - Uganda; Africa - Zambia; Africa - Zimbabwe; North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

Recent increases in health professions education (HPE) research in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), though substantial, have predominantly originated from single institutions and remained uncoordinated. A shared research agenda can guide the implementation of HPE practices to ultimately influence the recruitment and retention of the health workforce.

What was the objective?

to generate and prioritize a list of research topics for health professions education research (HPER) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

What was the outcome?

a list of 10 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

April 2019 - October 2019

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to list potential research topics based on question: What are possible research questions, topics, or areas of focus that should be a priority in a health professions education research agenda for sub-Saharan Africa?, 26 topics were suggested. Step 2: Delphi round 2: participants asked to rate importance of topics. Step 3: Delphi round 3: participants asked to re-rate importance

Which stakeholders took part?

Dentists, medical doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologist, public health experts, scientists. Delphi round 1: 23 participants. Delphi round 2: 90 participants. Delphi round 3: 52 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

A core group of 62 AFRE health educators and investigators, members of the AFRE health HPER Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising colleagues from the region with an expressed interest in HPER, were invited to participate.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.