

Raising Oral Health Awareness through Outreach Projects

MODULE: POH 570 and GAP 271

Course description:

Public oral health

Community challenge

School outreach and Phelophepa train

- To expose students to people living in different communities and with different socioeconomic backgrounds
- To expose students to different communities so that they are able to identify different oral health conditions in the communities
- To expose students to the difficulties of communities to access oral health facilities
- To expose students to the great need for dental care
- To show the impact of delivering dental health services utilising a mobile dental unit in a school-based setting and on the Phelophepa train

behaviour management of children.

They work outside the comfort zone of the clinical setting provided at the oral and dental hospital, reaching out to the children instead of waiting for them to be brought to the hospital.

- Oral hygiene and dental students on the Phelophepa train are able to integrate with other health, optometry and nursing students to provide optimum care to communities in rural areas.
- It also allows students to improve on time management and improve clinical skills and confidence when providing dental treatment to patients in a high volume.
- Communities gain access to health care facilities.
- Empowering young children and adults by providing education and skills so as to improve oral and general health. The communities also receive toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Opportunity description

Screening of Gr 1 to 3 learners

- Provide oral health education
- Provide preventive oral health services
- Provide curative treatment (tooth restoration)
- Attend to dental emergencies

Community partners:

- Government primary schools
- Transnet
- Colgate
- GSK
- Johnson and Johnson

Impact (community and students)

- This learning experience will assist students in their community service year.
- Students are afforded the opportunity to develop additional skills in applying

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