Implementation and Effectiveness of the Asia Pacific HIV Practice Course: Building Capacity of Healthcare Workers in the Region

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BACKGROUND

- Building the capacity of healthcare workers (HCW) can positively influence service quality and patient care
- The Asia Pacific HIV Practice Course (APHPC) aims to improve knowledge and skills and encourage patient-centered care

METHODS

- Didactic and interactive learning approaches, covering psychosocial, biomedical and service delivery topics
- 100 HCWs have attended the course over two years (2016 & 2017)
- Participants from Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, and Vietnam
- A paired-samples t-test was conducted to compare mean (M) confidence levels pre- and post-course

RESULTS

- Significant improvement in mean confidence scores pre-course (M=3.40, SD=0.27) and post-course (M=4.09, SD=0.13); t(11) = 13.1958, p<0.0001, seen across all topics (Figure)
- Most marked improvement found in models of care and barriers to care, topics that are not routinely or explicitly covered
- Changes made to local practice include staff training, revisions to counselling model and the implementation of M&E structures

CONCLUSION

The APHPC is an impactful & highly evaluated course. To ensure the course continues to influence and improve practice, the content of the course can be expanded to cover non-standard topics, and further interactive learning experiences can be incorporated

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