"Addressing the needs of children with complex communication needs and their partners in areas of extreme poverty: To Haiti and back"

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Disability in Low-and Middle-Income Nations

Colloquium: 4/25/2017

- 15% of the world's population, or 1 billion people.
 experience some form of disability (World Health Organization, 2011)
- Individuals will disabilities are at significant risk for living in poverty (World Health Organization, 2011)
- Two-thirds of individuals who live below the international poverty line live in low-and middle-income nations (Rank & Yadama, 2007)
- According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities all individuals with disabilities have the right to freedom o expression and access to information using communication systems (United Nations, 2006)

Disability in Low-and Middle-Income Nations

- However, many individuals with communication disabilities, especially those who live in extreme poverty:
 - Are excluded from participation in daily activities
 - Have limited access to health care, education, and employment opportunities

(World Health Organization & The World Bank, 2011; United Nations, 2006)

AAC in Low- and Middle-Income Nations

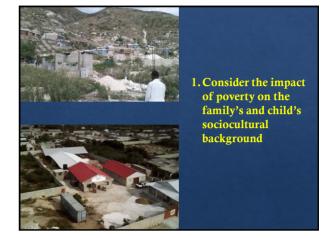
- AAC strategies can serve as tools to achieve basic freedoms and maximize participation in society
- The field of speech-language pathology is in its infancy in many low-and middle-income nations (Muttiah, 2015)
- Many opportunities exist for SLPs to travel to low resource areas on volunteer programs with non-profit organizations and university programs.
 - It is essential that individuals who participate in these trips are astutely aware of the needs of these highly vulnerable populations

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Cultural Humility Approach

- ♦ A mechanism that can be used to develop cultural competence
- ♦ Comprised of three tenants:
 - <u>Self-awareness</u>: consideration of how one's background, beliefs, values, experiences, and biases shape the lens one uses to view the world
 - Openness: willingness to learn and acknowledge the cultural experiences and perceptions unique to each individual
 - ♦ Transcendence: "acceptance of something greater than self" (Morris, et al., 2005, p. 1331) and recognition that each individual plays a unique role within the process of achieving a common goal

(Morris, Brotheridge, & Urbankski, 2005; Ortega & Faller, 2011)



Haiti and Extreme Poverty

- Haiti is considered the poorest country in the Americas (World Bank, 2016)
 - ♦ 54% of the population lives below the international poverty line (UNICEF, 2016)
 - \diamond Adult literacy rate of 48.7% (UNICEF, 2013)
 - ♦ 2010 earthquake is second highest cause of disability in the country (Danquah et al., 2014)











