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THE NETWORK
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Facultad de Medicina



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Honing Social Accountability Skills in Medical Students using Participatory Edutainment in Community Related Projects
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Building the Capacity of Future Leaders in a Socially Accountable World</i>
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Content

BACKGROUND: Medical students in India are exposed to social and preventive medicine as part of their medical training in the third year of residency. During this period, they are taught to interact with the community as well as take care of their health needs. However, this exposure is not sufficient to encourage a sense of sustained commitment and accountability to society. The Student Wing of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (Haifa) at Kasturba Medical College, MAHE, Manipal, India was established with the sole purpose of improving ethics and social accountability among medical students through debates, talks and community projects. **METHODS:** This paper presents a specific project undertaken called 'Helping Hands, Helping Minds' where student members disseminate information to school children on ethics and individual rights in rural primary and residential schools through an educational approach called 'participatory edutainment'. This concept of supporting education through entertainment has been widely used to teach children. Here an educational drama is enacted and the children are encouraged to participate and discuss their views. **RESULTS:** Active involvement in community projects enabled medical students to develop a sustained sense of accountability to the society through critical thinking and hone soft skills such as empathy, reflective observation, communication, teamwork, and leadership traits. **CONCLUSION:** Social accountability skills can be honed through various community projects and should be incorporated into the medical curriculum.