A context sensitive approach to international and local health work

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Overview

- Medical construction of relevance
- Health work and the local context
- Insights from the Medical Peace Work approach for new research/projects
- Conclusion

Medically relevant facts

- The medical construction of facts
  - The inclusion and exclusions of information in analyses
  - Conceptualization of the medically relevant objects of investigation

Health work and the local context

- The local context is affected by the work of health professionals
  - The core of the MPW framework
- The work of health professionals is affected by the local context

Diabetes and Migration

- *Samuels, S. E., S. Stone-Francisco and Z. Cardoza Clayson 2004* ***An Ethnographic Case Study: Synthesis & Mapping Environmental Factors Related to Diabetes in Six Ethnic Communities.*** *In Samuels & Associates, The Social & Environmental Factors related to Diabetes: Implications for Diabetes Prevention, Management and treatment Programs, a series of case studies. Woodland Hills: the Californian Endowment*
- "diabetes is a complex disease influenced by social, cultural, economic, historical, behavioral and environmental factors, and it must be understood in the context of the community environment" (Samuels et al. 2004: 5)

Health work and the local context

- The local context is affected by the work of health professionals
  - The core of the MPW framework
- The work of health professionals is affected by the local context

MPW and new research

- MPW framework relevant to health care provision both locally and globally
- In the teaching of MPW its local significance should also be explored

Conclusion

- The MPW framework allows students to expand the notion of medically relevant facts to include the local context, an expansion which can inform research projects internationally as well as locally