E-Poster

EP-818

Cinema Dakar - Empowering Senegalese Disability School and Leprosy Community With Video Production Skills

Topic: Disability Studies

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BACKGROUND

Create video production vocational program for both youth and adults in disability settings in Dakar, Senegal

METHODS

American paraplegic photojournalist, Tom Haig used a creative fund raising strategy (GoFundMe, public speaking, multi-band rock concerts) to raise money and equipment to create video production vocational programs for both adults and children. Using donated computers, cameras, tripods and microphones, Haig taught video production to students at the Centre Talibou Dabo (CTD), Dakar's k-12 disability school, and patients at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Ordre de Malte (CHOM), West Africa's leading leprosy hospital.

RESULTS

Students at CTD had a wide range of disability and language issues and took several weeks to learn how to operate the equipment. However, by combining students into teams they were collectively able to produce videos. Due to privacy concerns, these videos are mostly unpublished.

Patients at CHOM, however, produced more than a dozen titles which have been viewed more than 10,000 times. It was the first ever comprehensive video resume of a leprosy hospital.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic halted both projects after only four months in-country.

CONCLUSION

Despite the pandemic halting the projects, the main goal of the vocational training was widely met. The students at CTD became minor celebrities as they set up cameras and used each other as subjects. The entire school was thrilled to be included and there was a large request to be included for the next session.

The resident patients at CHOM were completely transformed by the project. Before the project they spent most of their time in dorms with nothing to do but use their phones. But the video production project brought a huge bolt of energy to the campus. The entire staff, from the director and surgeons to cooks and facilities workers bought into the project creating a vibrant participatory community, where before there was a lifeless environment.

Ref: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNCe-H0EAtl3jPxWtC5LskQ

Disability students at CTD and Leprosy residents at CHOM both reported "life-changing" experiences in working with the project. More than 30 videos were produced.

Statement of Disclosures

None

Doi: 10.5606/archisprm.2026.EP-818

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