The Challenges of Providing Free Resources

Rebecca L. Weintraub1,2, Julie Rosenberg Talbot1,2, Joseph J. Rhatigan3
1The Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard University, Boston, MA, United States; 2Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Division of Global Health Equity, Boston, MA, United States

Background

- The number of students studying global health or medicine each year is growing
- Global health delivery is an interdisciplinary field that requires interdisciplinary training in strategy, management, and leadership
- A limited number of resources available to teach these skills exist, and promoting uptake of existing resources also presents a challenge

Methods

- Created over 30 Harvard-Business style teaching cases with accompanying analytical teaching notes that capture interdisciplinary issues faced in field
- Cases expose students to a range of decision dilemmas, provide virtual experiences, and promote critical thinking skills through independent analysis, as well as case-method class discussion
- Invested financially and intellectually in creating the teaching tools.
- Worked with the following to publish our cases online, open-access, promote uptake, and expand access:
  Harvard Business Publishing (HBP) - a known and trusted source for teaching materials in the business, public policy, and management world; original publisher of cases
  ech - “the world’s largest case clearing house”; secondary source for publication
  GHDonline.org – third source for online publication and open-access offering (our own website)
- Formed a Global Health Delivery Faculty Network to work directly with interested faculty from around the world to train them how to teach our cases and incorporate them into curricula

Findings

- Despite qualitatively positive feedback, uptake and use of the cases has been slower than anticipated judging from website downloads.
  1.Harvard Business Publishing (HBP)—In the first year, there were 1,814 downloads
  2.ech—In the first year, there were 79 downloads
  3.GHDonline – 42 organizations from 19 countries from October 1, 2012 to December 26, 2012 downloaded 32 different cases

Conclusions

- Global health delivery educational materials will be required as the field emerges
- The field could benefit from improved educational resource dissemination mechanisms and communication among instructors.
- Cases are available free of charge via www.ghdonline.org/cases

Figure 1: The GHD Case Collection: product titles, disease and topical foci.

Figure 2: Means to access the GHD Case Collection.