



## Improving Cultural Diversity Awareness of Physical Therapy Educators

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**PURPOSE:** The goal of the study was to develop and implement a workshop to improve cultural diversity awareness in a group of Physical Therapy (PT) educators. **RELEVANCE:** In this climate of increasing diversity in the population of patients requiring physical therapy services, PT educators recognize the need to prepare future clinicians to work competently in culturally diverse environments. However, to be able to achieve this goal, these educators should also demonstrate the necessary knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviors reflective of culturally competent individuals. **DESCRIPTION:** Content and class materials for the workshop were developed by the author in close consultation with the workshop facilitator, who is also an expert on cultural diversity. These materials were validated by PT and cultural diversity experts. To determine if the workshop was successful in improving cultural diversity awareness, an assessment instrument was developed. The Cultural Diversity Awareness Questionnaire (CDAQ) underwent content validation, reliability analysis using the Chrombach Alpha statistic and field-testing. The one-day workshop was presented to 12 academic and clinical faculty of a PT program. The one group pretest-posttest experimental design was used. A pretest was administered before the intervention. After the seminar, the participants completed a posttest to determine any changes in the cultural diversity awareness. The one-sample t-test was used to determine statistical significance of the results. The participants were also instructed to complete a course evaluation to determine achievement of instructional objectives and effectiveness of the facilitator in conducting the course. **OBSERVATION:** Results indicate that the reliability of the CDAQ was within statistically acceptable limits. Moreover, one-sample t-test indicates a statistically significant positive change in the pretest and posttest results. This indicates that the intervention was effective in improving the cultural diversity awareness of the participants. Analysis of the results of the workshop evaluation indicates achievement of most of the educational objectives, as well as the effectiveness of the facilitator in leading the workshop. **CONCLUSIONS:** This study provides a solid initial foundation on which a comprehensive cultural competence program can be developed.

