



Global Health Education Student Experiences

Neeta Shroff

Senegambia Region

Summer 2015

"I had the fortunate opportunity to take part in the Global Health Integration Module and Field Practicum Experience course offered by the Drexel University School of Public Health.

"The other participating students included full-time MPH students, executive MPH students, certificate in Global Health students, MD/MPH students and nursing students. Everyone came from such diverse backgrounds and contributed uniquely to the overall learning experience. The course is led by Dr. Shannon Marquez, Dr. James Mock, Professor Al Jatta and Dr. Yanick Vibert.



"We spent a little over two weeks in the Senegambia region, visiting a myriad of health centers from traditional healers to rural health clinics and urban hospitals, focusing on maternal and child health. We were able to learn from leaders at regional health centers under the Ministry of Health and even had the opportunity to shake hands with the President of The Gambia! There was so much to take in regarding the health system in a developing country and how they maximize the utilization of their limited available resources. It was interesting to learn about the large role that culture, tradition, religion, and superstition play in the delivery of health care and obstacles faced by health care practitioners. We also had the amazing opportunity to be trained in neonatal resuscitation for Helping Babies Breathe, so that we could further train health care practitioners working in limited settings.

"The welcoming nature of the Gambian people and friendliness of everyone we interacted with, whether they were students at the local university or public health officials or hospital CEOs, was appreciated by all of us. This unforgettable experience has contributed immensely to my education in public and global health. Finally, it will culminate in the publishing of a book written by all the participating students about our observations and experiences there."



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