

# Review of: "Public Health Student Internship: An Opportunity to Explore System, Self, and Society"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript, "Public Health Student Internship: An Opportunity to Explore System, Self, and Society." This essay includes an assessment of internship experiences in public health and seeks to increase community engagement by students. Thank you for an insightful expression of the need for community-engagement in public health, especially for unique populations.

Excellent points:

The paper is very well-written, notwithstanding the suggestions, below.

The paper is persuasive, albeit a bit out of order.

As a healthcare researcher, and educator of undergraduate and graduate students, I have used many variations of Community Service-learning (CSL), online, remote & on-site. I quite agree with the authors, & the peer-reviewed literature presented, that community-engaged learning and CSL are high-impact educational practices with value to both students & the communities served.

Major suggestions:

1. The first sentence establishes the need for this essay. However, to improve this persuasive essay, the authors may wish to back up these statements: "Although the nucleus of PH actions lies in community interventions, community insights occupy lesser importance in PH academia that prioritizes bio-medical knowledge and managerial competencies for improving access to health benefits. There is a limited focus on community engagement to learn about health-seeking behaviours and collective health actions of community members. In most PH courses, the students are exposed to the community either through health awareness campaigns and community-based medical camps or through visits to healthcare facilities."
2. The second paragraph is unreferenced, & reads more like conclusions. I wonder if it might be more effective to set the stage with the lit review, then pose the objective. Follow with your experiences, then set the stage for referenced high-impact pedagogical solutions. The authors may wish to construct an outline, based on a persuasive essay format.

3. Paragraph 3: The authors may find it more persuasive to “flip” the sentences, and avoid repeated use of the words, “need to...” as well as similar words: should, must, etc.

For example: “The PH academia needs to confront and disrupt this status quo constructively to make future PH providers more empathetic towards communities. (Caron, 2014; Johnson, 2016) This requires attention towards patronizing clinical sciences and respecting social sciences” could be rephrased to ‘An emphasis on the social sciences improves student empathy with communities, thus disrupting an academic emphasis on paternalistic modes of care,’ or some such (feel free to use my words, if you wish).

4. The authors may wish to include data from your peer-reviewed lit review to support the need for alternatives to current practice.

5. Perhaps, this could be used as a framework for “Next Steps” in Community Service-Learning (CSL) for Public Health in India, i.e., propose your next paper, e.g., a curriculum, solutions, barriers, community-engagement steps, cultural implications, etc.

Very minor corrections:

Revise this sentence: “The community-focused internship help PH students.” Consider “helps.”

References: remove extra punctuation

Please feel free to take or leave my suggestions, and best wishes for your success. Thank you; it was a pleasure to read your work, and I sincerely hope you will continue to advocate for community-engaged service-learning internships in public health.