INTRODUCTION

Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIH)
In 2014, the Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIH) was launched. The initiative is a network of passionate individuals and institutions combining their skills and resources in support of key activities to promote social innovation in health.

SIH’s implementing partners, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of the Philippines, the University of Malawi, Makerere University, Uganda, the University of Cape Town, and the Pan American Health Organization joined in 2017. The initiative aims to advance social innovation in health in developing countries. With the ultimate goals of achieving the SDGs and improve the lives of people in the communities in the south through the following thrusts: (1) Promote and Support Social Innovation Research, (2) Strengthen Country Capacity, and (3) Exert Global Influence.

VALIDATION ACTIVITY

- Assessment of the activity: The module was adequate, meeting the set objectives.
- Comprehensive & concise content with good selection of SIH cases.
- The activity design and facilitators were very helpful in understanding the topic.
- The group activities facilitated the understanding the concept and effective sharing of ideas.
- The videos used were helpful in integrating theory and real-life practices.
- Good facilitating skills and time management are required for activities to be effective.

CONCEPT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

Social innovation is: Defined as a solution (process, product, practice, market mechanism) implemented through diverse organizational models.
- A response to a systemic health challenge within a geographic context developed by a range of actors through engagement and collaboration within the community.

RESULTS

Co-creation and design activity
To gain thoughts and insights on the module, a two-hour collaborative session was done. Participants (n=10) consisted of medical interns in their community medicine rotation, a second-year family medicine resident, and the chief resident of the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

- Assessment of the module:
  - Innovative in the way it approached healthcare delivery challenges.
  - Relevant in the country’s setting, especially in rural and geographically disadvantaged (GDA) areas.
  - Good in focusing programs tailored to the needs of the community.
  - Positive aspects of the module:
    - Participants were able to appreciate SIH’s plan.
    - Promoting effective communication skills.
    - The concept was consistent with the primary healthcare approach, relevant and applicable in both their hospital and community rotation.

- Suggestions for improvement:
  - Needs more time needed for browsing through the pre-activity materials.
  - More time needed for each of the activities/unit.
  - Provide local SIH cases to highlight the different stages of SIH.
  - More creative transition from the format for succeeding definition of the different stages of SIH.
  - List in-person materials on SIH for further readings.

CONCLUSION

The use of the module on social innovation in health as a source material for professionals and educators involved in teaching health professionals, workers, and students can help identify social innovations in health. Explain the various stages and forms of social innovation in the real-world setting. These social innovations can be the possible models for other communities to help address their healthcare concerns. Social innovation in health provides a lens through which transformation and change in health delivery and health systems can be viewed and approached.

OBJECTIVES & PURPOSE

The introductory module on SIH is developed to educate students and mentors in the health professions on the concept of social innovation as it is adopted to health, and to help them identify existing solutions and initiatives in addressing local health challenges they meet in the community. It is also envisioned to be used in SIH advocacy and training of practicing primary care physicians, community health workers, policy makers, local chief executives and communities.