

Health Education as a Tool for Equity and Justice

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Health inequities are a significant barrier to the health and well-being of people around the globe. Inequities are often the consequence of social determinants and are the result of unjust and unfair conditions that prevent people from being able to maintain and enhance their health. Social determinants of health, including income level, race/racism, education level, and food security (to name a few), can have profound outcomes on individual and community health. In order to address social determinants of health, multiple sectors and stakeholders must work together. One critical stakeholder being schools; in particular, health educators. Health educators are uniquely positioned to address equity and justice in their health education courses. In this session we will explore how health educators can be social justice educators who raise awareness of issues and support the development of skills, attitudes and motivations to affect social action.