



Course: Enhancing Equity in Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness; Interview with Sonny Patel: 40 under 40 Public Health Catalyst Award Winner 2022, Syllabus

About this course:

If you are interested in emergencies, disasters, conflicts --or seeking a foundation to build community resilience or disaster risk reduction -- this course is for you! Sonny S. Patel, a fellow with the Transcultural Conflict Violence Initiative and a visiting scientist of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, discusses both direct and indirect effects of emergencies and post-disaster scenarios that heightens already existent inequities in communities.

He mentions multiple types of preventable disasters. Patel details the challenges that confront emergency management and disaster preparedness teams and leaders. He further delineates how to create inter-sectoral collaboration and community engagement utilizing past experiences to influence the present and impact the future -- all whilst maintaining an equity focus. Sonny further explores the contours of the barriers as well as facilitators of health equity whilst describing its three dimensions.

This course was adapted from the Boston Congress of Public Health podcast series 40 under 40 Public Health Catalyst Awards 2022.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding how to build community resilience
- Discussing disaster risk reduction techniques and preventable disasters
- Exploring how health inequities are heightened by post-disaster scenarios and emergencies
- Designing inter-sectoral collaborations and community engagement for disaster preparation and response

Public Health and Social Justice Skills Covered:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Disaster Management

About the Guest:

Sonny S. Patel, MPH, MPhil, is an award-winning researcher and a former National Institutes of Health Fogarty Global Health Scholar. He is a Presidential Fellow in Transcultural Conflict Violence Initiative at Georgia State University and a Visiting Scientist at Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

He has received his Bachelors from University of California, Berkeley, his Masters from University of Southern California (Public Health and Global Health Leadership) and King’s College London (Psychological Medicine). He has developed protocols, programs, and training to build capacity and knowledge in communities worldwide from subject matters in Public Health, Community Health, and Mental Health to specialized topics in Emergency Management, Community Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Patel was recently bestowed in 2021 with the Emerald Publishing Literati Award for Outstanding Research Paper by the Journal of Disaster Prevention and Management. He was named by USAID in India as one of the top DevDisruptors in Mental Health (2020) and by NATO peers in Ukraine as a rising star in Environmental Health and Security in Conflict Zones (2018). Sonny serves as a Public Health and Global Health Executive on advisory committees and board of directors of organizations creating positive social and community impacts, such as The Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center. He is the author of the upcoming book, “Community Resilience When Disaster Strikes: Security and Community Health in UK Flood Zones” published by Springer Nature.

About the host:

Dr. Candice Carpenter serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of HPHR Journal, and is Founder and Co-CEO of The Boston Public Congress of Public Health. She is also Executive Producer of the Great Health Debates. She is a neurosurgeon-in-training, bio and social entrepreneur, educator, and social justice advocate.

She holds an MPH in Public Health Leadership and Health & Social Behavior from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health, an M.B.A. from Oxford University Said Business School, an M.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, an Ed.M. in Mind, Brain, Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a B.A. in Psychology from Yale University.

Terms and Definitions:

Disinformation	Disinformation is false information which is deliberately intended to mislead—intentionally making the misstating facts. Source: American Psychological Association
Misinformation	Misinformation is false or inaccurate information—getting the facts wrong. Source: American Psychological Association

Community resilience	<p>Community resilience is the sustained ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity.</p> <p>Source: Public Health Emergency</p>
Health promotion	<p>Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. It moves beyond a focus on individual behavior towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions.</p> <p>Source: World Health Organization</p>
Injustice	<p>Injustice is unfair treatment: a situation in which the rights of a person or a group of people are ignored.</p> <p>Source: The Britannica Dictionary</p>
Disaster	<p>A disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.</p> <p>Source: United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction</p>
Internal displacement	<p>Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who are forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human-made disasters, but who remain within their own country.</p> <p>Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</p>
Equity	<p>Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable, or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (e.g., sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation).</p> <p>Source: World Health Organization</p>
Sustainable development	<p>Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>Source: International Institute for Sustainable Development</p>
Disaster preparedness	<p>Disaster preparedness consists of a set of measures undertaken in advance by governments, organizations, communities, or individuals to better respond and cope with the immediate aftermath of a disaster, whether it be human-induced or caused by natural hazards. The objective is to reduce the loss of life and livelihoods.</p> <p>Source: European Commission</p>
Research fatigue	<p>Research fatigue occurs when an individual or population of interest tires of engaging with research, consequently avoiding further participation.</p> <p>Source: National Library of Medicine</p>

Faculty/Course Instructor:

Dr. Candice Carpenter serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of HPHR Journal, and is Founder and Co-CEO of The Boston Public Congress of Public Health. She is also Executive Producer of the Great Health Debates. She is a neurosurgeon-in-training, bio and social entrepreneur, educator, and social justice advocate.

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Associate Curriculum Developer:

Dr. Matthew Dwumah-Agyen is a budding public health leader who recently completed a Master's Degree in Public Health in Global Health as a Harvard Presidential scholar. Before committing to a career in Public Health, Matthew served as an Emergency Medicine doctor in a 1000-bed capacity teaching hospital where he witnessed first-hand, the detrimental and perpetual cycle between health and social disparities beyond the hospital environment. He is passionate and interested in giving a voice to the diverse marginalized and underserved population via accurate health education to bridge the gap in health disparities.

Curriculum Contributors:

Musa Isma'il is a passionate and enthusiastic Medical Laboratory Scientist with special interest in Infectious Diseases and Public Health. He graduated from Bayero University Kano with Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science concentration in Medical Virology and Immunology, He is currently a Msc Candidate in Public Health and will be pursuing a doctorate in public health policy in Fall 2023.

Zakariya'u Dauda is a Bachelor of medical laboratory science student at the School of Medical Laboratory Science, Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto (UDUS), Nigeria.