4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)
Stakeholder Participation: Interactive Dialogue Statement

Interactive Dialogue 4:
Leveraging Data and Digital Technologies and Building Effective Institutions for a Resilient Future in Small Island Developing States

Date/Time:
May 29, 2024, 4 PM – 6 PM

Organization:
Sigma Theta Tau International (ECOSOC)

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Interactive Dialogue Statement
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Last year, the World Health Organization reported that half of the population in SIDS are dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases; this is one of many statistics on SIDS that illustrate an unjust burden of disease. Global health inequities, such as this, result from systematic health status, healthcare access, and quality differences among socially different populations. Digital technologies and health informatics are effective strategies to address the social determinants of health that impact 80% of health.

Health equity-focused informatics and digital technologies must be implemented to reduce health disparities and advance health and well-being. Sociotechnical interventions, such as clinical decision support, electronic health records, health information exchanges, telehealth, and other patient-facing technologies, are the most beneficial when evaluating the source of health inequities! Bioanalytics of sociotechnical interventions allow healthcare systems and providers to direct their services to those needing them most by detecting, understanding, and reducing unequal health consequences.

Nurses and other interdisciplinary health informaticists design, implement, and evaluate the equity impact of universal and targeted interventions aimed at social health barriers but also understand and correct biases in datasets and digital technologies. Therefore, we advocate using sociotechnical systems to inform the clinical management of healthcare consumers equitably. SIDS can leverage datasets obtained by sociotechnical systems to investigate health equity-based clinical problems, educate healthcare providers and systems, and adapt workflow integrations while optimizing healthcare delivery, outcomes, and experiences for healthcare consumers.

Research on the introduction of digital health technologies reports substantially decreased incidences of both non-communicable and chronic diseases in marginalized populations. Thus, we strongly encourage SIDS to continue making technological progress by developing an infrastructure for adopting sociotechnical health informatic systems, expanding technological capacity for emerging patient-faced technologies, and increasing the technical literacy of healthcare providers and consumers for sustainable development that improves health economics and financing, enhances population health coverage, eliminates the reliance on foreign digital expertise, and transforms existing patient-level health data into usable/actionable evidence to reduce health disparities.