



SUPPORTING GLOBAL HEALTH EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

RADHIKA DUA – ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE AND RESILIENTAFRICA NETWORK– UGANDA- 2023

Master of Science in Global Health Equity

DR. RACHEL THOMPSON GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY FUND

Radhika partnered with the Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC) and the ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) for her internship. AWAC is an umbrella organization for grassroots female sex worker led organizations in Uganda. RAN is a partnership of universities focused on strengthening the resilience of communities by nurturing and scaling innovations from different Universities to operationalize a scientific, data driven, and evidence based reliance framework for sub Saharan Africa.

Radhika participated in community outreach and events that focused on empowering individuals to advocate for their rights and discuss health concerns in a safe and constructive environment. There was a specific focus on cervical cancer prevention and providing education on cervical cancer screening and HPV testing. Radhika conducted informational interviews with healthcare workers and female sex workers to learn about the knowledge gaps and barriers in education regarding cervical cancer screening and to learn the best approaches for disseminating information among female sex workers. The interviews illuminated misconceptions that women had about the causes of cervical cancer and fears related to screening and highlighted the need for more education that is shared in a culturally appropriate way. Radhika developed an educational script with information about cervical cancer services in Uganda to address the challenges that were identified from the interviews.

Through this internship, Radhika gained firsthand experience engaging with the community and developing culturally appropriate tools to address a health issue of concern. She learned how to work effectively in new environments and developed meaningful relationships with her internship partners. Radhika will take the skills and knowledge she gained from this internship to her future career as a global health leader.

“Being at AWAC was just an incredible opportunity, something I will walk away with forever is the support I had there, I am really grateful to have them in my life, and to call them friends.”

Key learning takeaways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively engaged and learned from the community while providing support to community partners • Developed an interview guide and conducted informational interviews which informed the development of an educational tool regarding cervical cancer screening • Engaged with community organizations that are advocating for the rights and health of female sex workers by participating in events, outreach, and connecting with community members.
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AWAC outreach days to provide resources for female sex workers



Agnes Nyabigambo, ResilientAfrica Network, at Luwero Hospital



AWAC staff and members in AWAC office Kampala, Uganda