

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Scholarly & Creative Works Conference

#10

Presenter: Azan Yousaf

Session & Time: Oral_III / 2:20 to 2:40pm

Room: Guzman 104

Discipline: Social Justice

Faculty Mentor: Emily Wu

ZOO link:
https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71090937040?pwd=ZFaibWRoad9QwjPcu9qzuUaKCXG6ym.1

ZOOM Passcode: DUC

Digital Portfolio URL: https://sites.google.com/students.dominican.edu/azan-yousaf/home

Title: Raising Awareness of Healthcare Disparities in Marin County

Abstract:

This research examines healthcare access disparities among underserved populations in Marin County, with a focus on both wage cap discrimination and the healthcare challenges faced by undocumented individuals. Wage cap policies within Medi-Cal create barriers for low-income residents who earn just above eligibility thresholds, excluding them from vital healthcare coverage. For undocumented individuals, access issues are further compounded by their ineligibility for most public health benefits, leaving many reliant on limited, safety-net services like those provided by Rotacare. This clinic serves as a crucial resource, offering care to patients who otherwise face insurmountable barriers to healthcare due to financial constraints, immigration status, or both.

The purpose of this study is to document the unique experiences of RotaCare patients, capturing how systemic limitations affect their healthcare access, health outcomes, and overall quality of life. Utilizing a social justice framework and participatory methods, the research involves qualitative interviews and observational data collection to highlight the real-life impact of policy-driven exclusions. To protect the vulnerable undocumented immigrant population RotaCare serves, especially in the current political climate with shifting policies, participants' identities will be safeguarded using AI-generated avatars and voice alteration technology. This innovative approach allows participants to share their stories authentically while ensuring their anonymity, reducing potential risks of exposure. Quantitative surveys will also illuminate patterns of missed care opportunities and specific health needs within this population

Collaboration with community organizations will help ensure that the project aligns with community needs, promoting a co-creative research environment. The findings will be used to create educational content for social media platforms, aiming to raise public awareness and foster advocacy for policy reform. Through sharing these narratives, the research seeks to empower underserved voices, engage policymakers, and support efforts toward a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system.