Traditional Medicine and Health Care in Peru

Summer student/faculty collaborative research

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Goals

• Evaluate the EsSalud complementary medicine program, specifically the phyto-therapy component
• Explore options for establishing a supply chain from the mountains to the clinic on the coast
• Support collaboration between traditional healers and conventional health providers
• Community Outreach

Círculos de Salud

• Health promotion and education
• Nutrition and group exercise
• Promotores de salud
• Maintain demonstration garden of medicinal plants

History of the project

• Community garden at Chan Chan in 2009
• Comunidad Campesina Juan Velasco Alvarado
• Work in 2012
  • Demonstration Garden at EsSalud
  • Assessment of Huamachucos project and botany work
  • Study of patient attitudes and knowledge of traditional herbal therapy
• Findings

Benefits

• Holistic approach
• Centralized care
• Community outreach
• Personalized Plan
• Low cost
• Reduced dependence on pharmaceuticals

Main Recommendations of EsSalud CAMEC Assessment

• Research: Formalize a collaborative research and publishing relationship with UNT.
• Education and Outreach: Cooperate with the Ministry of Culture’s Chan Chan site museum in developing a docent program for their demonstration garden.
• Supply Chain: Develop a sustainable bio-agronomy medicinal plant garden run by the Comunidad Campesina Juan Velasco Alvarado to supply the Natural Pharmacy at EsSalud-CAMEC in Trujillo.
• Curandero Interface: Build on a long-standing Trujillo tradition of collaboration between practitioners of modern medicine and Traditional Medicine in phyto-therapy, ethnobotany, pharmacy, psychology and community outreach.