

The 3D and 3R approach to transforming global health research practices using a decolonial lens: from concepts to actions

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Introduction

Research is central to global health. Yet, the global health research space is laden with adverse influences of inequity, power symmetries, coloniality, epistemic injustice, and marginalization. Building on ongoing debates on and promoting transformation requires unpacking decolonial concepts and drawing out actionable strategies.

Methods



Findings

Emerging learning and concepts and their applicability in global health. Two sets of interlinked concepts applicable to global health research emerge (three Ds and three Rs), to guide deeper reflection on current research practices and action towards change.

3Ds and 3Rs

De-centring

dominant epistemologies and acknowledging diverse knowledge practices

Retrieving

amplifying less visible forms of knowledge and knowledge production practices

De-silencing

knowers who have not been hitherto acknowledged as legitimate global health actors

Redefining

health research in ways that incorporate local concepts and contexts

'De-barriering'

opening up spaces and dismantling structures for transformative inclusivity

Reshaping

global health practice to promote self-determination, equity and inclusion



Conclusion

The required transformation in global health demands deliberate, systematic and structural action at multiple levels that challenges assumptions and practices and facilitates unlearning and relearning.

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