Physical Therapy Clinical Experiences in Kerala, India NAZARETH COLLEGE Kristen DeMarree, Katie Lohrman, Briana Newman, Beth Novak, Melissa Scorse, Allison Smith Elizabeth Clark PT, DPT, NCS & Michael Huson PT, DPT, OCS & Emily Hayden, PT, DPT & Emily Guedes, PT, DPT

St. Joseph's Nursing Home

- St. Joseph's is an orphanage and a nursing home for women run by the sisters of St. Joseph's convent
- Women used available fixed iron walkers that were heavy and too tall for them • Donated equipment was provided, such as: walkers, crutches and canes
- The women were excited & thankful about receiving these gifts







Lourde Hospital

- Lourde Hospital was established in 1965
- 780 bed hospital
- Physical Therapy was brought to Lourde hospital 20 years ago.
- Lourde physical therapy clinic is located on the 1st floor and has 4 treatment rooms
- There are 8 practicing physical therapist
- Patients: Post-surgical, Post polio, CP, OA, RA, pediatrics.











Working with Our Peers







India vs. USA PT

- India EBP prioritizes modalities vs. a US focus on manual therapy • The US has a focus on patient education, empowering patients in their health.
- Indian PT has an impairment focus.
- Indian practice acts differ, so that students do not have hands on patient care until after graduation
- US PT entry level degree is a doctorate, and an Indian PT entry level degree is a bachelors.



Students

- Lourde PT students served as translators for Nazareth PT students, in all settings.
- When we had downtime we would teach each other PT techniques • We loved spending time getting to know each other and our different cultures!



DSS Community Physical Therapy Clinic

- The Sisters of DSS devote their lives to serving the needs of "the poorest of the poor"
- The Sisters provide basic health care, primary education, physical rehabilitation to the aged and disabled, and much more
- Each year the Nazareth College team provides donated equipment to the physiotherapy clinic
- The PT students helped train patients on how to use their new equipment



- St. Theresa's is a home and a school for children with disabilities \bullet • Children are under the care and supervision of the Sisters from the St. Joseph
- Convent
- While we visited St. Theresa's... • We provided a comprehensive evaluation of one of the young girls living there to assess gross and fine motor skills development
 - We returned two occasions following our evaluation to provide fun and beneficial treatments for the motor impairments we assessed.
- During our visits, we brought stickers, crayons, and other fun things to give to the children and we had a blast interacting with and learning from them!













St. Theresa's Special School

