

Scientific Paper Presentation : Plenary Session III

Sub Theme : Effective Clinical Learning Environment

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A descriptive study to assess the effectiveness of present clinical learning environment of under graduate nursing students in a selected college of nursing in Kerala State.

Introduction

Nursing is an art and therefore it requires an exclusive devotion and a hard preparation. Nursing is a practice-based profession. The quality of nursing education depends largely on the quality of the clinical experience. Here comes the significance of an effective clinical learning environment. In the clinical learning environment, there are varieties of influences that can significantly promote and hinder the clinical learning. It is therefore vital that valuable clinical time be utilised effectively and productively.

Need for the Study

A supportive clinical learning environment is vital to the success of the teaching-learning process. Many nursing students perceive their clinical learning environment as anxiety provoking. Campbell (1994) revealed that clinical learning experience requires difficult adjustments for students as they come from a different. Masserweh (1999) indicated that student activities are unplanned in the clinical area. Nursing student's frequently feel vulnerable in the clinical learning environment, so it's not surprising that learning in the clinical area presents a bigger threat to students than learning in the classroom. Various studies, Harth (2008)

and Dunn (2007), have shown that not all practice settings are able to provide student nurses with a positive learning environment. So it is high time to assess the student's perception of effectiveness of existing clinical learning environment in nursing institutions.

The objective of the present study was, (i) to assess the perception of effectiveness of existing clinical learning environment of under graduate nursing students, (ii) to assess the satisfaction of under graduate nursing students in the context of existing clinical learning environment, (iii) to assess the students perception related to selected aspects in clinical learning, and (iv) to find association between selected demographic variables and student satisfaction in the context of existing clinical learning environment.

Literature Review

The clinical learning environment is a multidimensional entity with a complex social context. Harth (2008) in his study on the quality of student - tutor interactions in the clinical learning environment concluded that, while two-thirds of tutors were regarded as friendly and helpful, the remaining were perceived as unconcerned and hostile.

Another study by Chan (2001) to assess the student's

perception of social climate of clinical learning environment suggested that there were significant differences between student's perception of actual clinical learning environment with and preferred clinical learning environment. The literature review used for this study reflects the idea that positive clinical learning environment is essential for enhancing clinical learning,

Methodology

A descriptive design was used and the study was carried out in a selected college of Nursing.

Simple random sampling was adopted and the sample size was 100. The instrument used was 5-point Likert scale questionnaire. It consisted of two sections.

Section A: Demographic data including Age, Sex, year of Study & Religion

Section B: Questionnaire includes the factors influencing the clinical learning environment.

Scoring Key: Scores ranged from 21 to 105. The score was interpreted as :

21-37 : Highly ineffective
38-54 : Moderately ineffective
55-71 : Moderately effective
72-88 : Effective
89-105: Highly effective.

Ethical Consideration : The study was conducted only after the approval of administrative authorities. Informed consent

was obtained from the students. All information about the samples was kept confidential.

Data Collection Procedure : A pilot study was conducted among 10 undergraduate nursing students; the mean score was 74.21 and the study was found to be feasible.

In the actual study, 100 students were included and self report with the help of questionnaire was used to collect the information.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

Among the total sample, each batch represented 25 percent of the total population; 42 percent of the students were between the age group of 19-20 years and the majority (89%) were females.

Majority of the sample (51%) perceived the present clinical learning environment as only moderately effective and 49 percent of the sample perceives the present clinical learning environment as an effective one.

Majority of the students (44%) were moderately satisfied with the existing clinical learning environment, whereas 31 percent of the students were satisfied with the existing clinical learning environment.

In the study, 49 percent of the respondents reported that presence of teachers in clinical environment enhances clinical learning. ,

The diagram indicates, majority of the nursing students (56%) experienced good interpersonal relationship among participants in the clinical learning environment.

Association Findings : There

is significant association between age and the students' satisfaction regarding clinical learning environment. The calculated value is 26.619 and the table value is 21.03, at 0.05 level of significance.

Result & Discussion

Major findings of the study

- 51 percent of the sample perceived their present clinical learning environment as moderately effective.
- 44 percent of students were moderately satisfied with the clinical learning environment.
- There was no association between the year of study and satisfaction of students with the present clinical learning environment.

Majority of the students (44%) reported that they are moderately satisfied with the existing clinical learning environment. A similar finding reported by Dunn & Hansford in 1997 concluded that the student satisfaction was less in the context of clinical learning environment. This correlates with the present study findings.

In this study, 56 percent of nursing students experience good interpersonal relationship among participants in clinical learning environment. A similar finding was reported by Chan (2001). The study concluded that inter personal relationship among participants in the clinical learning environment is crucial to the development of positive learning environment.

Also, 41 percent of the students expressed that support, motivation and encouragement from both teachers and

staff members is essential in enhancing clinical learning. Leino Kilpi in 2005 reported that 67 percent of the students expressed that encouragement and motivation from the teachers enhances the clinical learning. This correlates with the present study.

Implications

Nursing education: As elements of clinical environment can influence the student learning, interventions if appropriately conceived and implemented can and will make a difference.

Nursing practice: Provision of an effective clinical learning environment to nursing students is crucial in enhancing quality-based nursing practice.

Nursing Research: There should be ongoing research upon factors that characterise clinical learning environment which is beneficial in improving clinical learning.

Nursing administration: Nurse Administrators should take initiative in providing the students an effective clinical learning environment.

Recommendations

- ❑ The study can be conducted in a larger sample.
- ❑ The study can be replicated by including samples from different nursing colleges in Kerala.
- ❑ The study can be conducted for assessing other variables influencing the clinical learning environment.

Conclusion

Service to mankind is the pri-

mary function of the nurse, and also the reason for existence of nursing profession. As nursing profession is undergoing continuous evolution, to hold on during these changes nursing students should be provided with an effective clinical learning environment to enhance the quality of nursing education. The success of clinical learning is largely dependent on clinical learning environment, or more poetically 'the soul and spirit of medical education'.

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TNAI Workshop on "Nursing Administration and Supervision for Effective Patient Care"

(Management Skills in Nursing: Series-XXIII)

February 3 - 10, 2010

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Total participation fee:

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|---|---------------|
| (1) Outstation participants those who require accommodation (fee package for Registration, Boarding and lodging for 8 days including Sunday) | Rs. 13,000.00 |
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Mrs. Sheila Seda
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