

ENHANCING CULTURAL COMPETENCE AMONG ISRAELI NURSING STUDENTS: USING A SIMULATION SCENARIO OF DIABETIC PATIENT CARE

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1. Introduction

- ✓ Providing an adequate cultural care is one of the most important challenges in healthcare.
- ✓ Israel is a home to a widely diverse population of over eight million citizens from many ethnic, religious, cultural, and social backgrounds (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA], 2018).
- ✓ Israeli nurses, belonging to different cultures from those of the patients, find it difficult to treat them in culturally appropriate manner (Rosh & Popescu, 2013).
- ✓ By enhancing clinical simulations to include culturally significant variables, nursing students can achieve practical experience in a safe, controlled environment that they may not receive when experiencing practice in the actual clinical setting (San, 2015).
- ✓ The nursing academic program in Yezreel Valley College, located in North Israel, includes clinical simulation training.
- ✓ Prior to their first clinical practice in health care settings, nursing students participate in training sessions of simulation, which includes different scenarios based on common health care conditions of medical and surgical nursing.
- ✓ Caring for the patient with diabetes is among the more important clinical conditions, because the prevalence of this disease is rising all over the world (World Health Organization [WHO], 2017).
- ✓ In Israel, the prevalence is particularly high among the Arab population (Jaffe et al., 2017).
- ✓ In order to address this challenge we developed the simulation scenario, incorporating clinical and cultural aspects of nursing care of the diabetic patient

2. Aims

This project has several aims:

1. To identify cultural aspects, which are vital for providing safe and effective nursing care for the diabetic patient
2. To develop critical thinking, using cultural safe communication strategies when administering medications
3. To exercise and discuss strategies that promote cultural competence.

4. Results

Immediately, after each scenario session, the nursing simulation mentor conducted a debriefing session with the student participants, using video based debriefing in order to help them reflect on and evaluate their performance in the scenario

1. Many students reported that they had never considered all the possibilities and concerns that could occur while providing nursing care to patients of different cultural backgrounds.
2. The students indicated experiencing an improvement in their cultural competence and that they found the simulation-based experience valuable.
3. Students, who self-identified as belonging to the same culture of the patient in the scenario reported gaining greater awareness of cultural aspects in nursing care.

3. Methods

Client Background

- 65 years old Moslem Arab man, who is very religious and barely speaks Hebrew.
- Hospitalized due to acute pneumonia
- Health background: Diabetes mellitus

1st Scenario

Learning outcomes

- Communicate effectively with patient
- Performing a history taking and clinical assessment
- Identifying high blood sugar levels and a diabetic foot ulcer, which had developed as the patient had difficulty drying his feet properly after Islamic prayer

2nd Scenario

Learning outcomes

- Assessment of high glucose level
- Cultural and religious assessment
- Effective communication with patient's family members
- Identify appropriate insulin care intervention, while the patient is fasting due to religious obligations of Ramadan

3rd Scenario

Learning outcomes

- Providing discharge instructions regarding self-care, nutrition, and blood glucose level monitoring, maintaining skin integrity and insulin administration, considering patient's and his family member's cultural background



5. Conclusions

The ability to communicate and to take care of patients from diverse cultures and their families is one of the most important components of the nurse's work. Using a simulation scenarios in nursing education, educators can enhance the culturally competencies of future nurses

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