Using the Clinical Learning Environment Inventory (CLEI) to Compare Nursing Student Satisfaction with Clinical Settings

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Methods & Instrument
Prelicensure BSN nursing students in medical-surgical inpatient units. 8 students per 1 on-site clinical instructor. Students worked with staff nurses for one clinical day a week for about 13 weeks. Fall 2017 to Spring 2019
CLEI is 42-item questionnaire with positive and negative worded questions with Likert scale options: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly agree scored 1 to 4. Higher score = higher satisfaction
Subscales include Individualization, Innovation, Involvement, Personalization, Task Orientation and an overall outcome of student Satisfaction (Chan, 2002).

Results (SPSS® statistics software version 25.0  
N = 329; 7 clinical sites, 2 dedicated education units (DEUs)
CLEI Cronbach’s alpha: good reliability .809
One-way ANOVA to explore the impact of clinical site on student satisfaction with the clinical experience measured by the CLEI.
- A statistically significant difference at the p<.05 level was found between 2 clinical sites.
- Eta squared calculated at .0589

Discussion
Lowest scores were in the areas of:
- Innovation
- Preceptor talks rather than listens
- Individualization
- Preceptor decides student activities on unit
- Students don’t have a say in how the shift is spent

Highest scores were in the areas of:
- Involvement
- The instructor talks individually with students
- The instructor is friendly and considerate towards students

Conclusions
- Student satisfaction scores varied by only 8.5 points
- Effect size was slightly less than medium (Cohen’s classification)
- Lower mean satisfaction score for DEU versus non-DEU was an unexpected finding

Research Questions:
Is there a difference in nursing students’ satisfaction with learning experiences between clinical sites?
Do DEU clinical sites differ from other clinical sites in students’ satisfaction with learning experiences?
What are the most important areas of students’ clinical learning experiences that impacted satisfaction with a clinical site?

References: