Substance Use Disorders: Raising Awareness Amongst Nurses

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PROBLEM/BACKGROUND

The deaths of two nurses, 16 months apart, in the same hospital were associated with diversion of Fentanyl (Ambrose, & Hacker, 2018). This scenario is congruent with cases of substance use disorders (SUD) among nurses. Nonetheless, SUD amongst nurses remains underestimated, undetected, and underreported (Nyhus, 2021).

PROJECT PURPOSE

Raise awareness among nurses working at selected organization on the prevalence of SUD amongst nurses and the availability of non-punitive or alternate to discipline (ATD) peer support programs through a 90-minutes educational event.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This project is based on Pender's Health Promotion Model which indicates that exploring biopsychosocial processes and education on health-promoting behaviors promotes healthy lifestyles (Pender, 2011).

EVALUATION

Difference in awareness was measured by comparing learners' self-assessment before and after the educational event.

RESULTS/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Overall, awareness on prevalence of SUD and existence of ATD rose from 11% before the event to 69% after the event. 98% of attendees found the event relevant to practice and 95% indicated willingness to incorporate acquired knowledge in practice.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

Educating nurses on prevalence of SUD promotes transparency and healthy behaviors like participation in ATD programs.

REFERENCES

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