

Global and Local Strategies to Increase Nursing Educational Capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Background

- There is a critical shortage of nurses in the developing world with an average of only 11 nurse per 10,000 population.
- Efforts to increase the number of nurses are hampered in part because of a lack of facility, material, electronic and human resources in Sub-Saharan Africa.

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this inquiry was to gain a better understanding of the problems and issues in Africa by engaging a group of senior African nurse educators during a major international nursing meeting.

Methods

- A group of 25 senior African nurse educators volunteered to participate in a focus group conducted at the biennial conference of the African Midwives Research Network (AMRN) held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in December 2009.

What needs to be strengthened

- Internet Accessibility and IT;
- Educational materials e.g., data bases, journals, texts;
- Improved skills labs, computer rooms, libraries, clinical facilities;
- Transportation for community experiences;
- Quality standards;
- Faculty and faculty development.

Solutions identified

- Virtual and satellite colleges;
- Student learning outcomes focused curriculum;
- Standardization and appropriate leveling of curriculum;
- Visiting professors from established programs;
- Enhanced career pathways (e.g., RN to BSN).

Conclusions

- Although international groups such as the WHO are developing policy briefs related to solving this crisis and others are funding some solutions...
- It is essential to have dialogues about nurse and nurse faculty shortages between and among nurse educators.
- There is much nurses educators from developed countries can do working side by side with those from developing countries to address the nurse and nurse faculty shortages.

