



Exploring Service Learning as a Method to Enhance Professional Nursing Values Development

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Service learning: What is it?

- Experiential learning
 - Academic instruction
 - Meaningful community service
 - Reflective thinking and analysis



Research question

Do Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who complete a service learning assignment score significantly higher on a measure of professional values compared to a control group of students who complete a leadership assignment?

Experimental design

- Experimental group
 - Service to community organization
 - Discussion and reflection
- Control group
 - Attend a professional meeting
 - Discussion and describe observations

Instrument

- Nursing Professional Values Scale – Revised
 - Derived from the American Nurses Association (2001) *Code of Ethics for Nurses*
 - Cronbach's alpha = .92

Data collection & analysis

- Anonymous survey
 - Incentive
- Descriptive statistics
- t -test for independent groups

Results

- Experimental group ($n = 56$)
- Control group ($n = 54$)
- *t test* - $p = .005$



Findings

Students who completed the service learning assignment scored significantly lower ($p = .005$) on the measure of professional values than control group students.



Discussion

- Experimental group students had no direct contact with service recipients
- Control group students interacted with nurses at a professional meeting
- Use of experimental design



Conclusion

Attending a professional meeting followed by discussion positively impacted professional values scores to a greater extent than a service learning intervention.



Implications

- Service learning should be closely evaluated in relation to desired learning outcomes
- Traditional experiential teaching methods are valuable educational strategies

Further research

- Additional studies using well-controlled, experimental methods
- Replicate with face-to-face service to care recipients
- Replicate using different control strategy



Questions & Discussion

Thank you for attending!