Effect of an Immersion Experience on Perceived Caring in Undergraduate Nursing Students

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Goals and Objectives

- **Session goal:** Immersion Experiences

- **Objectives:**
  - To explain the impact of an immersion experience on the self-reported caring perceptions of undergraduate nursing students.
  - To explore the use of immersion as a method to increase caring and critical thinking.
“Caring practices and astute nursing judgment are called ‘art’ because they are not predictable or perfect...we know them when we experience them, and we recognize them when they are missing.”

Benner (2000)
Central tenet to nursing’s metaparadigm

Multiple theories of nursing relate caring to shared experiences with others

Caring requires ongoing development through being present with others (Watson & Smith, 2002)

Goal of caring is for patient to reach a level of higher functioning or meaning as a result of the transactions with nursing.

Caring scores have been linked to higher critical thinking abilities (Pai, Eng & Ko, 2013; Ou & Lin, 2006)
WATSON’S THEORY OF CARING

- Premise that all persons are caring by virtue of their humanness
- The essence of caring is a shared experience in which nurses and patients interact to improve the overall well-being of the patient
- Caring requires ongoing development
- Expressed in Caritas behaviors

(Watson & Smith, 2002)
## Intervention

### 5-Week Didactic

- Factors contributing to vulnerable health status
- Cultural considerations
- Social justice in healthcare
- Health literacy of vulnerable populations
- Strategies for health promotion education for vulnerable populations
- Life in the Colonias

### 5-Day Immersion Experience

- Health Promotion Teaching projects
  - Domestic violence
  - Bullying
  - Basic First-Aid/Safety
  - Men’s Health screenings
- Home visits
- Round table luncheon discussions
COLONIAS IN TEXAS

Source: College of Architecture, Texas A&M, 2014 (reproduced with permission)

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Community Resource Centers throughout the Laredo, El Paso, and Weslaco area.

1,254 Miles

2,500 Colonias

Over 500,000 People

Source: College of Architecture, Texas A&M, 2014 (reproduced with permission)
IMMERSION EXPERIENCE
INSTRUMENTS

- Caring Factors Survey – Care Provider Version
- 20-Questions
- 7-Point Likert Scale
- Documented validity (Cronbach’s alpha 0.92) (Johnson, n.d.)

**Caring Factor Survey–Care Provider Version (CFS-CPV)**

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<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Slightly Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Slightly Agree</th>
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Results Summary

- Significant increase in overall Caring Factor Surveys from pre-intervention to post-immersion in the group who received both interventions $F(2, 16) = 15.121, p < .05$

- No significant difference from pre-intervention to post-didactic for the group who received didactic only

- Main areas of significant change
  - Teams being able to solve problems
  - Caring for physical, emotional and spiritual needs
Specific Questions

Q2  ➤ I believe the healthcare team solves unexpected problems really well

Q4  ➤ As a team, my colleagues and I are good at creative problem solving to meet individual needs

Q10 ➤ I create an environment that helps patients heal physically and spiritually

Q14 ➤ I work to meet the physical needs as well as the emotional or spiritual needs of the patients I care for

Q15 ➤ Everybody on the healthcare team values relationships that are helpful and trusting
Specific Mean Score Comparisons by Question

MEAN SCORE COMPARISONS FOR CFS-CPV

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<tr>
<th>MEAN SCORES</th>
<th>PREINTERVENTION</th>
<th>POSTDIDACTIC</th>
<th>POSTIMMERSION</th>
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SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT

- Caring can be enhanced through educational strategies.
- Immersion experience combined with directed instruction has significant impact on perceived caring factor for undergraduate nursing students.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replicate study with larger numbers
- Comparative analysis of Caring Factors Surveys with critical thinking scores on standardized measures
- Recommend immersion/service learning experience whenever feasible for schools to implement
References