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Nursing Students’ Self-Assessment of Clinical Experiences

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Background

Self-assessment as opined by Spector and Norman (2013) is a core nursing and other health professionals because the nursing student appears to develop their self-assessment skills in order to determine their level of knowledge and competence in performing tasks and identifying the knowledge gap that needs to be addressed for them to achieve successful nursing care outcomes. In Nigeria, nursing students spend dismal time in various health facilities, providing care to patients under supervision of clinical staff and instructors. Such supervision becomes even more crucial in the pursuit of gaining effective patient knowledge and skills. Despite the requirements set by the College of Registered Nurses of Nigeria; there is inadequate time to effectively monitor, ensure and provide clinical outcomes in the healthcare facilities in many developing countries. These students often shift the opportunity for self-assessment on the reality of their experiences. There is lack of much knowledge on the level of clinical self-assessment of their clinical experiences and perception of learning in their clinical environments.

In this study, we aimed to investigate the level of self-assessment of Nigerian nursing students. There is also lack control over the learning environment for students in the hospital setting. This study was conducted to investigate the level of self-assessment among the nursing students in the clinical settings of the hospital.

Methodology

This qualitative study was conducted using student self-assessed perceptions on critical incident technique questions that elicited the nursing students’ self-assessment of their clinical experiences. This method of investigation could be by face to face interview or pen and paper and the latter was used for this study.

Participants

The participants were nursing students of a hospital based nursing programme in the first year. Two schools were originally planned for the study but the second school decided not to participate because of the workload. In total, 69 nursing students of the first and second semesters from the two selected schools who were working behind in medical, surgical and paediatrics wards of the teaching hospital for the past 19 months.

Data Collection

The research instrument used was a questionnaire developed by the researchers and pilot tested with second year nursing students of the hospital. Data was collected using the questionnaire on the nursing students using critical incident during the clinical experiences. All the questions in the questionnaire were multiple choice and Likert scale question that contained open ended questionnaire data. The most common critical incident during the clinical experiences. All the questions in the questionnaire were multiple choice and Likert scale question that contained open ended questionnaire data. The most common critical incident during the clinical experiences is where the students were most exposed to the critical incidents. The critical incidents were identified on the results of the data that were collected from the students. The critical incident during the clinical experiences is where the students were most exposed to the critical incidents. The critical incidents were identified on the results of the data that were collected from the students. The critical incident during the clinical experiences is where the students were most exposed to the critical incidents. The critical incidents were identified on the results of the data that were collected from the students. The critical incident during the clinical experiences is where the students were most exposed to the critical incidents. The critical incidents were identified on the results of the data that were collected from the students. The critical incident during the clinical experiences is where the students were most exposed to the critical incidents. The critical incidents were identified on the results of the data that were collected from the students.

Data Analysis

Data analysis involved using content analysis of patients’ and nurses’ narratives of the clinical experiences. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze students’ perceptions about clinical experiences. The coding system used was by the content analysis of patients’ and nurses’ narratives of the clinical experiences.

Findings

Characteristics of the Participants

The age of the participants range from 18 to 26 years, with a mean age of 22.

Impression of Nursing Professorship

Most nursing students perceive the nursing as a great and noble profession that they considered a good career choice. Various factors such as family members, media, school teachers, friends and other influential people played a role in their choice of the nursing profession.

Nursing students’ expectation of the clinical learning environment

According to previous studies, the self-assessment by participants, their expectations include that:

- Clinical experience would be cost effective without any cost
- Students should gain experience in patient care that would enhance their knowledge and skills
- Students should be closely supervised, corrected and given opportunities to practice in order to gain clinical experience.

The participants considered the clinical learning environment in their respective hospitals as ineffective due to the fact that they were not being actively involved in their respective wards. Though they worked behind medical in medical, surgical and paediatrics wards of the teaching hospital for the past 19 months.

Most notable/critical learning experiences

The results from this study indicate that the learning environment was more effective in the medical ward compared to the surgical and paediatrics wards. This may be due to the fact that the ward activities were more structured and organized in the medical ward compared to the surgical and paediatrics wards.

Most negative/critical learning environment

The overall learning environment was found to be the same across all the wards.

Most helpful/critical clinical experiences

Most helpful clinical experiences were found to be in the medical ward.

Nursing students’ view on clinical experience

Most nursing students agreed to the fact that clinical learning environment was challenging and that they were not as expected. Many of them stated that they were not as expected that they were not as expected that they were not as expected.

Discussion

Based on the findings obtained from the students’ self-assessed perceptions of clinical learning experiences, a number of factors were identified that can influence the quality of clinical learning environment. However, the findings of the study suggest that the current nursing education system appears to be lacking in providing adequate clinical learning experiences to nursing students.

References

