Evaluating an Online Global Community of Practice: Student Nurse Experiences of a Cross-Cultural Blogging Activity

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Internationalization at Home

• Explore and evaluate the use of blog questions to stimulate discussion between Canadian and Australian nursing students focusing on culture and family

• Students have a global experience and engage with international students without leaving home (Teekens, 2015)

• Technology such as social media can provide a viable mechanism by which this can be achieved (Beleen & Jones, 2015)

• Opportunity to share ideas, develop digital communication skills and enrich their learning experience (Schmitt, Sims-Giddens & Booth, 2012)
Social media/ Blogs

• Changing the way individuals and organizations communicate on a global scale (Schmitt et al., 2012)

• Purpose the engagement of others
  • Provides means of networking and sharing not only locally, but globally (Schmitt et al., 2012)

• Blogs have been used in nursing education in several ways – in classroom, on-line discussions, clinical practice (Epstein & Ray, 2014)

• Antidotal reports indicate Blogging has be shown to be a valuable tool to improve critical thinking and discussion (Epstein & Ray, 2014)
Opportunities

• For students to:
  • Learn about culture and ideas of others
  • Interact with students from another country
  • Share personal and professional experience
  • Gain experience in online professional discussion and learning
Challenges

• Coordinating between:
  • Two Universities
    • Different Courses
    • Different semester systems
    • Internal rules and policies

• Two Continents/Hemispheres
  • Time difference 12 to 13 hours
  • Different Seasons
Students

Dalhousie, Canada

- 1 nursing campus
- 3rd year of 4 year program
- Enrolled in Family Nursing course (72)
- Previously completed culture content
- 12 students
- 11 completed survey

Wollongong, Australia

- 5 nursing campuses
- 2nd year of 3 year program
- Enrolled in Cultural Competency subject (415)
- Previously completed Family-Centred Nursing subject
- 16 students
- 10 completed survey
Blog Assignment

• One question per week
• Over two weeks
• Posting consisted of:
  • One substantive blog
  • Posting on other student’s blogs
  • Response to other student's posting to their blog
Week 1 Blog

Introduce yourself and your family: tell us about your culture and values. You may want to consider, where you live, your language, country, friends, family traditions, religious holidays you observe and celebrate, i.e. festivals, special meals, birthdays and other celebrations, how you, your family and/or community respond to illness. Be as creative as you are comfortable with. You can use a picture, poem, drawing or other media to illustrate what culture and family mean to you.
Week 2 Blog

Reflect on an event in your life or practice related to culture, values and beliefs that made you feel uncomfortable that you are willing to share. Share what happened, why you felt uncomfortable, what thoughts feelings and actions you took, what assumptions you may have made and what you learned from that experience. How did your family’s values and believes influence perception, interpretation and response to this event. Following your reflection, consider what you might do differently and what changes you would consider for your future practice.
Findings:

Administration
Findings:

Student Outcomes

Picgif.com
Enriched Knowledge of Culture Values and Beliefs
Understanding Other Cultures

Chart Title

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Dalhousie  Wollongong
Understanding Another Person’s Perspective

Chart Title

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Dalhousie
Wollongong
Deepened Engagement

Chart Title

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Dalhousie | Wollongong
Sharing Ideas

Chart Title

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Dalhousie	Wollongong
Enjoyed Online Community Experience

Chart Title

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<th>Wollongong</th>
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Enhanced On-line Communication Skills

Chart Title

- Strongly agree
- agree
- undecided
- disagree
- strongly disagree

- Dalhousie
- Wollongong
Where we would like to go from here!

Opportunities

• Dedicated and moderated Blog for interested students
• Expand to other campuses Dalhousie BScN Program and the Arctic Nursing Program
• Expand to include other universities

Challenges

• Commitment
  • University, Instructor, Student

Research

• Qualitative
References


