A Systematic Literature Review of the Effect of Culture on Learning

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Disclosure

Christine Sommers, RN, MN, CNE
No conflict of interest

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Session Goal: Describe the impact culture has on learning and the implications for nursing

Objectives:

1. Summarize the impact of culture on learning and the need for appropriate teaching/learning strategies to prepare nursing graduates to care for complex patients globally.

2. Appraise the nurse educator’s response to the impact of culture on learning, including teaching strategies and curricular issues that lead to cultural congruence.
Presentation Outline

• Purpose
• Background
• Method
• Results
  – Themes
  – Teaching strategies
• Conclusion
What is the impact of culture on learning?
Background

• Cultural variations
  – Critical thinking (Tian & Low, 2011)
  – Learning styles (Holtbrügge & Mohr, 2010)
  – Approaches to learning (Brown, Ward-Panckhurst, & Cooper, 2013)

• Nursing education
  – Culturally congruent (Sommers, 2014)
  – Culturally sensitive and supportive (Veal, Bull, & Miller, 2012)
Method

206 potentially relevant papers identified in PubMed, CINAHL, ERIC, PsychINFO, ProQuest

After title and abstract review and removing duplicates:

160 excluded

Retrieved 46 papers for full review

Added 2 papers from secondary search

Further review excluded 31 papers

Final total of 33 papers reviewed

Search Words: Culture, learning theory/learning approach/learning behavior, student
Method: Overview of papers

30 countries:
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia and Oceania
- Europe
- Middle-East
- North, Central, and South America

Disciplines:
- Medical students
- Nursing students
- Other Health: Pharmacy and Physiotherapy students
- Business/Computer students
- University students
- 6th grade students
- High school students
- Teachers
- University faculty and advisors
Results: 4 major themes

1. Occurrence of surface learning among non-Western students
2. The effect of previous educational experiences on learning
3. The effect of cultural values on learning
4. Teaching strategies to promote learning
Results: 5 Teaching Strategies

1. Maintain awareness
2. Respect culture
3. Provide support programs
4. Utilize technology
5. Develop reflective practices
Conclusion: Culture does affects learning

- Maintain core outcomes of curriculum
- Culturally appropriate evaluation of learning (Henze & Zhu, 2012)
- Culturally contextualize teaching, assessments, activities
  - Coaching
  - Self-assessment
  - Variety of teaching methods
  - Curriculum review


Thank you!

If you would like a copy of an overview of the 33 articles, please email me at christine.sommers@uph.edu