Simulation: An innovative technology in first year undergraduate nursing education curriculum.

Dr Sujatha Shanmugasundaram, PhD, RN, RM
Associate Professor, CSU, Fresno, CA.

Background: Internationally, simulation is recognised as an innovative pedagogic approach that has gained much popularity and hence provides the focus for this research project. Simulated practice learning has been used as an adjunct to clinical skills gained in practice settings for a number of years. Life size manikins were first used to support learning in 1911, becoming more popular in the 1950s. Today, simulation encompasses a range of delivery methods and modes including low-fidelity basic simulators such as a simulated wound site, high-fidelity interactive manikins with life-like qualities, role-play, case studies and virtual online environments. But, yet, there are only few literatures available on simulation. Whilst the benefits of simulation may be espoused, we should not forget the challenges simulated practice learning can pose for education providers, facilitators and students.

Aim: The main aim of the study is to implement and integrate simulation in first year undergraduate nursing education program.

Methods: A cross sectional pre-test and post-test design will be utilized for the study. Convenient sampling technique will be used to recruit the participants. The study setting will be one of the reputed universities providing nursing education program. Data will be collected over a period of one year after obtaining ethics approval from the relevant study site. Data will be analysed using SPSS software (Descriptive & Inferential statistics).

Results: Results not yet available. This is an ongoing research project. Data collection is in progress.

Conclusion: It is expected that there will be an overwhelming response in implementing and integrating simulation in first year nursing education program. However, the study findings will effectively develop evidence-based simulation in undergraduate nursing education program and prepare nurses to deliver high quality patient care in healthcare settings.