STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THEIR INDIA IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

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Introduction
The purpose of this qualitative research was to describe pre-licensure nursing students’ perceptions of the immersion experiences in India to determine how, and in what ways, they have been transformed in this process.

Setting
Students spent two weeks in eighteen leper colonies in India providing health promotion and disease prevention activities.

Approach
In order to better understand the student immersion experience, the following questions guided the investigation:
1. What are student perceptions of their immersion experience in India?
2. How do students describe the influence of their immersion experience in India in transforming:
   a. Their worldview?
   b. Personal growth?
   c. Understanding of culture?
   d. Care of patients?
   e. Current and future nursing practice?
3. What are the feelings that nursing students report before, during and after their experience?

Outcomes
Codes were developed from multiple sources and arranged according to themes and verified by a second reviewer. (Holloway & Galvin, 2016; Holtslander, et. al., 2012; Maxwell, 2013; Plante, et. al., 2017).

Conclusions
Students described their experiences as “life changing” and “transformational.” Students reported that the immersion experience benefitted them in a number of ways including an increased: awareness of societal inequities and injustices, understanding of culture and diversity, capacity to care for others, ability to critically think and problem solve, application of experiential knowledge, feeling of personal growth, proficiency to reflect on experiences, awareness of global health disparities and commitment to future service and civic engagement. (Landon, et. al. 2017; Mamat, 2017; Schapiro, et. al., 2017; West, 2017).

References