Using Photo Journaling to Develop Affective Outcomes in Nursing Education
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Background
Ways of knowing may be approached from various epistemological paradigms. Where the realist may define knowing as a cognitive function, the non–realist will expand ways of knowing to include the affective components of feelings and socially constructed meanings (Garrett & Cutting, 2015). To develop and utilize strategies and methods that cultivate feelings and give meaning to experiences of nursing students which enhance affective learning has been difficult in nursing curriculums that necessitate large amounts of cognitive knowledge. Photo journaling provides faculty an opportunity to bridge cognitive aspects of learning in diverse clinical settings with affective development of self awareness.

Activity Description
Eighteen nursing students were given a photo journal assignment as part of a service learning study abroad experience in Nicaragua. Each day of the ten-day trip, students were provided a journaling prompt requiring them to take a photograph and write about their chosen picture. Two weeks after returning from the trip, students presented their completed photo journals. Focus groups were utilized to explore the student’s experiences and the effectiveness of photo journaling on their affective learning.

Examples of photo journaling prompts:
- Day 3: Submit a picture of something that surprises you and title it. Write and reflect on what you learned about yourself today.
- Day 6: Submit a picture that reminds you of your family ad your own community and title it. Write and reflect on what is at stake for these patients, their families, and their community.
- Day 10: Submit a picture that reflects how you are feeling and title it. Write and reflect on any changes in attitude or perspective as a result of the trip and how it might impact your professional practice.

Objectives
Affective objectives focusing on the use of photo journaling as an instructional method during the nursing student’s study abroad included:
- Students will:
  - Identify feelings related to a study abroad clinical experience
  - Develop self awareness as an adjunct to learning
  - Implement affective learning in a different cultural setting

Objectives
Affective objectives focusing on the use of photo journaling as an instructional method during the nursing student’s study abroad included:

Impact
Students produced meaningful photographs during clinical experiences that were combined with journaling. This helped develop personal awareness as students came to know more about themselves and the practice of nursing.

References