Constructivist Learning Theory: new knowledge is built upon prior knowledge.

Bandura (1977): Learner role confidence related to prior knowledge.

Prior knowledge of learners or students referenced previous courses.

Study is limited by convenience and size of sample.

Discuss relationship of perceived role confidence.

Students referenced previous work experience.

Discuss how students' perceived confidence may be based on their perceived knowledge.

Students responded to secondary concept: "I learned about obesity in my pediatrics course" (question is about epidemiology).

Students are then asked to provide a short text explanation or justification for their perceived confidence to perform each task.

Survey is given before and at the end of the course.

Students claimed not to have learned anything from the course which would increase confidence.

Five common tasks in community health nursing.

Knowledge is built upon prior knowledge.

Confidence clearly increases after the course but the high confidence before the course may also be tempered by new knowledge after the course.

Study is limited by convenience and size of sample.

DISCUSSION

Students' perceived confidence may be based on misunderstanding of what the task entails (e.g. knowledge of obesity versus knowledge of epidemiology).

Students have a relatively high confidence overall that they could perform the tasks described.

Confidence clearly increases after the course but the high confidence before the course may also be tempered by new knowledge after the course.

Students are then asked to provide a short text explanation or justification for their perceived confidence to perform each task.

Survey is given before and at the end of the course.

Students claimed not to have learned anything from the course which would increase confidence.

BACKGROUND

Constructivist Learning Theory: new knowledge is built upon prior knowledge.

Bandura (1977): Learner role confidence related to prior knowledge.

Prior knowledge of learners or confidence in role performance is not usually assessed.

Pilot study seeks to assess students' perceived confidence in role performance before and after a nursing course.

METHODS

IRB exempt.

Five common tasks in community health nursing derived from expert local community health nurses.

Tasks description and confidence to perform the tasks are used to construct a survey tool for before and after a community health nursing course (see handout).

Students are asked to identify their level of confidence in their ability to perform the task on a scale.

Students are then asked to provide a short text explanation or justification for their perceived confidence to perform each task.

Survey is given before and at the end of the course.

RESULTS: QUANTITATIVE

RESULTS: QUALITATIVE PRE-COURSE

- Students restated instead of explaining.
- Students responded to secondary concept: "I learned about obesity in my pediatrics course" (question is about epidemiology).
- Students referenced previous work experience.
- Students referenced previous courses

RESULTS: QUALITATIVE POST-COURSE

- Students referenced course for increased confidence.
- Students' perceived confidence increased.
- Students claimed not to have learned anything from course which would increase confidence.

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REFERENCES


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