Constructivist learning theory states that learners integrate or build upon prior knowledge including formal and informal learning experiences. Related to Constructivist Learning Theory is Bandura (1977) Self-Efficacy Theory which describes learners’ confidence in their ability to successfully perform in a role is related to knowledge acquired from prior learning. This pilot study seeks to develop insight into evaluating how students perceive and justify their ability to perform in specific community health nursing roles before a senior level community health nursing course and after the course in a baccalaureate nursing program of study. Prior to beginning the course students complete a pre-course survey instrument. For the pre-course instrument students base responses on prior knowledge. This prior knowledge includes formal education in arts and sciences, nursing courses prior to their senior year, as well as life experiences. The survey instrument was developed by experienced community health nurses using roles a first-year nurse might realistically encounter. The instrument has ten items, five pairings of Likert scale and short answer questions. Pre and post course surveys were collected over a calendar year from students in a baccalaureate community health nursing course. For the post-course survey, responses include all prior knowledge in addition to the course specific learning. Course specific learning and concurrent nursing course learning includes both didactic and experiential learning opportunities. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis will be conducted on the data which has been archived from the 2016 calendar year in aggregate form. This pilot study seeks to describe how well the instrument measures the change in students’ perception of self-efficacy in selected community health nursing roles before and after the course. The study also seeks to identify what prior and new knowledge students reference as the justification for their perceived self-efficacy. Based on conclusions supported by the data analysis, revisions to the instrument as well as the course will be considered.


**Abstract Summary:**

This pilot study seeks to describe how well a pre and post course survey instrument measures the change in students' perception of self-efficacy in selected community health nursing roles. The study also seeks to identify the knowledge students reference as the justification for their perceived self-efficacy.

**Content Outline:**

I. Introduction
   A. Constructivist Learning Theory
   B. Self-Efficacy Theory

II. Body
   A. Student Perceived Self-Efficacy
   B. Student Justification for Self-Efficacy
   C. Effectiveness of Instrument Measurement of Change in Self-Efficacy and Justification

III. Conclusion
   A. Indication for instrument revision
   B. Indication for course revision based on instrument data analysis

First Primary Presenting Author

*Primary Presenting Author*
Professional Experience: I have been a registered nurse for more than seventeen years including inpatient and outpatient experience. For eleven years, I worked as a nurse practitioner. The past five years, I have served in a nurse faculty role. I coordinate a pediatric nursing course which includes community based nursing. I also teach community health nursing.

Author Summary: She is a nursing faculty member in a baccalaureate nursing program of study. She coordinates the pediatric nursing course and teaches in the community health nursing course. With seventeen years of nursing experience, she has worked in both inpatient and outpatient settings in both the registered nurse and advanced practice nursing role.

Second Author

Ruby Dunlap, EdD
Belmont University
School of Nursing
Professor
Nashville TN
USA

Professional Experience: She has worked for twenty-one years as an educator in community health nursing. Thirty-six years she has served as a community health nurse in both registered nurse and advanced practice nursing roles.

Author Summary: She has worked for twenty-one years as an educator in community health nursing. Thirty-six years she has served as a community health nurse in both registered nurse and advanced practice nursing roles.