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A Cultural Immersion Experience to Enhance Nursing Students' Appreciation and Understanding of Different Cultures

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Abstract

The practice of studying abroad for professional development is not new and has been undertaken by scholars since the medieval times, however it is a relatively new endeavor in nursing education (Edmonds, 2010). Research has shown that cultural knowledge in nursing is extremely important and the lack of it may cause deficits in practices. The purpose of this study is a twofold. Researchers will complete a systematic literature review, and will send out a 15-question questionnaire to all nursing students who have registered for the travel abroad experience which is taking place March 14-24, 2019. This tool is seeking out some demographics and current travel experiences based on their perception. Once the students return from their cultural experience the same 15 question questionnaire will be sent out via survey monkey to them. The researchers will also hold a short focus group, 3 weeks after the return, and will invite all that traveled to share their reflection with each other in the group. The goal of this experiences is professional growth and to be more culturally aware in various populations.

Introduction of topic of research

Today's generation of students has challenged nursing faculty to develop creative strategies and innovative methods to encourage students to experience various cultural programs including study abroad. High school and college students in the United States have studied in various countries and cities for decades, however nursing students are often left out of these experiences due to the curriculum design and mandatory clinical hours.

Significance of proposed research

The practice of studying abroad for professional development is not new and been undertaken by scholars since medieval times; however it is relatively new endeavor in nursing education (Edmonds, 2010). Research has shown that cultural knowledge in nursing is extremely important as nurses need to be culturally sensitive and competent to provide safe patient care in various settings and globally.

Summary of supporting literature

Nursing education plays a large role in preparing students for their competent cultural care; however, what is lacking is actual cultural experiences in various places. Allowing students to participate or to embrace another cultural allows the student to reflect in practice. One of the primary aims of the study abroad programs is to enable student nurses to develop cultural sensitivity so that they may practice appropriately for an increasingly multicultural patient population in their own countries (Karina Martins de Oleria & Tuohy, 2015)

Statement of problem with a brief synopsis of supporting literature

Globalization was first used by economists in 1981 and it refers to the development of increasingly integrated global economy, especially in trade, which is rapidly changing in today's new venue. Culture is learned by each generation through both formal and informal life experiences (Leininger, 1991).

Participants

The size of the study will be based on those nursing students who register for the spring break, study abroad program that is being offered March 2019.

Consent Process

Every student will receive a content letter with the questionnaire(s) and then again prior to the focus group. Questionnaires responses will be utilized for this review and no identifying information will be collected.

Methodology

The purpose of this study is a twofold. Researchers will complete a systematic literature review, and will send out a 15-question questionnaire to all nursing students who have registered for the travel aboard experience which is taking place March 14-24, 2019. This tool is seeking out some demographics and current travel experiences based on their perception. Once the students return from their cultural experience the same 15 question questionnaire will be sent out via survey monkey to them. The researchers will also hold a short focus group, 3 weeks after the return, and will invite all that traveled to share their reflection with each other in the group. The goal of this experiences is professional growth and to be more culturally aware in various populations.

Dissemination

The dissemination of the research will be completed in various ways, as it is essential to share and have a discussion on the experience. This study is a confidential study. This study after completion will be used for various conferences and a short manuscript to be submitted to a peer reviewed journal for publication. A lunch and learn will be provided to the faculty on findings at the end of the semester.

Confidentiality

A formal letter will be obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), D'Youville College. All data collected will be confidential and no participant can be harmed by participation in this project. Data collected will be secured in an envelope by the researcher and placed in a secure and locked area in the office at D'Youville College to ensure confidentiality. The data will be kept in a secure location, at D'Youville for three years after the completion of the study and then destroyed.

Risks

There is no physical risk, psychological risk, economic risk, or legal risks.

Benefits

It is expected that data collected will assist with developing other cultural experiences for nursing students here at D'Youville.

Title:

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Keywords:

Cultural Immersion, Study Abroad and Undergraduate & Graduate Nursing students

References:

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Abstract Summary:

Nursing students, undergraduate and graduate, often feel left out and are unable to attend study abroad opportunities. By offering a short duration travel experience (Amsterdam, Paris, London) will this promote professional growth and increase cultural awareness in various populations

Content Outline:

I. Introduction

- Graduate and Undergraduate Nursing Students
- Cultural Immersion
- Study Abroad

II. Body

- Short Duration
 - 10 day travel experience
 - Spring break 2019
 - no loss of class or clinical time
 - Amsterdam, Paris, London
- Immersion Experience
 - Rooming with others
 - Visiting countries where lifestyles are different
 - Health care varies from Country to Country
 - Health care providers differ
 - Foods will be different from US
 - Costs
- Research Study
 - Two fold: literature review, mixed blend (quantitative & qualitative)
 - All students traveling will be interviewed before and after in a focus group setting
 - reflection

- 15 question survey will be completed before and after
- Conclusion
- Did the students feel the study abroad was long enough? Did the students feel that they were able to immerse themselves into the cultural? Did the students understand the various health disparities, different customs, different beliefs?
- Would they recommend this experience to others?

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

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Author Summary: I have been working with students, novice nurses and nurse leaders for over 20 years and mentoring is important to all levels. Generational issues in the classroom, what educators are seeing today and what healthcare facilities are experiencing are important. Currently working on areas of development with student engagement; such as study abroad opportunities.

Second Secondary Presenting Author

Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author

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Author Summary: As a nurse educator, Adult Nurse Practitioner, and clinical researcher for the past 30 years I have had the opportunity to gain a considerable amount of experience which I have used to guide students in their educational experience. I believe that integrating the nurse educator's clinical experiences are an integral part in creating an optimal learning experience for the student. Professionalism, clinical practice and research are critical components of the profession today.