

An Evaluation of Health Literacy Education: Effects on Cultural Competence, Knowledge and Attitudes of Associate Degree Nursing Students

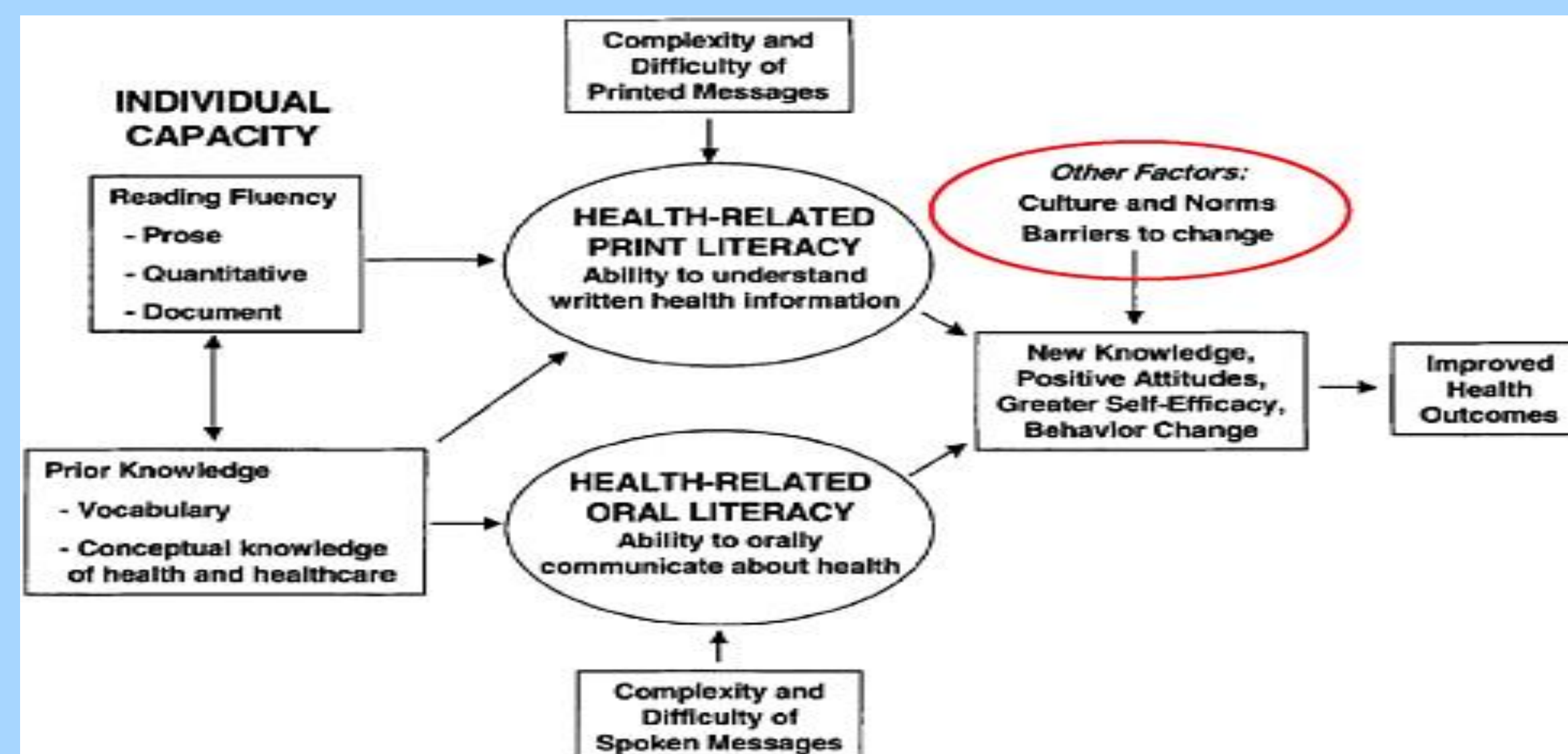
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I Background

Student nurses receive minimal education on Health Literacy and communication methods with Limited English Proficient (LEP) patients.

This project focuses on the development of an educational program for second year Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students in order to increase Cultural Competency and Health Literacy prior to entering the clinical area.



2 Methods

This project used the *Inventory for Assessing the Process of Cultural Competence among Healthcare Professionals – Student Version* (IAPCC-SV) as a pre and post measurement tool of students Cultural Competence and Health Literacy proficiency.

The educational program created provided students with knowledge and information in health literacy including:

- The definition of health literacy
- How health literacy can affect patient outcomes
- What tools are used to assess health literacy
- How to recognize low health literacy in patients
- Strategies for teaching LEP patients
- Interpreter use and access

3 Results

Out of 36 ADN students, 34 ($n=34$) participated in the pre-survey and education program. The post-survey was completed by 32 out of the original 34 students ($n=32$).

Overall mean pre-survey score = 59.8: culturally aware
Overall mean post-survey score = 66.3: culturally competent.

t -test ($t = 4.5883$) statistical significance of $p < 0.0001$.

The most significant differences seen between pre and post-survey answers (based on Likert scale of 1-4) were seen in the categories of:

- Skill (pre mean- 2.71; post mean- 3.23),
- Knowledge (pre mean- 2.47; post mean- 2.97)
- Desire (pre mean- 3.35; post mean- 3.58).

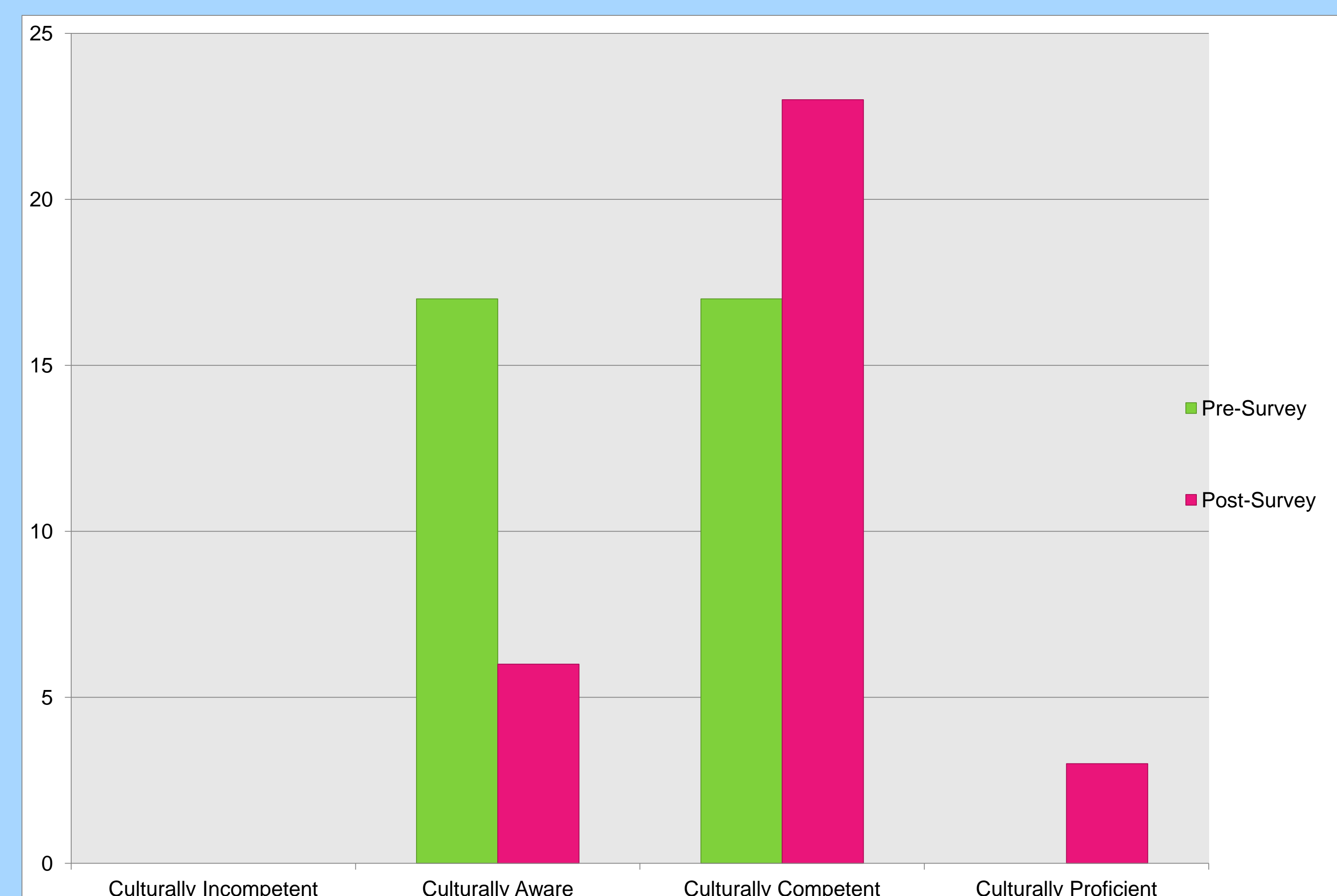
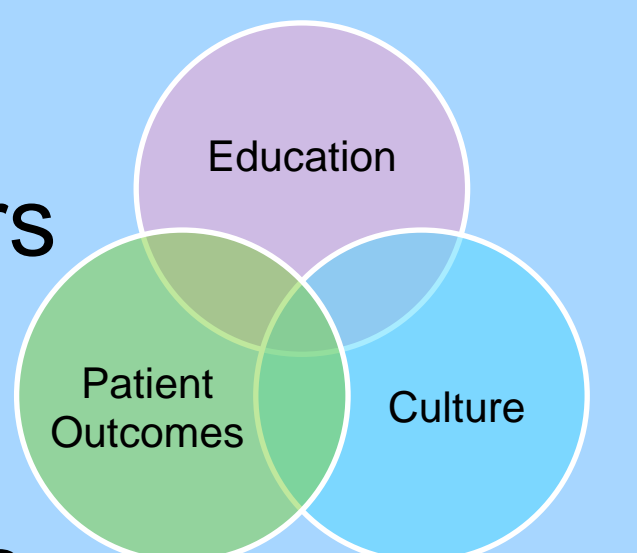


Figure 2. Comparison of the number of students scores in each of the four IAPCC-SV categories of cultural competence.

4 Conclusion

Health literacy is the cornerstone for providing equal and culturally competent care across the nation. In order to provide this, health care personnel need to be educated in the topics that lead to the main problems.

- Change starts at the bedside
- Nursing students are core providers
- Education leads to change
- Health Literacy critical to outcomes



This project has an important impact on the future of nursing and health literacy as a focus problem nationally. Through educating nursing students, this knowledge will remain with them throughout their careers and promote the nursing profession. This, in turn, will increase the quality of nursing care and benefit the patient population as a whole.

5 References

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