

Original Article

Nursing Students' Views on Their Clinical Placement in Pediatric Hospitals of Athens, Greece

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Abstract

Introduction: The clinical practice of undergraduate nursing students in pediatric nursing is a large and important part of their training for the development of knowledge, skills and change of attitudes and behavior regarding the care of children.

Aim: To investigate the views of nursing students on the implementation of the training program in pediatric nursing course in real clinical environment.

Material and Method: The study population consisted of 175 students of the Nursing Department of the Technological Educational Institute of Athens trained in clinical practice course at Children's Hospitals. The data collection was performed using a structured, anonymous questionnaire. We examined four areas of clinical training : (a) general features of clinical practice, (b) educational goals achievement, (c) characteristics of clinical teacher and (d) self-assessment of students. Data analysis was performed with the IBM SPSS 21.0.

Results: Internal reliability of the questionnaire was excellent (Cronbach's alpha was 0.92). Ninety-three percent of the participants were women while mean age was 22.3 years (0.37). The organization of the clinical course, the application of the clinical course and the application of the clinical practice were evaluated by the students as being from very good to excellent (82.3%, 69.1% and 70.3% respectively). Ninety-five percent argued that the content of the clinical courses met the initial objectives. Ninety-six percent of students answered that the educational goals of clinical practice were set at the beginning of the practice, whereas 65.1% answered that the teacher was qualified. The score in the field "general features of clinical practice", "educational goals achievement", "characteristics of clinical teacher", "students self-assessment" was 15.3, 17.6, 27.2 and 42.3 respectively.

Conclusion: Greeks nursing students have a positive perception of the clinical learning environment in pediatric hospitals, although there is still room for improvement. The presented scale is an appropriate tool for the evaluation of clinical practice by students.

Key words: clinical education, clinical environment, nurses, pediatric hospital, students

