

Effect Of Psychiatric Clinical Posting On Attitudes Among Student Nurses in University Malaysia Sabah

ABSTRACT

Students taking up nursing course, bring with them stereotypes and prejudice towards mentally-ill clients. Nurses harbouring such stigmatising attitude can have a profound effect on their subsequent therapeutic relationship and quality of care rendered for the mentally -ill client. Typically, students who harbour stigmatising views, develop positive mind-set after psychiatric posting. Objective: The purpose of this study was to examine whether attitudes towards psychiatric clients improved after psychiatric clinical posting intervention

Method: This is a quasi-experimental study, designed to compare change in attitude among a cohort of nurses before and after psychiatry clinical posting. The study involved a convenient sample of all fifty one 5th - semester UMS nursing students undergoing psychiatric postings in Hospital Mesra Bukit Padang Sabah. A validated instrument, the Mental Health Nursing Questionnaire (Happel B, 2008,) was used for pre-post posting assessment. Data collection was done at 2 intervals (To and T1), at day 1 and on the last day (day 15,) of student`s posting. Paired t -test was used to analyse the difference in the attitudes between day 1 and day 15. Results: The nursing students had high scores on negative and positive attitude factors on day 1. On day 15, among 5 negative attitude factors, there was a significant positive change in the stereotypism factor. Conclusion: Nursing student`s placement in psychiatry setting reduces stigmatising attitudes, and as such, psychiatric posting need to remain as a essential practicum requisite incorporated into all levels of nurse training curricula.