A Replication Study: Nursing Student's Perception of Psychiatric clients and treatment settings: Findings from a Racially Diverse Sample

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INTRODUCTION

This presentation is directed to health educators, administrators and members of the health care community in general. With the escalation in the numbers of unrecognized and untreated mental illness there is continued need to prepare future nurses and healthcare workers to decrease these devastating consequences. According to Bekhet, Murrock, Mu and Singh (2017), the prevalence of mental illnesses in our current society suggests that nurses will have many related patient encounters. and their treatment settings during clinical rotation experiences . Coupled with these researchers' call for the need to educate nursing students on mental health illnesses and there is the strong suggestion by Çettinkaya & Partlak ,2017) the need to investigate beginning nursing students' beliefs towards mental illnesses, perceptions of psychiatric nursing training, and career choices.

This presentation presents the preliminary findings of a replication of study of nursing students perception of psychiatric clients and treatment settings.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to evaluate perceptions of nursing students who are exposed to the care of individuals who have been diagnosed with mental illnesses or psychiatric disorders.

Objectives

(1) Identify perceptions of students who were not exposed to mental health illnesses prior to clinical encounters.

(2) Explore why or if students are hesitant to care for patients diagnosed with mental/ psychiatric illnesses.

(3) Identify whether the fear of practicing in mental health related settings is prevalent.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are nursing students perception of psychiatric clients and the treatment settings after their clinical rotations in a Mental Health Nursing course?

STUDY DESIGN, SETTINGS AND PARTICIPANTS

This replication study was conducted at a nursing school located in Middle Tennessee. The nursing school provides undergraduate instruction for students in a traditional and RN-BSN career mobility program. This study time frame was during the academic year of 2021-2022. An online survey was conducted via the Qualtrics survey platform and data from Thongpriwan & others (2015) study on nursing students' attitudes on mental health illnesses were also reviewed. The students are engaged in Mental Health clinical rotations at an assigned local facility. The sample used in this study was a convenience sample. Of the 15 students who were enrolled during this period 7 accepted to participate in the study, a 47% participation rate

RESULTS

The results for this study are from a small sample of seven (n=7). Of the seven survey responses submitted after data cleaning there only 4 complete responses for initial analysis. The participants were of the age range of 18-44, with 50% at the 18-25 age group and 50% at 25- 44. 50% of distribution were males and females in the sample. 75% of the population identified themselves as Black/African American and 25% as Other. 50% of the participants had experiences with caring for individuals with mental illness prior to their clinical experiences. 75% stated their feelings move from bad to good while 25% did not express changes as other after caring for this population. Fifty of participants were most likely to work in the field and 50% reported not likely to work. This preliminary review with this small sample size does not provide for any significant comparison with the study Thongpriwan & others (2015) study which was the basis of this study.

Survey Item 13
How would you rank your likelihood to work in psychiatric nursing clinical settings?

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1. Place an X in the category that represents your age.
___ 18-24 ___ 25-34 ___ 35- 44 ___ 45-54 ___ 55-64 ___ 65 years & older
2. What is your gender? ___ Male ____ Female
3. Please describe your race / ethnicity _____
4. Prior to starting classes in your profession as a nurse did you have any experiences with caring for anyone with mental illness? ___YES ___ NO ____ Do not remember
5. What were your feelings prior to caring for a patient with mental illnesses? __ _ Anxious ___ Scared ___ Nervous ___ Comfortable __ Disgusted ___Other
6. Did your feelings change after caring for your first patient? ___ YES ____ NO
7. How would you describe how these new feelings change? ___ Bad to worse ___ Good to Bad ____ Bad to good____ Other _____
8. What are your general feelings /perceptions of individuals with mental health illnesses? _____
9. How much do you think the media influence these general feelings/ perceptions? ___ Very much, ___ Not much,__ Not at all
10. How much do you think the political climate of today has played in the care of those dealing with mentally health illnesses. __Very much, __A little , __ Not at all
11. Do you or any one you know care for any family member dealing with mental health illnesses because of COVID-19 effects? __ None affected; __ 1-2 affected; ___ More than 2 affected; ___ Not sure
12. What role will you play in assisting these family members. __ primary caregiver; ___ assist as able __ None
13. How would you rank your likelihood to work in psychiatric nursing clinical settings? ___ Most likely ___ Not likely?

Key Expressions- Survey -Item 8

8. What are your general feelings /perceptions of individuals with mental health illnesses?

open and mindful

I love them, All people should be loved Mental illnesses run in my family so I feel that it takes a lot of patience and dedication

Viewed as normal people.

we are equal

CONCLUSIONS

The need for nurses to effectively care for patients experiencing mental health illnesses continues to be a matter of high importance in our society today. In order to promote practitioners who are competent for this area of nursing practice careful attention must be given to how well they adjust to these practice areas. Although the initial findings for this study are limited due to sample size similarities emerge in several areas of the study as it did in past referenced study. The care of the mentally ill patient is no longer confined to specific units and facilities. Nurses are seeing these patients in every setting they practice. Exploring the perceptions of nursing students as they matriculate through their mental health theory and practicum courses are effective ways to address perceived misconceptions about this population. As noted in the findings from this data, participants were able to express moving perceptions from "bad to good feelings" after their initial experiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maximize opportunities to explore students perceptions of caring for patients in mental health treatment settings
- Review study design and conduct further study on this topic to provide meaningful conclusions for educating nursing students for practice in mental health settings

References

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