



SPHERE

Student perspectives of the unit Family Health Care: Health issues and Australian Indigenous People

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Aim

-  To gain insight into students' perceptions of Indigenous people
-  Determine if the course learning and teaching strategies implemented improved students' learning outcomes and attitude towards Indigenous people and Indigenous health in Australia.

Background



Undergraduate nursing students require increased knowledge of health issues surrounding and impacting on Indigenous communities.



This aspect of nursing education is particularly relevant

- continuing health disparities in the Indigenous population
- cultural and linguistic diversity of current and future student cohorts.

Background



The Bachelor of Nursing program at the University of Western Sydney has embedded Indigenous health into the undergraduate teaching program, with an expectation that students develop an awareness of Indigenous health and healthcare issues.

Methods



Teaching and learning strategies

- Face to face tutorials
- Face to face lectures
- Indigenous guest lecturers
- Workbook
- Essay SDH
- DVD
- Case studies
- Community health programs
- Indigenous clinical placements



Study


- Mixed methods
- Pre and post survey

Pre results

-  502 participants (944)
-  61.4% born overseas
-  23.7% were international students
-  Average age 27.2 yrs.
-  1.4% Indigenous Australian
-  Attitude towards Indigenous Australians
-  Knowledge of Indigenous Australians

Post results

 249 students completed both surveys

 Decrease in attitude towards
Indigenous Australians ($p=0.017$)

 Participants'


- Knowledge
- intent to work with Indigenous Australians
- confidence in caring for Indigenous peoples

increased significantly at follow-up.


($p=<0.001$)

Comments

Understanding Indigenous history, culture and healthcare


 *“I had no real understanding or appreciation of their past injustices and the hardship they face today. I have discovered passion in myself to do what I can to help the Aboriginal people as a nurse and will be looking for work in this field once I am registered” (712).*

Development of cultural competence

 *“I will be able to empathize with the patient and avoid misconceptions and discrimination in the giving of care” (101)*

Comments

Enhance respect for Indigenous Australians' culture and traditional practices

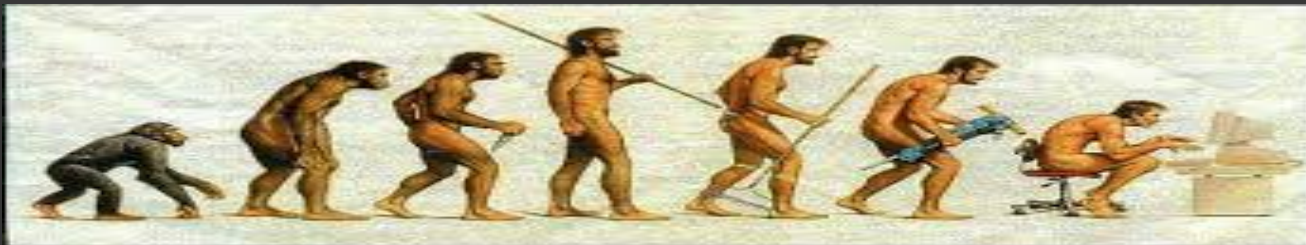
 *“Because nursing is not just a profession that caring and helping others to have a better health but it is also a means of respecting and accepting others culture and beliefs”*

Enhanced awareness of the inherent health and educational disadvantages for Indigenous Australians

 *“Huge impact because before this unit I did not have a good understanding of all the issues involved in the actual life of the Aboriginal people today” (357)*

Technology

- 🇦🇺🇬🇧 Combination of mediums works to target a variety of learning styles
- 🇦🇺🇬🇧 Cohort size
- 🇦🇺🇬🇧 Ages of cohorts
- 🇦🇺🇬🇧 Indigenous engagement difficult due to cohort size, multi-campus, funding



Somewhere, something went terribly wrong

Conclusion



This aspect of nursing education is particularly relevant

- Continuing health disparities in the Indigenous population
- Cultural and linguistic diversity of current and future student cohorts



Addressing health inequalities for Indigenous Australians is paramount.



Nurses need cultural awareness and sensitivity to deliver culturally appropriate healthcare in Australia.



Variety in technology mediums is necessary

References

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