

Cultural Knowledge and Cultural Awareness of Student Nurses in Sri Lanka

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Cultural diversity is dramatically increasing in the world specially because of globalization. This cultural diversity challenges the health care providers, specially nurses to provide competent care to the diverse populations. The purpose of this study was to investigate the level of cultural knowledge and cultural awareness among third year nursing students in Government Schools of Nursing(SN) in Sri Lanka. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in SN Jaffna and Kurunegala as a cohort sample among all the SN in Sri Lanka. Random sampling technique was used to select participants from the two SN. Self-administered questionnaire was used and pre-tested with 10 students who were not in the sample. The data were analysed by XL and SPSS 22 version. Ethical approval was taken from the International Institute of Health Sciences(IIHS). According to the findings, response rate was 100%. All the participants(n=171) were in 20-30 year of age group . Majority of participants were female (n=156,91%), Sinhala (n=154, 90.1%) and Buddhist (n=151, 88.3%). Among them, 140 participants were educated up to Advanced level (n=140,81.9%). Among nine statements on cultural knowledge, the highest number of respondents strongly agreed with the statement of “I know there are differences among different cultures and different cultural groups” (n=100,58.5%,M=4.5) and overall mean score on cultural knowledge was 3.83(SD0±43) whereas mean score on cultural awareness was 3.76 (SD±0.43) and the highest number of respondents strongly agreed with the statement on cultural awareness “I believe that everyone should be treated with respect no matter what their cultural heritage”(n=115,67.3%, M=4.61). Student nurses had moderate knowledge on cultural aspect of care and cultural awareness. These results have provided support for the schools to consider when revising the nursing curriculum to integrate cultural knowledge and awareness concepts which leads to apply with care provision with cultural competency.

Key words: *Cultural awareness, Cultural knowledge, Student nurse*