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Windshield survey as a teaching strategy to effect community health nursing clinical outcomes in Canada

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Nursing students in a Bachelor's educational program in Canada are introduced for the first time to the practice of community health nursing in a 16 weeks clinical course. The community health nurses (CHN) works with people where they live, work, learn, worship, and play to promote health. CHNs partner with individuals, families, groups, communities, systems, and populations in various settings. These nurses view health as a dynamic process of physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being and as a resource for everyday life that is influenced by circumstances, beliefs, and determinants of health. In the beginning of the clinical course, students are guided to conduct a Windshield Survey. The Windshield Survey is used as an educational strategy to effect community health nursing clinical outcomes. The survey provides students with a scan on the community, where students collect objective data, but also notice what they see, hear, smell and perhaps touch. The population health promotion model is used as a framework to guide information collection. Students ask relevant questions which affect populations, such as: What is public transportation like? Is the community accepting of diversity? Are health resources accessible? Are housing and food sources affordable? The Windshield Survey assists students to think like a CHN. This strategy provides students with opportunities to appreciate complex determinants, roles of team partners, and community strengths and capacities. Students learn to appreciate each community as a life of its own and every individual in this community as unique. During our presentation, the authors will share details of the Windshield Survey, including evidence based research, content in the survey, how the survey is conducted, results of the survey as a teaching and learning strategy, and pre and post evaluation by nursing students.

Biography

Magdalene Ho-Asjoe has diverse experiences as a community health nurse, and a clinical instructor. Magdalene is passionate about facilitating students to integrate skills and knowledge acquired in community health nursing into their practice. She continues to utilize well researched educational strategies to yield effective learning outcomes, and incorporate valuable student feedback to make ongoing improvements.

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