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The barriers and facilitators of using VoiceThread with ESL nursing students

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Voice Thread, a form of social media, is one of the technologies used in education to foster a community of learning. Voice Thread represents a web based application that can be used to share a video with voice-over where participants can post their comment in the form of voice, video, or text comments. By using Voice Thread, ESL nursing students may have a chance to interact, communicate, and share their points of view while learning without worrying about spelling issues, writing issues, or being misunderstood as ESL nursing students reported that the language barrier was the most challenging issue when learning nursing. The purpose of this pilot study was to explore the barriers and facilitators that ESL nursing students faced when using Voice Thread in nursing curriculums. An action research methodology used to recruit three ESL nursing students who were enrolled in a nursing course that utilized Voice Thread. The community of inquiry guided the study as a theoretical framework. Interviews were done and transcribed verbatim. Line-by-line analysis used to interpret the transcripts. Findings: The facilitators of using Voice Thread were practicing English language, Voice Thread is convenience, sharing other's nursing experiences, creative and having guidelines for use. The barriers were that Voice Thread is time-consuming, expressing thoughts using English language, student's concern about technology, and recording voice was anxiety producing. An action plan created to provide strategies for nurse educators to be successful when using Voice Thread with ESL nursing students included expanding instructor's guidelines, addressing student's technology needs in advance, and assisting students to manage anxiety. The study recommended duplicating the study with a larger group of ESL students, check effectiveness of the action plan, study nurse educator's perspectives, and more qualitative and quantitative studies on using Voice Thread in nursing education. The results of this study are beneficial for nurse educators who incorporate Voice Thread into their curriculum.

Biography

Anwar S Alanazi is a registered nurse at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She is currently working as a staff nurse in liver transplant clinic at King Faisal Specialized Hospital & Research Center, Riyadh. She has a Master of Science in Nursing Education from the United States of America and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saudi Arabia. The author is very passionate about teaching nursing students with best practices that have been proved in research.

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