

38th International Conference on

NURSING & HEALTHCARE

October 16-18, 2017 | New York, USA

The impact of short term clinical placement in a developing country on nursing students: A qualitative descriptive study

Ingeborg Ulvund and Elin Mordal
Molde University College, Norway

Background: Offering nursing students' international clinical placement during the educational program is one response to meet the need of cultural competence among nurses. This paper provides insight into the impact of clinical placement, in a developing country, on third year nursing students. In the study, we investigated how short-term international clinical placement impacted Norwegian nursing students' development of cultural competency.

Design & Methods: In this study, we utilised a qualitative descriptive design and used individual interviews with eighteen Norwegian nursing students, who had all participated in an international clinical placement. The data were analysed using the principles of systematic text condensation.

Results: In spite, the international clinical placement only was four weeks, the findings suggested that real life experience culturally awakened the students and forced an ongoing process developing cultural competence. However, it is important to give students time to reflection.

Conclusions: Although increased cultural awareness and a growing cultural competence was identified by the students undertaking international clinical placement, further research is required. It is important to investigate the best methods to support the students' reflection such that the experiences lead to learning.

Biography

Ingeborg Ulvund is a nurse, midwife and senior lecture at Molde University College Bachelor's Program- Nursing. She is engaged in the development of the nursing program, has written textbook chapters and published several papers.

ingeborg.ulvund@himolde.no

Elin Mordal is a nurse, midwife and PhD candidate at Molde University College. She is engaged in the development of the nursing program.

Elin.Mordal@hiMolde.no

Notes: