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The effects of nursing practice environment and self-esteem on critical thinking competencies among clinical nurses

Insil Jang

Ulsan University, South Korea

Purpose: This study is a cross-sectional study to determine the relevance and impact factors to critical thinking competencies by nursing practice environment and self-esteem for clinical nurses.

Methods: The survey was conducted from March 2015 to May 2015 with self-report questionnaire. Participants were 281 registered nurses working in one tertiary hospital. Data were analyzed with descriptive statistics, t-test, ANOVA, Pearson correlation, and multiple regression using SPSS/WIN (21.0).

Results: The factors affecting the subjects' critical thinking competencies included their age ($F=7.234$, $p<0.001$), educational background ($F=7.820$, $p<0.001$), position ($F=14.949$, $p<0.001$), clinical career ($F=7.658$, $p<0.001$). And critical thinking competencies represented a positive correlation with nursing practice environment ($r=0.595$, $p<0.001$) and self-esteem ($r=0.408$, $p<0.001$). Critical thinking competencies were affected by factors of clinical career, nursing foundations for quality of care, collegial nurse-physician relations and self-esteem with an explanatory power of 45.1%.

Conclusion: Based on the study findings, critical thinking competencies were influenced by nursing foundations for quality of care and collegial nurse-physician relations of nursing practice environment. Therefore, it is necessary to improve continuing education for clinical nurses and to reconstruct the organizational culture for partnerships with nurse-physician. In addition, the rise of self-esteem by mentoring and individual coaching raise critical thinking competencies.

Biography

Insil Jang has worked as a staff RN and Clinical Nurse Specialist of cardiovascular surgery part for 13 years in Asan Medical Center. He received his PhD and became an Assistant Professor at the Department of Nursing in University of Ulsan. His specialty is adult health nursing. His research interests include cardiovascular patient care, clinical nurse specialists and nursing management. He has published several papers.

isjang@ulsan.ac.kr

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