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Can simulation be used to develop professional behaviours amongst nursing students?

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The development of professional behaviours such as time management amongst nursing students is essential for preparing them for the realities for working in a dynamic, pressured clinical environment whilst on placement. Possessing such skills are thought to establish resilient coping mechanisms of nursing students and thereby lessen the theory-practice gap and reality shock experienced during placement. Traditionally, nursing students learn about professional skills in theory-based subjects. Due to the nature of this delivery, core concepts are often discussed abstractly and consequently many students misjudge the importance of developing and refining these professional behaviours prior to graduating. One way to address this shortfall is arguably via simulation. Simulation is gaining popularity as an effective teaching and learning strategy in nursing education. The literature surrounding the use of simulation currently supports its use for psychomotor skill development and for preparing students for rare or infrequent events. However, little evidence exists for whether simulation can fully capture the complexity of everyday nursing care including the incorporation of professional behaviours. The findings of a study examining first year nursing students' opinions on weekly simulation workshops provide a unique understanding of how students view their development of professional behaviours. This study incorporated an unfolding case study where students were required to work in teams to deliver increasingly complex episodes of care over a period of 10 weeks. In order to fulfil these episodes of care, the students needed to surreptitiously develop professional behaviours such as teamwork, delegation and prioritisation. Whilst the development of these behaviours was not the primary goal of the simulation, the majority of students identified that practising such professional behaviours was the most beneficial aspect of their learning. These findings suggest simulation can be used to foster professional behaviours amongst nursing students in order to produce a graduate that is work-ready.

Preventing secondary teenage pregnancy with sexual health nursing outreach: A qualitative evaluation

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Purpose of the study Teenage pregnancy is a significant global public health issue. There is a high risk that one teenage pregnancy will lead to another – adversely affecting the health of the mother and baby. This project evaluated a novel nursing contraception and sexual health outreach service designed to target teen mothers at risk of a further pregnancy and provide sexual health advice in their own home. There is little empirical evidence into how young women feel about this kind of service and how staff experience delivering this kind of intervention. This study aims to contribute to the evidence base in sexual health nursing practice. Methods A qualitative research design was used. In –depth interviews with 40 teenage mothers using the outreach service were undertaken. Three focus groups with nurses and other professionals involved in the service were conducted. Data were analysed using Richie and Spencer's Framework analysis technique. Results and discussion Teen mothers appreciated how this service allowed them to access contraception early and in their own home. Many expressed a reluctance to attend clinics and other mainstream services. The home environment also made the teen mothers feel more relaxed and empowered to discuss their future sexual health needs. The ongoing relationship with the nurse also provided a source of continuing support. Staff data revealed the importance of clear referral pathways, clear lines of communication between staff and also that more work is needed to target the teen mothers most at risk of a further pregnancy. Conclusion Home based contraceptive services are good at targeting young women who would otherwise not access sexual health services. This kind of nursing outreach is effective at reducing repeat teenage pregnancy. The importance of speedy referral and good communication between staff is an important element of a successful service.