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Clinical Competency in Psychiatric Nursing Students

Mahvash, Salsali, Professor and Deputy Dean of International Affairs, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences., Mohtashami, J., PhD. Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences., Pazargadi, M., PhD. Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery., Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences., & Manoochchhri, H., PhD. Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran.

Background

Clinical competencies in psychiatric nursing education provide the foundation for the development of competencies in nursing practice. Clinical competencies refer to knowledge-based, cognitive, and psychomotor skills set essential in the provision of safe and quality patient care.

Objectives

The purpose of this study was to explore clinical competency in psychiatric nursing students.

Methods

Using qualitative method, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 16 participants (five undergraduate senior students in last term, two MSc students in psychiatric field, four members of faculty with psychiatric nursing, three head nurses and two nurses who worked in psychiatric wards}. Also we used two focus groups interview with nursing students. After employing purposeful sampling for the selection of the participants, semi-structured interviews were held for data collection. All interviews were reordered and transcribed. The data were analyzed using constant comparative method through qualitative content analysis. First phase of this study is going to present in this paper.

Results

During the data analysis, four main themes emerged: Being familiar, Confronting, Involving , and Being competent .

Conclusions

Enhancement of student learning and curricular revisions must be designed to improve clinical competency in nursing student and therefore nurses.

Key Words: Psychiatric Nursing, Clinical Competency, Nursing Education