

7th Annual Congress on

Primary Healthcare, Nursing and Neonatal Screening

&

2nd International Conference on

Women's Health, Obstetrics and Female Reproductive System

July 27-28, 2018 | Vancouver, Canada

Attrition among Iranian nursing students: A qualitative study

Fatemeh Oskouie¹, Mansoureh Ashghali Farahani, Fatemeh Ghaffari² and Mansoureh Zagheri Tafreshi³

¹Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

²Babol University of Medical Sciences, Babol, Iran

³Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Statement of the Problem: Attrition is a major challenge facing nursing students that results in substantial costs on the education, health, and treatment systems across countries and can have an unwanted effect on the quality and quantity of health services provided as well as on the health of citizens. The purpose of this study is to describe nursing students' perceptions toward factors influencing attrition.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: A qualitative study conducted using a content analysis approach. Nineteen undergraduate nursing students enrolled in the nursing bachelor program were recruited using purposive and snowball sampling. In-depth face-to-face focus and group interviews and participant observation were used for data production. Conventional content analysis approach utilized for analyzing.

Findings: In this study nursing students' attrition factors were categorized into two themes: 'before admission' and 'after admission'. The obligation to choose to nurse in the National Entrance Exam, poor management in workforce provision and improper supervision, the discrepancy between expectations and experiences, and being work abused in clinical training were the main factors of attrition.

Conclusion & Significance: Authorities in education and practice sectors can use these findings to improve the quality of clinical and theoretical education and to avoid nursing student attrition. This can be accomplished through an expansion in network consciousness of the character of nursing, proficient administration of workforce arrangement and clear and succinct supervision of exercises in both hypothetical and clinical fields.

Biography

Fatemeh Oskouie, BScN, MScOH and DrPH, is a Professor of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) Tehran, Iran. She is currently the head of Nursing Care Research Center (since 2007). She established WHO Collaborating Center for Education and Research in Nursing and Midwifery in 2014. She also established the National Nursing Research Network in 2016. She works as a member of Nursing Board and is research advisor to the Nursing Deputy of Ministry of Health of Iran. Her research interests are Public Health, Nursing Education, Quality of life, Non-communicable Diseases.

fatemehoskouie@gmail.com

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