

Assessment of the cultural competence of student nurses in Sri Lanka

H.S.Senarathne^{1*}, M.K.D.L.Meegoda²

¹School of Nursing, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

²Department of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

shereensenarathne@gmail.com*

Introduction/Background: Cultural Competence (CC) is vital for nurses in the provision of culturally competent care for culturally diverse patients globally. Components of the cultural competence are cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural skill, cultural encounter and cultural desire.

Objective: Purpose of this study was to investigate the level of cultural competence among third year nursing students in Schools of Nursing in Ministry of Health (MoH), Sri Lanka (SL).

Methodology: A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted in Schools of Nursing Jaffna and Kurunegala as a cohort sample among all the Schools of Nursing in MoH, SL. Random sampling technique was used to select the participants. Validated Self-administered questionnaire was used. The data were analysed using Statistical Packages for the Social Sciences version 22. Ethical approval was taken from the Ethical Review Committee of the International Institute of Health Sciences SL.

Results: Response rate was 100%. Of the sample (n=171) majority were female, Sinhalese and Buddhist. Mean score of CC was 3.7 (SD± 0.4). When analyse each component of CC of respondents, the mean score of cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural skill, cultural encounter and cultural desire was 3.7(±0.4), 3.8(± 0.4), 3.5 (± 0.7), 3.5(±0.6) and 4.2 (±0.5) respectively.

Discussion/Interpretation: According to the results all the components of cultural competence were in moderate level which needs to enhance up to the highest level as patients in SL are culturally diverse.

Clinical implication: Findings will help nursing education system to include the components of cultural competence to improve culturally competent care of the nurses to enhance patients' satisfaction.

Key words: Student nurse, Cultural competence, Cultural awareness, Cultural knowledge, Cultural skill, Cultural encounter, Cultural desire