

Improving the process of education of nursing students in the Covid-19 Pandemic: an action research study

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Summary: The coronavirus disease has severely influenced various aspects of human life, including education. This study aimed to improve the process of education of nursing students in the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Methods-Results: This mutual participatory action research study was conducted in 2019-2022 in two-cycle including observation and planning, mutual participatory action, and reflection. In the quantitative round, nursing students were selected by the convenience method (1st quantitative round: 142 students and 2nd quantitative round: 105 students). Individual characteristics questionnaire, course experience questionnaire, and e-learning satisfaction questionnaire were used to collect data. In the 1st qualitative round, 13 participants and in the 2nd qualitative round, 10 participants were recruited using purposive sampling. Data collection was through in-depth and semi-structured interviews and written narratives and continued until reaching data saturation. Nursing administrators, educators, and students constructed interviews to understand nursing education changes during the pandemic. All interviews were recorded, transcribed, reviewed, coded, and analyzed using a conventional content analysis approach.

In the 1st and 2nd quantitative rounds, more than 66% and 88% of students were satisfied with the quality of the training course, respectively and more than half of the students

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(56.3% and 57.1%) were relatively satisfied with virtual education, respectively. In the qualitative phase, five main topics emerged: safe management in ambiguous situations; perceived situations; adaptive coping; educational facilitators and challenges; and continuing education in an uncertain context. In the 2nd qualitative round, the strategies for improving the quality of theoretical and clinical education were explained.

Conclusion: Given the unknown time of eradicating the COVID Pandemic, it is necessary to evaluate the educational conditions of nursing schools, adopt appropriate policies, plan and take appropriate measures to continue better nursing education, and increase students' satisfaction with face-to-face, virtual, and clinical education. Clear guidelines and recommendations are needed to ensure medical education safety during the pandemic.

Keywords: Pandemic, COVID-19, Education, Nursing, Qualitative Study, Virtual, Nursing Student, Satisfaction