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BACKGROUND

- It is important for health professionals to be aware and ready for global connectedness
- ICT, such as Skype or Zoom can support international engagement
- Student exchanges are expensive, mean time away from a course, and only some can participate

METHOD

Aim: To provide students a learning activity to give a more global perspective of nursing and health care.

Objective: To determine student's perception of a collaborative learning activity where 3rd year students meet fellow students in a small group setting using ICT to collaborate.

- Participants - convenience sample of 3rd year undergraduate nursing students
- From University of Plymouth in United Kingdom (UK) and University of Auckland in New Zealand (NZ).
- 9 students volunteered from UK, 6 from NZ.
- Ethical approval from both sites

DATA COLLECTION

- At end of month long learning activity
- Anonymous survey using open and close-ended questions
- Delivered on-line using Microsoft Forms
- Survey link emailed to all participants

LEARNING ACTIVITY

- Students placed in 3 groups, each group with 3 UK and 2 NZ students.
- 4 audio/video meetings, using Zoom, each week during February 2018
- Each meeting 30 to 60 minutes duration.
- Guidelines to facilitate discussion for each week's meeting.

| Discussion | Topic |
|------------|---|
| Week 1 | Introduce yourselves; What is nursing education like in your country? What area of nursing are you considering when you qualify? |
| Week 2 | What are the common health issues in your country? |
| Week 3 | What do you think are present and future health issues that you as nurses in the global village need to be aware of? |
| Week 4 | How do you see information and communication technology (ICT) impacting healthcare and health care delivery in the future? |



Learning about what nursing is like overseas was the most useful part

Cultural differences were interesting

Having a lovely travel grant to enable us to meet face to face would be ideal

This learning activity has encouraged me to become more involved in the nursing community as it is so great talking to like-minded people with the same passion for people's health

Gave insight to opportunities available once qualified in a global context

An interesting experience

Positive to engage with students from another country

RESULTS

- 13 out of 15 (87%) students responded
- Results from rating 10 statements
- All agreed (31%) or strongly agreed (69%) that this collaborative learning activity enabled them to engage purposefully with other nursing students.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed : 'I would recommend other student nurses participate in future collaborative learning activities with international nursing students'.
- Thematic analysis of open-ended responses identified five themes:
 - Cultural differences
 - International connections & future employment
 - Benefits of e-engagement
 - Limitations of e-engagement
 - Maintaining new relationships

LESSONS LEARNT

- This study confirms ICT supports students to gain a global perspective of nursing and healthcare
- Students can gain experience and intercultural skills without leaving home.
- These students were interested in future employment and working overseas.
- This collaborative virtual learning activity was a relevant addition to their nursing course
- Students developed an awareness of similarities as well as differences within healthcare provision
- Students enjoyed the virtual engagement activity making international connections and friendships.
- Limitation – of small numbers and need to scale up this study
- Issue of each country being in a different time zone so planning required