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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?



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