

Navigating the liminal space: positive affirmation or dissonance and disruption?

IMPACT OF CLINICAL PLACEMENT ON STUDENT NURSES



Introduction and aims of the research

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Aim:

- What is the impact of existing organisation culture and power structures on student nurses traversing the liminal space of placement
- How do these factors affect the development and perceptions of student nurses with regard to their chosen profession?

What is a liminal space? Context of study

Liminal Space

- Liminality, derived from the latin for threshold is defined by Larson (2014) as a psychological process of transitioning across boundaries and borders

Context

- The healthcare system in Ireland has for a number of years been experiencing shortages in attracting and retaining nurses
- We sought to examine whether clinical placement may contribute to attrition or strengthen identity with the profession and intention to remain.
- The impact of culture and agency development within this context was considered

Methodology & Analysis

- The study adopted a qualitative constructivist approach utilising diaries and interviews.
- 24 students participated in the interview process across two placements: one in their 3rd year of study and one in their final year.
- 11 preceptors also volunteered to participate.
- Following the data collection, thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke 2019) was adopted for the research

Themes

- The key subthemes that emerged consistently from the data were:
 - perceptions of hierarchical culture,
 - preceptors as signallers of culture,
 - positive cultures existed
 - student agency was evident

Discussion

- **Culture shock**
- **Hierarchy within the healthcare system**
- **Positive role of Preceptors**
- **Difficulties of being a Preceptor**

Conculsion

- **Students' experiences during the liminal space of placement can contribute to dissonance or strengthening of identity and affinity with nursing.**
- **Disconnect between students experiences in college and the work place**

Thank you