

How the creation of a Virtual Locality Placement enabled student nurses to achieve practice hours during the pandemic

Context

A COVID -19 emergency placement developed from a validated "locality placement" for all pre-registration nursing students across all fields of practice (BSc & PG Diploma) unable to access face to face practice placements since 2020

Aims

For students to gain an understanding of the challenges that face individuals, families and groups in their achievement of health and well-being while living in the Covid-19 pandemic

Process

Students undertook a virtual assessment and identification of biopsychosocial and environmental stressors impacting a local community



Example
of student
group report

Community as Partner Model and Windshield survey (Anderson and MacFarlane, 2015) were the frameworks used to facilitate this activity

Students worked in groups of 4-6 over 4 weeks supported by online resources and group tutorials with their Academic Assessor

Examples of localities students selected included a flat, a street, a village, town and parts of a city

The submitted group report included the assessment and identification of a health and well-being diagnosis and key issues for their chosen locality

The report was pass or refer and 150 practice hours were awarded

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Moving Forward: maximises opportunities for students who may have specific requirements to achieve practice hours and shared with other HEI's as a model of good practice

Examples of student feedback



Knowledge and understanding

"More insight on how the community functions, better understanding about patient background and their situation"
"the research gathered and analysed underpinned a wider understanding of my community and stressors on healthcare services"



Communication

"enabled me to think in an alternative and more holistic manner by working with peers so closely and getting their different viewpoints"
"Improved my team working skills and ability to use online resources and means of communication"



Management and Leadership

"Learnt more about a community which has aided my knowledge of what is available to patients once discharged"
"it requires skills and dedication to achieve a good result for the team and these are crucial things to learn for nurses"



References

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