

Title : Learning Behaviors of the First Year Nursing Students at Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Bangkok in Academic Year 2004.

Key words : Learning Behaviors / Nursing Students

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to study the learning behaviors of the first year nursing students, factors related to the learning behaviors and the students' achievements at Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Bangkok. The study utilized qualitative research design and method. The samples consisted of 20 nursing students, the first half had a GPA ≥ 3.00 , and the second half had a GPA ≤ 2.00 . Data was collected from in-depth interviews and the students' history folders, and were analyzed by using content analysis.

The results of the study were as follows:

1. Learning behaviors of the students who had a of GPA ≥ 3.00

1.1 In-class learning: they came to class on time, paid attention to teachers/ lectures during class, took notes, did not talk or sleep during class, and asked questions when they did not understand.

1.2 Out of class learning: they arranged learning schedules, went to the library when they were free during self-study periods and kept studying from textbooks and the internet when they did not understand.

1.3 Learning plan: they managed time for doing activities, making reports and submission, reviewing notes and summarizing after classes; prepared knowledge before go to class; and read before examinations.

1.4 Reading method: they read books alone and studied with friends after.

1.5 Examination preparedness: they set schedules for reading books at least 1 week before examinations and read every subject, took notes and studied with friends till they understood.

1.6 Learning attention: they planned before going to class, paid attention, followed the important points, and did not talk during class.

1.7 Note taking: they tried to write each important point and highlight it.

1.8 Memory Improvement: Reading and taking notes simultaneously over and over.

2. Learning behaviors of the students who had GPA ≤ 2.00

2.1 In-class learning: they did not take notes, did not understand well or could not catch the teachers' words or lecture and often slept in class.

2.2 Out of class learning: they tried to finish homework and went to the library for studying with friends who were better students. They did not adjustable at the beginning because they disliked reading.

2.3 Learning plan: they did not make schedules or go to bed at 11 pm.

2.4 Reading method: they could not finish reading books on time. They often listened to music while they read. They liked to read alone and highlight notes, but had no time to go over notes.

2.5 Examination Preparedness: they did not set schedules in advance, so they only read books a few days before examinations. They read until late at night or early in the morning, and could not finish reading some subjects.

2.6 Learning attention: they were sleepy or slept and talked to friends in class. They never sat in class for 3-4 hours.

2.7 Note taking: they could not complete notes and did not understand the content.

2.8 Memory Improvement: Asked friends to explain readings and re-took notes.

3. Factors related to the learning behaviors and achievements of the students such as parents' careers, GPA in secondary school, learning motivations, and life styles were different in the 2 groups. Most of the first group had a GPA ≥ 3.00 had parents' with careers in agriculture, a secondary school GPA of 3.1-3.5, learning motivation to be a nurse and a life style that included a quiet evening and being home by dark. They began reviewing books at 7 pm while others were going to bed, but if they were at the dormitory they would have activities until 11 pm which is the time for a shower and lights off. The students who had a GPA > 3.00 would continue reading in the study-room and stay at the dormitory on weekends. The group with a GPA ≤ 2.00 mainly had parents' with careers as civil servants, a secondary school GPA of 2.5-3.0, a learning motivation which came from their parents wanting them to be a nurse, and a life style in the evening which included talking with friends and going to sleep when at the time of lights out. Some of them used phones and a few would read in the study-room. They would go shopping on weekends.

Suggestions:

The data about learning behaviors, learning obstacles and environmental factors related to the learning behaviors and achievements of the nursing students are very helpful for nursing instructors helping the nursing students who have a low GPA. The nursing college should set a teaching program and efficient learning methods for the first year nursing students.