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Editorial Article

Editorial comments HealthSAGesonheid 2015 publication



In January 2015 Elsevier became the new publisher of HealthSAGesonheid and it has been an exciting year of exploring new ways of publishing for all involved. Regretfully Dr Charlene Downing resigned as managing editor due to other work commitments and Ms Lizell Smit was appointed as the new managing editor.

In 2015 HSAG published 12 articles. Of these, six articles dealt with qualitative research, five with quantitative research and one with action research. The articles addressed topics covering educational issues, aggression and violence, developmental issues, HIV/AIDS and clinical treatment which are briefly summarised below.

Educational issues

Issues on education included formal and informal education as well as theory and clinical practice. Four articles covered educational issues.

One of the articles on nurses' perceptions of facilitating genuineness in a nurse–patient relationship emphasised the importance of learning genuineness through socialisation and self-awareness. The description of a model of facilitation of emotional intelligence to promote wholeness of neophyte critical-care nurses in South Africa provided the readers with a structured framework by means of which emotional intelligence in nurses could be enhanced. The facilitation of inherent affective and mental resourcefulness and resilience provided the main thrust of the model.

In another article, the Beta nursing measure: calibrating construct validity with Rasch analysis, it was found that an opportunity could be created to convert the Beta's Likert qualities into an interval measure to metrically calculate change in patients' activities of daily living as a direct result of effective restorative nursing. In another article the readers were informed of the value of the pre-hospital learning environment as part of the emergency nursing programme. The findings of the research project supported the value and continuation of using the pre-hospital clinical learning

environment for placing post-basic emergency nursing students when enrolled in the emergency nursing programme.

Aggression and violence

Aggression may be experienced on a continuum where on the one end of the continuum persons experience disrespect in the form of unfair treatment and on the other end they experience violence. Aggression lies in the middle of the continuum. Persons may also experience secondary trauma by listening to other people's experiences of aggression and violence. Three articles dealt with aggression. The article on the development of a model for dealing with secondary traumatic stress in mental health workers in Rwanda showed how listening to stories of fear, pain and stress could impact on mental health workers. The model proposed in this article offers an effective framework whereby mental health workers are given an opportunity to address their experienced secondary traumatic stress.

In the article on the experience of aggression by female teachers in the workplace, the research findings indicated that different perceptions influence female teachers' experience of aggression, and that the pressure of the school system forms an integral part of the experience of aggression. The female teachers experienced the different effects of aggression as physical symptoms, psychological symptoms, interpersonal effects and critical personal assessment.

The article addressing research findings on the perceptions of nurse educators regarding the implementation of the occupational specific dispensation at a selected nursing college in Limpopo indicated that nurse educators believed that there was unfair treatment in relation to the implementation of the dispensation.

Developmental issues

Developmental issues refer to challenges in tasks to be mastered from childhood till old age. The article dealing with the impact of absent fathers on the psycho-social wellbeing of adolescent girls found that adolescent girls have a number of

unfilled needs due to the absence of their fathers. They need to spend time with their fathers and to bond closely with him.

The research findings in the article on guidelines to facilitate self-care among older persons in South Africa included nine self-care guidelines developed for the public healthcare sector, professional nurses and older persons. These guidelines provide a framework for improving the healthcare of older persons at home which in turn will improve their quality of life, reduce unintentional self-neglect and assist in alleviating overcrowding in clinics as unnecessary visits to the clinic can be avoided by implementing these guidelines.

HIV/AIDS issues

As we all know, there are many diverse issues involved with HIV/AIDS. One of the articles dealt with the health literacy needs of women living with HIV/AIDS and it was found that women need more knowledge about the basic pathophysiology of HIV/AIDS, the impact of HIV/AIDS on their health, more awareness of the modes of HIV transmission and methods of protecting others from being infected. Other important health literacy needs related to self-care and correct antiretroviral use. Improved social skills were also found to be important so that women can build and maintain their relationships.

The other article evaluated the adequacy of pharmaceutical services in the provision of antiretroviral treatment in primary healthcare clinics. It was found that insufficient storage space, inadequate security, poor air conditioning, and functional stock-outs of essential drugs posed problems. The

study found that it is up to professional nurses to manage drug supply, prescribe and dispense medication as there are no pharmacists or pharmacist's assistants in some clinics.

Clinical practice

The one article dealing with clinical practice was about the effect of lumbosacral manipulation on growing pains of children between 4 and 12 years of age. The feedback from parents and pain diaries indicated that spinal manipulation presented a beneficial intervention in the treatment of growing pains. In addition it was also found that other methods of treating growing pains such as simple leg rubs could also bring relief.

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