

AN IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN NURSING EDUCATION

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Abstract

COVID-19 changed the normal function of all over the world and it had great impact on all sectors. Education is very important to shapes our future citizen. COVID 19 affects our education system also. And especially few education sectors were practical oriented training based education such as medicine, nursing, applied medical science, engineering etc. Based on this, it is very important because in future we need more doctors, nurses and other health professionals to meet the health needs of our human population and to protect them from the effect of dead full communicable diseases, so there by we need to give training based education for such professionals during this pandemic period in an effective manner to bring out efficient health professionals. As I belong to nursing professional working under academic sector I wish to share the impacts of this COVID 19 pandemic in nursing education sector. In this article you can see various problems or challenges faced in nursing education sector by academicians and also various possible teaching learning solutions handled by various teaching faculties to overcome the educational problems during this pandemic era. I hope this article will be useful for nursing professionals who were working in education sectors to train their nursing students to gain adequate knowledge and practice in their field.

Keywords: Nursing education, COVID-19, pandemic

INTRODUCTION

Education sector had affected by this COVID 19 pandemic, nearly 90% of educational institutions were closed to prevent further transmission of virus. In this 20th century of year 2019-2020, globally we all are facing challenges in all sectors. In nursing education sector both students and faculties were also facing more challenges in teaching & learning. The nursing student as well as teaching faculty may be either an asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic carrier of COVID-19 and could return to their community and cause a further unconscionable spread of the infection. If students were exposed to COVID-19 while in a clinical setting, they risked not only their health but that of their family and community. Nursing students and professionals faced various physical, emotional and psychological problems during the digital training period. We can see in details regarding various challenges and solutions in nursing education during this pandemic era.

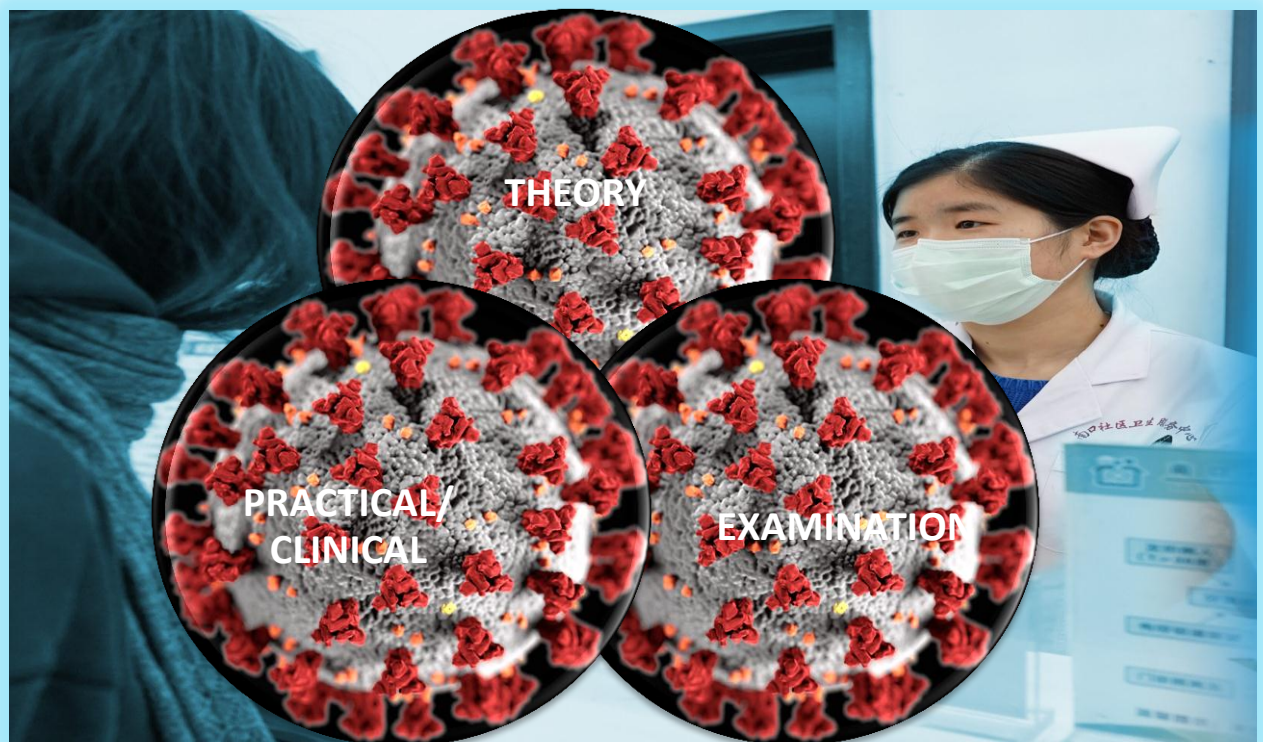
INTERVENTION

Nursing education contains both theoretical and practical learning experiences which enable our nursing students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for providing nursing care to the individual, family & community. Nursing faculties and students faces more challenges in implementing teaching and learning process, like an ineffective communication, inadequate readiness, implementing examinations, practical demonstrations, and emotional reactions.

During this pandemic period clinical learning environment is the most important factors affecting the teaching-learning process. A series of online teaching will be used to impart theoretical knowledge and virtual interactive video simulation scenarios were added as a solution for getting clinical experience. Nursing faculty and students should be adequately trained with infection control and emergency nursing care measures and nursing care of patients both suspected and confirmed with COVID-19. Financial support also needed to build a robust set of resources.

CHALLENGES IN NURSING EDUCATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

Here we can see the challenges faced by nursing profession in education sector is categorized under theory challenges, practical or clinical practice challenges, challenges in conducting digital examination.



i) THEORY

- All campus activities were shut and replaced by digital online activities. Due to sudden shift from in campus activities to online teaching learning both nursing students and teachers faced problems in handling technical issues during the educational process.
- Another big issues faced by them are poor connectivity/ network problems during online teaching. Students can't hear the instructor voice and not able to see the display or video or teaching materials during their virtual class.
- The complete class room learning replaced by distance learning so students and teaching faculties get a feel of some gap in their teaching learning process.

- Overall during delivering virtual classes both students and teaching faculties faced an ineffective communication.

ii) PRACTICAL

- Due to the shift of in campus to digital education students had some lacking in their lab demonstration and return demonstration.
- Students also get lacking in getting practical skill due to unavailability of lab return demonstrations.
- Nursing students had lacking in clinical/ real life exposure during this pandemic period.

iii) EXAMINATION

- While coming to examination both teaching faculties and nursing students faced various technical issues in conducting and writing theory examination.
- In theory examination few students not able to continue to next session and not able to answer all questions due to hanging of their electronic devices and automatically the correct answer turned to wrong option during the click of submission button due to technical error & evaluation done automatically by the system.
- As there is no clinical real life exposure and lab exposure, practical examination & evaluation held into trouble. Evaluators had faced difficulties in evaluating student's practical skills and their practical knowledge.

SOLUTIONS IN NURSING EDUCATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

i) THEORY

- Campus class room lecture were replaced by virtual theory lectures and were implemented through online teaching platform like zoom, google meet, black board collaborate ultra, webex meet, microsoft online teams, GoToWebinar, group chats, screen sharing, recording.
- Teaching faculties and nursing students used online learning platform through various features like announcement, assignment submission, discussion, grade book, files upload, syllabus, modules, chat, communication, speed grader, presentations, symposium, workshop, quizzes, exams, conferences.

ii) PRACTICAL

- To overcome the challenges in gaining clinical practical skills nursing faculties choose virtual simulation like ATI real life, i-human kalpan, etc. Here nursing students get some what knowledge in clinical practice and it will be useful for them while entering into the real life situation.
- Given various group and individual clinical scenario were given to the nursing students to impart clinical knowledge.
- In accompanied with hospital authorities nursing students were encouraged to participate in tele-nursing, tele-health programmes to give health education, collecting history from the clients from remote places.
- Allowed nursing students to do clinical scenario case presentation through online.

iii) EXAMINATION

- Examination were carried out in the form of quizzes , short answer, essay, multiple choice questions etc were conducted through canvas and blackboard
- Nursing students were given various assignment topics and asked them to submit their assignments through canvas and blackboard. Submitted assignments were corrected by the evaluators and given grades through online.
- Virtual clinical case presentation and viva were conducted through blackboard ultra, zoom
- ATI TEAS (Assessment Technologies Institute-Test of Essential Academic Skills) is designed specifically to assess a student's preparedness entering the health science fields. The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS Test) is a standardized, multiple choice exam for students applying for nursing school in the USA. It is often used to determine the ability of potential students to adjust to a nursing program. The test is created and administered by Assessment Technologies Institute. On August 31, 2016, the TEAS V test was retired in favor of the newest version called ATI TEAS. While the difficulty is essentially the same, all components were updated to latest standards of the profession. The exam is 209 minutes and consists of 170 questions, drawn from a TEAS Test Bank consisting of thousands of questions that are given on several versions of the exam. The topics covered are reading, mathematics, science, and English language and usage.
- Proctored exams are those done under the supervision of a proctor, or supervisor, in a controlled setting. Testing in a proctored setting is done in a full-screen mode. With this in mind, students are not to leave the full-screen browser until their test is complete. During testing, be sure that they are not clicking outside of the browser or trying to close the window that the test is in.

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 brings lots of changes in an educational system of many countries around the world. Educational institutions were closed to reduce the spread of this pandemic. The quality of the educational preparation provided to nursing students should be in an innovative manner and curriculum should be planned in an effective manner to impart the clinical and theoretical knowledge during COVID-19. Personal protective equipment should be handled effectively by both nursing faculty and students to overcome this pandemic. Nursing education is an essential service at this time. Innovative curricular changes that allow students to avoid delays in graduation and support health service delivery needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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