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The nurse teachers need education how to use social media in nursing education

Topic: International multidisciplinary Collaborations in Nursing Education: research and experiences

Challenge for the future in higher education is that more focus should be placed on higher education teacher's role and use of social media. To ensure this emphasis it is needed to put higher education teacher's engagement of social media use and see that as part of teacher education qualifications.

The purpose of this study was to describe the nurse teacher candidates' learning outcomes and experiences of the social media during the international nurse educator course "Empowering Learning Environments in Nursing Education" The data was collected from the students (n=24) at the beginning and at the end of the course with a questionnaire consisting of structured and open questions. The aim of these two weeks intensive course was to understand the social media as a learning environment in nursing education in a multicultural European context and ensure high quality nurse teacher education related to evidence-based teaching.

The students' knowledge about social media increased during the course from 5.2 to 8.1 (max was 10) and their skills to use social media applications increased from 4.5 to 7.6. (max was 10) by their self-evaluation. Overall, the experiences of the course were good. It opened new horizons in teaching, has motivated and stimulated students to use social media applications in teaching and learning more and better. The cooperative teaching methods to learn how to use social media applications used during the course supported the students' learning process. Also the training to use social media applications during the course was didactic. All students thought that they can use social media tools more in their teaching after this course.

The nurse teacher education should include more social media courses where teacher candidates have more possibilities to train, utilize and assess the benefits of social media in nursing education.

The biography of the author:

PhD, Docent Leena Salminen is a senior lecturer at the University of Turku department of Nursing Science. She is responsible of health care teacher education in the University of Turku. She has a long working experience in nursing education during the last decades. Her main research area is the competence of health care teachers.