



**FINE Conference “Nursing
Education for a Sustainable
Future: Challenges
and Opportunities”**

Phenomenological Investigation of Nursing Students’ Experiences During Clinical Practice on Surgical Units

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M3O Grup de Recerca M3O
**Methodology, Methods,
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Background ¹

Clinical practice is essential in nursing education because nursing students put their **knowledge into practice** and develop various skills in clinics.

In these settings, students **interact with their environment** physically, socially, and emotionally while achieving learning objectives.

They **communicate** with healthcare professionals and clinical instructors. Moreover, of course, they **interact** with patients and their families.



Background ²

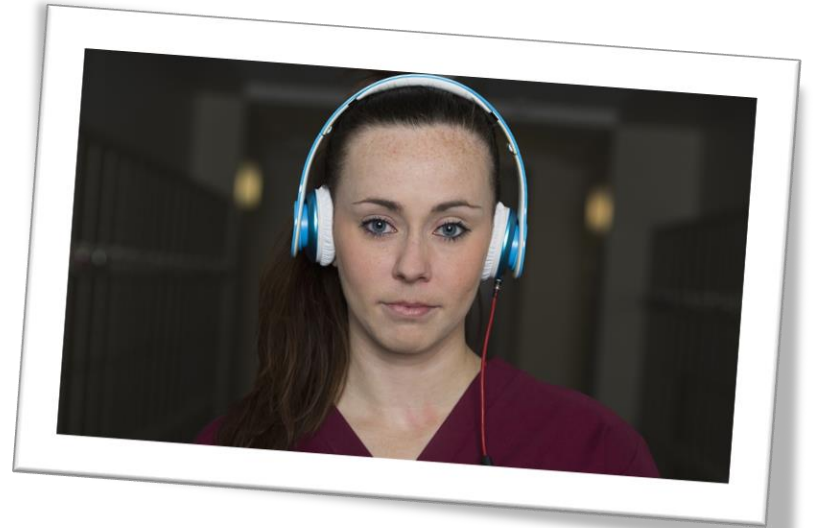
Factors that **influence** clinical learning:

- the quality of school education
- students' perceptions of clinical education
- the number of students
- the instructor's approach
- experience of emotional safety
- connection between theory & practice



Objective

Identify nursing students' **experiences** in surgical units and focused on the **impact** of those experiences on them.



Methods ¹

- Descriptive phenomenology
- Undergraduate nursing school, in Türkiye
- Convenience sampling (+bond of trust)
- 40 second-year (3rd semester) nursing students enrolled in the compulsory 12 ECTS **“Surgical Diseases Nursing”** course in the 2019-2020 academic year.

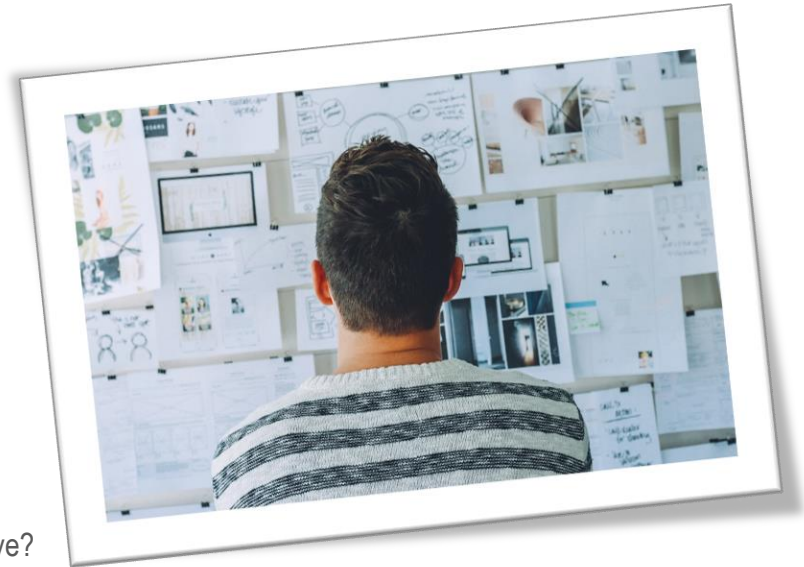
They had previously completed two practical courses:
 Basic Principles of Nursing (2h, laboratory practice)
 Fundamentals of Nursing (8h, observational clinical practice)



Methods ²

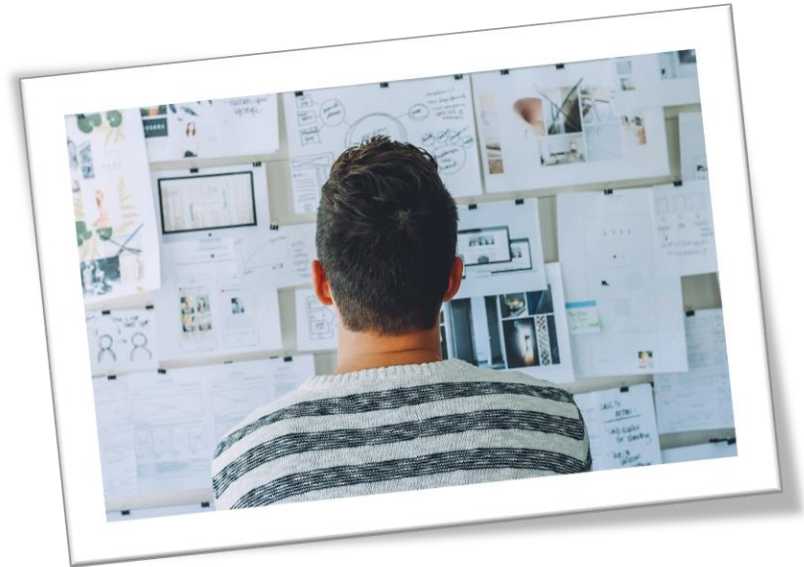
- **Inclusion criteria:**
 - taking the “Surgical Diseases Nursing” course for the first time
 - voluntary participation,
 - keeping clinical diaries during clinical practice in surgical units (8h a week for 14 weeks in total)

- **Data collection**
 - online diary platform, digitalized and anonymized
 - each participant a random 8-digit code (ID)
 1. What procedures have you observed today?
 2. In which procedures have you participated today?
 3. How did you feel in your clinical practice today?
 4. Can you explain your experiences in general, both positive & negative?
 5. What else would you like to say about today's clinical practice?



Methods ³

- **Data analysis**
 - 7-steps of Colaizzi's phenomenological analysis method
 - MAXQDA
- **Ethical aspect**
 - conducted according to the ethical principles of the World Medical Association's Declaration of Helsinki
 - institutional research board permit
 - voluntary participation
 - written informed consent



Results ¹

- Four main themes and 13 sub-themes.
- The main themes were:
 1. emotional reactions
 2. individual learning outcomes
 3. professionalism
 4. interpersonal interaction



Results ²

1. Emotional Reactions

Participants expressed positive or negative emotions in their clinical log.

Adverse emotional reactions were related to:

- reactions to death
- feeling worried

positive emotional reactions were related to:

- feeling brave
- feeling happy



Results ³

2. Individual Learning Outcomes

Participants stated that they attained numerous individual learning outcomes during clinical practice, such as:

- learning by observing health personnel
- integrating theory and clinical practice
- practical skills



Results ⁴

3. Professionalism

The main theme “professionalism” consisted of two sub-themes:

- a sense of belonging to the nursing profession
- adherence to ethical principles



Results ⁵

4. Interpersonal Interaction

The main theme “interpersonal interaction” consisted of four sub-themes:

- interaction with faculty members
- interaction within the team (nurses)
- communication with patients
- peer-to-peer communication



Conclusion ¹

Clinical practice makes nursing students more aware of what they have learned in school.

It also gives them the opportunity to put theory into practice in actual clinical settings.



Conclusion 2

Nursing students develop **positive relationships** with peers, nurses, instructors, and patients during clinical practice.

This positive interaction helps them develop a stronger sense of **belonging to the nursing profession**.

However, they are **emotionally affected** by adverse reactions (from patients and peers) and end-of-life care.

They also **fear** making mistakes and compromising patient safety.

They feel more **confident** when supported by nurses.



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Gracias
Gràcies
Thank you
Merci