

## Nursing Education during Pandemic: Transformation in to Digital Era

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### Article History

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**Abstract:** When the COVID-19 pandemic started to spread around the world, the situation became difficult for the many educational institutions. The objective of this study was to discover the learning experiences and the expectations about the changes in education, in light of the abrupt change from face-to-face to e-learning education, of nursing students enrolled in the Bachelor's degree of governmental universities, This study aimed to examine nursing students attitude toward e-learning. This study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional design with 50 nursing students as study participants. Data were collected via online survey tool. The imposition of e-learning sets limitations for older students, Students expressed concern about what an interruption in their nursing education would mean for their future careers as Registered Nurses. Many students in clinical placements were in their final focus clinical practicum, and thus close to successfully completing their program. Some learners were only one or two courses away from completion of their Bachelor of Nursing degree. In addition to cancelling their current clinical placement, they had concerns about progressing in the rest of their program. Digital Health Insights provide healthcare leaders and experts with the latest artificial intelligence and digital transformation news, trends, and strategies in healthcare today. Our goal is to empower you with innovative ways to collect, pool and analyse high-quality data from which you can extract actionable insights. Through artificial intelligence and digital trends in healthcare, we can use these insights to create efficiencies that improve patient care while reducing or streamlining healthcare costs.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, Nursing Education, e-learning education, healthcare.

## INTRODUCTION

His unprecedented emergence of COVID-19 has thrown in to disarray education and has led to the rise of e-learning. The shift from traditional delivery of instruction to online learning brings about varying perceptions that necessitates attention and exploration .Whole educational system are taking all necessary steps to insure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat of COVID-19. This study aimed to examine nursing student's attitude toward e-learning

This health crisis impacts not only frontline staff and clinical leaders but all systems and communities. COVID-19 has also already disrupted universities and academic institutions. Within the health field, schools of nursing are bracing for unique challenges related to our role in helping develop the next generation of care providers. This article focuses on the unique needs and concerns of nursing educators and nursing students in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anderson, J. (2005). This study has explained how IT changed our life. It has shown also the role of ICT in teaching in the schools. This study has focused on importance of e-learning and how it combined the pedagogy and technology. The searcher has concluded by outlining why E-learning is important in teacher development.

Mohammadi, N., et al. (2011).This study has showed the role of e-learning and its application in language learning process and compared it with traditional form of language learning. It also has provided advantages and disadvantages of e-learning in language learning. The researcher when referred to the above related studies was able to

bring out this maiden thought into his research done on the role of e-learning in COVID19 crisis and to show the important of it in different fields.

## METHODOLOGY

This study aimed to examine nursing student's attitude toward e-learning. This study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional design with 50 nursing students as study participants. Data were collected via online survey tool.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> our academic nursing program made the difficult decision to remove students from clinical practicums. In the days preceding this decision, numerous questions and concerns were shared in online meetings. Our University offers a Bachelor of Nursing program. Students in this program must complete in-person clinical placements to fulfill the Bachelor of Nursing degree requirements. Educational system did not experience the same challenges that other academic institutions faced with the quick pivot to distance learning in a digital environment. However, the serious concerns related to learner safety were at the forefront of this decision.

We all had to consider the value of education against the risk and strain to the learner personally and professionally. Most of our students Nurses in their respective communities across to pursuing their educational commitments, including theory and clinical courses. Students often travel hundreds of kilometres from their home province to complete clinical courses. When rates of COVID-19 increased, there were concerns from both faculty and students on the possible restrictions or limits to travel within KSA. Concerns regarding travelling focused on the possibility of transmission.

Students expressed concern about what an interruption in their nursing education would mean for their future careers as Registered Nurses. Many students in clinical placements were in their final focus clinical practicum, and thus close to successfully completing their program. Some learners were only one or two courses away from completion of their Bachelor of Nursing degree. In addition to cancelling their current clinical placement, they had concerns about progressing in the rest of their program. We did not have all the answers or solutions at the time the decision was made, and are still working through the immediate safety concerns and implications for future clinical placements. Our approach with students has been to reassure them that the worries regarding their academic path are valid and taken seriously.

Amid panic and crisis, it is challenging to continue planning for an uncertain future. However, universities and educators have a societal obligation to think long term. How will we recover from the pandemic? Will we be able to sustain and maintain a program if the crisis extends long term? At this moment, we have more questions than answers, but sharing these concerns allows for collective action and collaboration. We hope that by disclosing these concerns, we can help frame the academic discussions that all nursing programs will have to face.

With all the fear and anxiety, there are lessons in hope. Students' main concerns have been the health of patients and communities. In the week following our removal of students from clinical, we have continued student learning online. In discussion forums, students have shared insightful, articulate, and honest thoughts on the impact of this pandemic worldwide. Online clinical education was implemented through our black board system - virtual learning. Their responses have been one of the factors that guided us through this crisis. We have also witnessed globally the recognition of the dedication, roles, and significant contributions that nurse's play in the health care system. For the students to enter academic programs in the future, they will begin their education aware of risks and challenges that no other cohort could have ever imagined.

## RESULTS

We discuss the concerns that have been shared by students. We question how we will continue to educate nurses in a society facing social distancing, isolation, and quarantine measures, while also needing nurses at the frontline. Results indicated that majority of nursing students had intermediate computer competency (94.8%) and somewhat stable internet connection (75.1%).

They generally had negative (10.0%) and ambivalent attitude (30.6%) toward e-learning positive attitude (59.4%) as an academicians feeling of virtual learning results to be less student- teacher interaction (75.66%). Positive attitude seem to dominate nursing students' attitude toward e-learning in the times of pandemic. Although it remains a challenge, nursing schools must carefully plan and take measures to improve the experiences of students in the virtual learning environment to ensure that effective learning is uncompromised in the midst of pandemic.

## CONCLUSION

The pandemic teaches us to face the challenge in the midst of any pandemic like this; it is a real-time lesson in equity, leadership, social justice, ethics, and patient care. This pandemic will forever shift the educational landscape.

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