Interprofessional Simulation to Promote Team Collaboration in the Recognition and Management of Human Trafficking Victims

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Introduction

- Human trafficking is a substantial global public health problem and reported to be the fastest growing organized crime enterprise in the world.
- Most health care professionals have not received adequate education to recognize and initiate protective interventions with this vulnerable population.
- Effective healthcare training includes the identification of signs of trafficking, trauma-informed interventions to ensure the safety of the victim(s), and community resources for the provision of appropriate medical and socioeconomic care.
- The purpose of this pilot study was to evaluate best practices in teaching Nurse Practitioner (NP) students to identify and implement appropriate interventions for victims of human trafficking.

Research Questions

1. Does the H.O.P.E. Training improve the knowledge of identification and intervention of victims of human trafficking in nurse practitioner students?

2. Does the use of a high fidelity interprofessional simulation facilitate student application of knowledge and skills in as it pertains to the identification, intervention, and interprofessional collaboration in caring for victims of human trafficking?

3. What are the perceptions of nurse practitioner students regarding human trafficking (preparedness and overall knowledge) after the H.O.P.E. Training and simulation?

Method

Study Design:
- The study occurred in two phases, using a mixed method research design.
- The first phase was an online, evidence-based, education intervention for NP students. A one-group, repeated measures, quasi-experimental approach was used to determine if the validated H.O.P.E. Training modules improves NP students' knowledge and ability to identify victims of human trafficking.
- The second phase was a phenomenological qualitative approach that was used to explore NP students' perceptions of human trafficking a following the simulation intervention.

Setting and Sample
- Setting was the simulation laboratory at UNC Charlotte's School of Nursing.
- Convenience sampling was used to select participants.
- Sixteen FNP students volunteered to participate in the research study.

Intervention Phase 1:
- University IRB approval was obtained prior to implementation.
- Students were issued an informed consent and 29-item pre-test to obtain demographics and assess baseline knowledge and confidence.
- Students completed H.O.P.E. Training modules from Safe House Project.
- After completion of the modules, students took a post-test composed of the same 29 questions as the pre-test.

Intervention Phase 2:
- Students observed an interprofessional simulation that included the nurse triage experience, patient evaluation, and clinical decision-making by NP, and collaboration and consultation with a social worker and law enforcement.

Qualitative Results

- Students were pleased with the simulation, describing the simulation as "amazing," "helpful," "informative," and "enjoyable."
- One student commented: "The simulation was incredibly interesting, informative, and eye-opening. I have a better understanding of what signs to look for, what kinds of questions to ask, and which parties to notify for assistance."
- Another student commented that they "loved the observation and getting to hear from members of the interprofessional team that would be involved in human trafficking cases. Amazing workshop!"

Quantitative Results

Pre-Post Knowledge Increase
- Following completion of the H.O.P.E. modules, there was an increase in scores for all 16 students. The mean scores increased from **69.5** in the pretest to **89.2** in the posttest.
- With a p-value set at 0.05, the results were statistically significant at **<0.001**.

Satisfaction and Self-Confidence
- Students evaluated the simulation using NLN Student Satisfaction and Self-Confidence in Learning tool.
- Using a 5-point Likert scale, students reported a mean satisfaction with learning of **5** (below) and a mean self-confidence with learning of **4.93**.
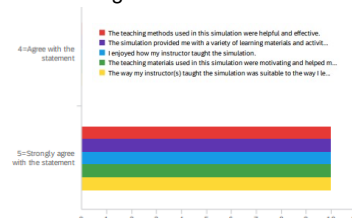

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Conclusions

- Results of the study provided essential information regarding the best method of incorporating interprofessional human trafficking education into NP curricula.
- This study adds to the body of knowledge, guides NP education, and addresses the healthcare needs of this vulnerable population.
- The findings will inform a larger study and will include collaboration with other departments at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, including the Department of Public Health and the School of Social Work.

References