

Effectiveness of Knowledge-Contact Program in Improving Nursing Students' Attitudes and Emotional Competence in Serving PHA

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Abstract

This study compared the effectiveness and sustainability of AIDS knowledge only program (knowledge) and combined program of contact with people living with HIV/AIDS (PHA) and AIDS knowledge (knowledge-contact) in improving nursing students' attitudes and emotional competence in serving PHA. This study also examined courtesy stigma from serving PHA among nursing students and its relationship with their emotions and attitudes towards PHA. Eighty-nine nursing students in Hong Kong were randomly assigned to either the knowledge or the knowledge-contact conditions. All participants completed measures of AIDS knowledge, stigmatizing attitudes, fear of contagion, willingness to treat, courtesy stigma, positive affect, and negative affect at pre-test, post-test, and 6-week follow-up. Findings showed that in both groups, significant improvement in AIDS knowledge, stigmatizing attitudes, fear of contagion, willingness to treat, courtesy stigma, and negative affect were found in post-test. The effects on AIDS knowledge, fear of contagion, willingness to treat, and negative affect sustained in follow-up. Between-group comparisons at post-test showed that the effectiveness of knowledge-contact program was significantly greater than knowledge program in improving stigmatizing attitudes and willingness to treat. No significant difference between the two groups was found at follow-up. In addition, courtesy stigma was reported by nursing students and it had negative impact on their attitudes and emotions towards PHA.