Abstract

Building Competence through Cross-Cultural Collaboration in the Aftermath of a Tsunami. Experiences of Indonesian Nursing Teachers

Aim. The aim of this study was to describe the reported experiences of Indonesian nursing teachers who participated in a two-year cross-cultural project designed to build pedagogical and professional competence.

Background. After the tsunami in 2004, there was a shortage of health professionals in the Aceh-province on north Sumatra. Therefore, the Norwegian Red Cross supported a local nursing academy with new buildings, and, during 2006-2007, a project focusing on pedagogical as well as professional nursing development. Workshops, teacher supervision and the “two-teacher-model” served as an important foundation for the Norwegian and Indonesian teacher collaboration and the resulting competence development.

Method. Eleven Indonesian teachers answered an open-ended questionnaire in November 2007. The data were analyzed by qualitative content analysis.

Findings. The main theme “an empowered nursing teacher” emerged. The teachers expressed positive experiences, e.g., by having more self confidence, feeling inspired to develop one’s potentiality and feeling strength and happiness in one’s work. The theme constituted four categories: “encouraged by collaboration and teamwork”, “more independent as a teacher”, “encouraged by more active students” and, “inspired to develop further competence”.

Conclusion. The nursing teachers felt empowered by the new teaching strategies and the cross-cultural collaboration. They expressed a desire to continue building their competence, especially in direct clinical practice.

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