

FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE MOTIVATION TO LEARN - IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING EDUCATORS

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Abstract: Preparing students for their future profession is the essence of the teacher's role. This implies the acquisition of knowledge, the development of practical skills and the formation of responsibilities. Learning, as a central concept of pedagogical psychology, is not limited to school learning, but encompasses a wider range of activities. The education of nurses is not only the acquisition of knowledge but also the formation of skills, habits and attitudes. Motivation, both internal and external, is key to student success in all phases of nursing education. As teachers and professors, we have an important role in fostering motivation, which is important for student development.

Key words: Motivation, learning, nursing, health care, nursing education.

1. INTRODUCTION

Motivation is one of the most important psychological factors of successful learning. In the past, hard work was considered sufficient for success, regardless of motivation. Contemporary psychology, however, emphasizes the importance of motivation as a key element in the educational process. One of the biggest challenges for teachers is how to motivate students. Even students who generally have high academic performance will not achieve results if they are not sufficiently motivated. An example from teaching practice shows that students with poor performance can suddenly become interested in learning and achieve significant progress when effective ways of motivation are found [1].

Motivation can be internal or external. Intrinsic motivation arises from within, when a student has a desire for knowledge or an interest in a particular subject. It includes personal motives such as the need for competence and aspirations.

Extrinsic motivation depends on incentives such as praise, rewards, cooperation or competition. Health care educators in nursing education must be aware that the same stimuli do not affect all students in the same way and should strive to approach each student individually [1]- [3].

2. PREDICTORS OF LEARNING MOTIVATION IN NURSING STUDENTS

In professional nursing education, motivation plays an important role. Students motivated for practical skills in healthcare more easily acquire theoretical knowledge and develop skills necessary for future work. The desire to help the sick develops empathy and professional responsibility in students.

The use of didactic media is very important. Gradually introduce tasks that encourage critical thinking and problem solving, creating a positive learning climate.

The goal is for students to acquire knowledge and skills with a higher degree of motivation, which will enable them to have a successful career and professional achievement [1]-[4].

Predictors that influence the motivation of nursing students:

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- Goal or intention to learn something - To successfully master the material, students must set a clear goal to learn a specific topic, and not just passively repeat it.
The role of the teacher is to help them understand the importance of active learning, application of knowledge and awareness of its future usefulness.
- Interest - Success in learning significantly depends on the interest of students in a particular subject. The teacher should recognize the interests of the students and direct them towards motivation even for those subjects that interest them less. For example, if students understand the importance of the material, such as saving lives through medical knowledge, they will be more motivated.
- Pleasantness, unpleasantness and attitude towards the material - Material that is interesting to students is often pleasant, which facilitates the learning process. On the contrary, unpleasant material or that which is contrary to the views of the students is a challenge.
Teachers should work on developing a positive attitude of students towards all teaching topics.
- Level of Aspiration - Ambition or level of aspiration significantly affects how students perceive success or failure.
A positive outcome for a student with low expectations can be considered a great success, while the same result for an ambitious student can be experienced as a failure
- Deadline - The time frame for learning affects its effectiveness. Close deadlines create a desire to learn the material as soon as possible, but long-term learning is also important for permanent memory. Teachers should encourage students to learn for life, not just for certain grades.
- Knowing the results - Feedback on the results of learning is essential to correct errors and encourage progress.
Quick return of results, precise analysis and praise or criticism significantly motivate students for further work.
- Praise or directed criticism - Praise and criticism are effective differently depending on the personality of the student.
Praise is helpful for insecure students, while praise can stimulate overconfident students.
- Cooperation and competition - Competition and cooperation are important incentives in school work. Individual and group competitions develop team spirit, while competition with oneself motivates the student for personal improvement.
Teachers should encourage teamwork and respect among students.
- Success and failure - Success motivates further work, while failure can be a hindrance, especially if it is frequent. The teacher should channel the students' reactions to success and failure so that these factors become motivational for further progress [5]- [15].

3. CONCLUSION

It is very important to assess human behavior and learning at different stages of life and in different educational settings. This area of applied psychology in nursing education aims to improve and advance the learning and development processes of students, in order to ensure their optimal development of abilities and personality traits.

Motivation for learning represents factors that encourage individual activities, initiate certain behavior, maintain it and direct it towards specific goals. In the educational process of nurses, motivation plays a key role in the success of learning and mastering skills.

The teacher should be focused on motivating students, because it is important for the student to understand that the achievement of the goal is a strong incentive for progress, as well as for believing in their own abilities and potential.

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