

Participation of Nurses, Midwives and Nursing Students in Nursing and Midwives Events and in Commons

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Cyprus

Session 4C

13/3/2010

Introduction

Participation of nurses/midwives in events is a basic process to professional development and personal growth, giving them unique occasions for professional establishment and networking. Nursing/midwives events include nursing conferences, workshops, voluntary organizations that have specific aims and are related to nursing/midwives education, research, theory and practice. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is fundamental to the development of all health practitioners and is the mechanism through which high quality patient care is achieved, maintained and developed. The development and complexity of organizations continually demand a wider range of skills from practitioners. These increasing demands require efficient, supported and structured CPD for health practitioners.

Aim

To present whether nurse, midwives and nursing students participate in nursing/midwifery events or in commons and identify the factors that influence them to participate or not.

Methodology

The study used both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. 800 structured questionnaires were collected from nurses/midwives (from private and governmental sector) and 100 from nursing students. Two focus groups were also conducted with nursing students and nurses/midwives. A stratified sample selection was used. The study was funded by the Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association (CYNMA) and implemented from January-November 2009.

Results

Findings showed that 54, 9% of nurses and 87, 6% of student nurses are not participating in commons. Participation motivation factors for nurses/midwives include: a) personal satisfaction, b) greater level of collaboration and knowledge sharing, c) personal growth and d) professional responsibility. The main barriers to participation reported to be: a) time, b) lack of recognition and support from the employer c) lack of equal opportunities policy and d) balancing the demands of home, work and study. The majority of participants (85.8%) reported to be unaware of the enactment of motives to members of Cyprus Nurses and Midwives Association (CPD motives, 2000).

Conclusions:

Participants suggested that Continuous Professional Development should be partly mandatory and partly voluntary and that seminars should be funded by the employer. Participants also suggested that they need further information for forthcoming events (personal information), more facilitation and moral encouragement from the Nursing Services and the University. CYNMA should establish a press office; seminars should be in the form of creative workshops, and personal and professional empowerment.