



Attitude towards distance learning in Nursing

Ms. Ekjot Kaur

Assistant Professor, MHN Department, Faculty of Nursing

Rama University, Kanpur

Abstract

Distance learning has increasing day by day. As, most of the students are find it more convenient and attainable.

Nursing is an art and depend upon the requirement from society. It requires the knowledge and skills. This knowledge and skill need to be updated with the development in the field of health with time.

Keywords: Nursing, Distance learning, attitude.

Introduction

Distance learning is an effective replacement to the formal and traditional system of education. Nursing is a profession that offers health care services at all levels of society. So, the continue learning in nursing will play an integral role in effectively using distance education technology with adult learners and in recruiting prospective adult learners into undergraduate and graduate programmes at university level.

In past, Nursing personal only worked in the hospital. Presently, scenario is changed, now nurses are working in different levels. Therefore, nurses need to upgrade their knowledge and skills time to time.

Distance education for nurses started in the 21st century where various programs are offered at various levels. (Billings 2007)

Objectives of distance learning

- To provide an efficient and less expensive method of education at higher level.
- To provide facilities to pursue higher education to all nurses who had failed to join regular courses.

Importance of distance learning in Nursing

Nurses need to update their knowledge and skills only with the continuity of education.

- ✓ It provides first – rate leadership and instruction in rapidly developing new areas of knowledge and specialization.

- ✓ Meet the learning needs of an increasingly diverse student population.
- ✓ Ensure quality learning standards and accreditation criteria that are comparable to face – to – face formats.
- ✓ Brings the changes in attitude of nursing person in addition to knowledge.
- ✓ It does not provide only certificates and degrees but also help in personal as well as professional growth.

Advantages of distance learning

- Easy access: It is the uniqueness of distance learning that it is easily accessible and easy to handle.
- Time saving: The concept of distance learning provides opportunity to do study while doing other work.
- Smooth schedule: Person can study from anywhere with good internet connection, discuss subjects online without actually being there with instructor.
- At your own pace: It helps to organize your workload and assignments at your own pace. Individual can skip known materials and focus more on new topics and materials.
- Career advancement: Online programs provides opportunity to nurses in developing career with more flexibility.
- Technology skills: Now a days, technological proficiency is an important asset for everyone. During online studies, nurses will develop technological competency and skills.

List of Nursing Distance Learning Programs in India

- ❖ Certificate in Newborn and Infant Nursing
- ❖ Certificate in Maternal and Child Health Nursing
- ❖ Certificate in Home Based Healthcare
- ❖ Certificate in Healthcare Waste Management
- ❖ Diploma in Nursing Administration
- ❖ Diploma in Critical Care Nursing
- ❖ Phd in Nursing

Approaches of distance learning

- **Synchronous Approach:** In this method, the participants are in the same space in order to attend the teaching material. All students should assemble before starting the TV or broadcast. It is more closure to traditional classroom.
Example: IGNOU lectures are delivered through TV channels like Ghan Dharsan and INC is conducting classes for Phd via video conferencing at six centres in India.
- **Asynchronous Approach:** The educational material is delivered at different points of time usually videos, print material etc. Learners have their freedom to receive the instructions at own time, space and pace.
Example: Most of the educational institutions follow this system by sending text materials, recorded lectures to distant learner by post or email.

References:

1. Pacific- college.edu/blog/online-nursing-education.
2. Bloomfield J.G., While AE & Roberts JD. (2008). Using computer assisted learning for clinical skills education in nursing: integrative review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 63(3):222-235.
3. Bonnel, W. (2008). Improving feedback to students in online courses. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 29(5):290-293.
4. International Women Online Journal of Distance Education January, 2015 Volume: 4 Issue: 1 Article: 02

