

THE IMPACT OF INTERACTING WITH OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA: EFFECTING CHANGE IN THE BELIEFS AND VALUES OF SENIOR NURSING STUDENTS

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No known conflicts of interest

The Perfect Storm

- Population Growth 65+
- Increasing incidence of Alzheimer's Dementia
- Registered nurse shortages
- Stigma held by student nurses toward the elderly



SILVER LINING CLUB

Community health clinical with individuals with early to mid-stage dementia

- 4 hour Respite program
- 15 years longevity
- Non-profit, no fee to members
- Saturdays 9-2:30 PM
- Senior I CHN students plan and deliver the program
- Programs include art/creativity, reminiscence activities, socialization, fine and gross motor, language stimulation, music, spiritual support
- Multiple evaluation methods



Pilot Survey of Student Attitudes and Beliefs

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Adequate preparation for clinical
2. Attitudes toward the elderly with dementia
3. Attitude and belief changes as a result of SLC
4. Knowledge acquisition resulting from SLC experience
5. Application to other nursing settings
6. Beliefs about their experience while at SLC

METHODOLOGY

- 30 item 5- point Likert scale survey
 - 2 items asking student to rank setting and age preferences for careers.
- IRB approval and consent obtained
- Voluntary sample
- Administered by non-faculty
- Response rate = 91.8%

Pilot Survey Results

INTERVAL VALIDITY

Subscale	Cronbach Alpha
Attitudes	0.799
Knowledge acquisition	0.845
Preparation of students	0.294
Experiential elements	0.708
Value of the population and clinical	0.879

Changes in survey time 1 to time 2

- Wording change “with elderly” to “with elderly with dementia”
- “Due to” changed to “Because of”
- “Because of my experience at Silver Lining Club, I may consider employment with the elderly but not in a nursing home.”
- “At Silver Lining Club, I learned about the progression and variation of effects of Dementia on individuals.”

Miscellaneous

- Attitude and Value items combined
- Age category collapsed to “Adults over 65”
- 2 Healthcare setting items changed or deleted
- Two items were deleted based upon face validity

Survey Administration Time 2

Methodology

28 item Likert Scale with 2 rank order questions

Same administration procedures

Different cohort n= 48

Response rate: 93.75% n=45 students

Subscales	Chronbach Alpha
Attitude	0.77
Knowledge acquisition	0.82
Preparation of students	0.46
Experiential elements	0.75

Results

Subscale ATTITUDE	Number Strongly Agree -Agree	Percentage Strongly Agree -Agree
2. The Silver Lining Club clinical experience provided me with valuable experience for my nursing practice.	37	82%
13. I wanted to have more hours at Silver Lining Club	10	22%
15. I do not enjoy interacting with the elderly population.	6	13%
18. My attitude toward the elderly with Dementia became more compassionate during this placement.	38	84%
21. I intend to pursue a career where I work primarily with the elderly with dementia.	1	2%
22. I would never want to work in a nursing home.	23	50%
23. Because of my experience at Silver Lining Club, I may consider employment in nursing home.	1	2%
24. Because of my experience at Silver Lining Club, I may consider employment with the elderly but not in a nursing home.	1	1%
25. Most elderly with Dementia are agreeable and cheerful.	25	56%

Subscale KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION	Number Strongly Agree -Agree	Percentage Strongly Agree -Agree
5. At Silver Lining Club, I learned about the progression and variation of effects of Dementia on individuals.	42	93%
11. Because of clinical at Silver Lining Club, I believe I am prepared to develop therapeutic programming for elderly clients with Dementia.	33	73%
12. Because of clinical at Silver Lining Club, I believe I am more competent to meet the psychosocial and physical needs of elderly with Dementia.	36	80%
14. Because of clinical at Silver Lining Club, I am better prepared to individualize care for the elderly with Dementia in other healthcare settings.	36	80%
16. Because of clinical at Silver Lining Club, I am better prepared to apply concepts from art, music, and cognitive stimulation therapy in other healthcare settings for elderly persons with Dementia.	32	71%
26. Working with the individuals at Silver Lining Club was surprisingly complex and interesting.	34	76%
27. Most elderly with Dementia are very different from one another.	25	56%

Subscale EXPERIENTIAL	Number Strongly Agree -Agree	Percentage Strongly Agree -Agree
3. My anxiety at Silver Lining Club interfered with my learning.	3	6%
7. I was directly involved interacting with clients at Silver Lining Club.	45	100%
8. Silver Lining Club staff were welcoming of students.	44	80%
9. Silver Lining Club staff treated members with respect and dignity.	44	80%
10. I felt safe at Silver Lining Club.	44	80%
11. I had a frightening experience at Silver Lining Club.	0	0
19. I wanted more conference time with my clinical instructor to debrief and discuss specific clients and experiences.	6 (1 missing case)	14%

Subscale STUDENT PREPARATION	Number Strongly Agree -Agree	Percentage Strongly Agree -Agree
1. I felt prepared for my Silver Lining Club clinical experience.	39	87%
4. Coaching from my clinical instructor prepared me for the Silver Lining Club clinical.	29	64%
6. I felt supported by my clinical instructor at Silver Lining Club.	41	91%
20. I had the skills needed to offer therapeutic nursing care to individuals in this placement.	39	87%
28. I came to this clinical wanting to work in nursing with the elderly with Dementia.	3	7%

Conclusion and Discussion

1. Experience was conducive to learning.
2. Students believed they were prepared.
3. Self-reported increases in knowledge and skill levels when they encounter elderly patients with Dementia
4. Self-report that they became more compassionate toward the elderly with Dementia..
5. High percentages of undecided/No opinion may offer hope for increasing numbers to specialize with geriatric clients.
6. The number of student entering wanting to work with the elderly was three and this increased to 9 who would consider it.
7. Employment in long term care (nursing homes) remained a setting of rare interest (n=1).

Limitations

1. Small number of participants
2. Attitudes do not always predict behavior
3. Attitudes may change by graduation

References Available On Request
