

Abstract

Nursing Students' Perceptions of Preparations for the Professional Nursing and Midwifery Licensing Examinations in the New Normal

This qualitative research study aims to examine nursing students' perceptions of preparations for professional nursing and midwifery licensing examinations in the new normal. The population consists of 326 nursing students who are enrolled in an undergraduate nursing programme at a university in Bangkok in the academic year 2021. Through purposive sampling, the researchers carry out an in-depth interview with each of 26 selected students using three research instruments: Personal Data Sheet, Semi-Structured Interview Guided Question, and Field Note Sheet. Content validity is confirmed by three experts, with the Item-Objective Congruence (IOC) Index of 0.95. Qualitative data analysis is conducted through thematic analysis and the data obtained from observations, field notes, and in-depth interviews are triangulated and then given to the participants for verification.

Five major themes emerge from this study: 1) meaningfulness of the examination; 2) helpful tips for exam success; 3) the new normal and the exam; 4) the aspiration to be well-versed in the areas being tested, and 5) factors conducive to exam success. The findings can serve as a basis for preparatory courses, for future research on examinees who pass the examination at their first attempt, and for the development of preparation guidelines for the professional licensing examination to train the next batches of nursing students.

Keywords: professional nursing and midwifery licensing examination, the spread of Covid-19, preparations, the new normal