

Clinical Practice and Return to School: Reflections about learning trajectories at the Course of Complementary Education in Nursing for Nursing Degree Acquisition

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Nursing, just like the society in which it operates, has been through many changes in what concerns educational models, paradigms, social and medical contexts and professional identities. One of those changes occurred with the creation of the graduation (licenciature) in Portuguese Nursing. The Course of Complementary Education in Nursing (CCEN) was also created for bachelors of Nursing, allowing them a Nursing Degree Acquisition.

The spirit and ideas underlying the course clearly pointed out the need to create a training area in which the experience previously acquired would be valued. This way, both trainee and working environment would profit. Bearing this in mind, the following question arises: How does the working experience gained by the nurses reflect itself in the different training paths in the CCEN ?

The theoretic reference pattern begins with the characterization of the social, historical and anthropological production of this profession, in epistemology and the different kinds of knowledge, in the nature and in the context of the practice. In this study the role models for work organization, learning in a working environment and the different paths and challenges of this kind of training course are dealt with.

This qualitative study took place in a Portuguese Central Hospital. The participants were nurses who attended the first CCEN and the strategy adopted used different methods and was based on semi-structured interviews, questionnaires (Adaptive Competency Profile and Environmental Press Questionnaire) and document analysis.

The study showed a link between work and learning experiences. This is related to the influence and complementation of both learning environments (school and hospital) in the development of skills; to the exchange of theoretical knowledge and practical work experiences between both learning environments; and to the definition of the learning styles. Since this study is based on working experiences, students have taken on a more active role in their own learning process and in their actual working practice, which in turn has made their professional choices for the future easier.

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Introduction

Nursing, just like the society in which it operates, has been through many changes in what concerns educational models, paradigms, social and medical contexts and professional identities. One of those changes occurred with the creation of the graduation (licenciature) in Portuguese Nursing. The *Course of Complementary Education in Nursing (CCEN)* was also created for bachelors of Nursing, allowing them a Nursing Degree Acquisition.

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Research Question

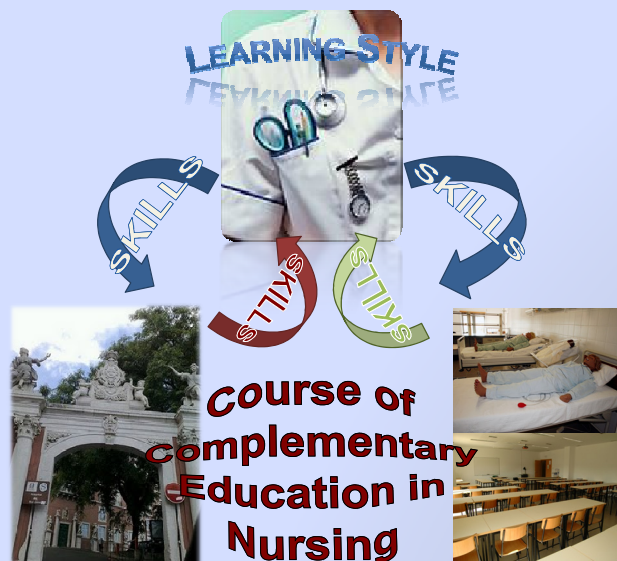
How does the working experience gained by the nurses reflect itself in the different training paths in the CCEN ?

Research Aim

Studying the experiences experienced by professional nurses from St. Joseph Hospital in Lisbon and how these were reflected and were "recovered" on the route of training at the CCEN.

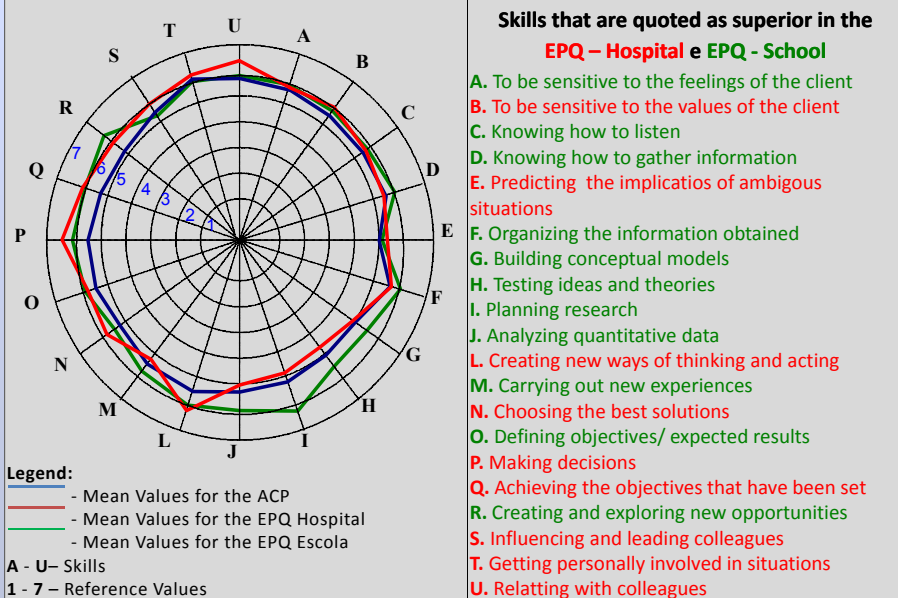
Methodology

This qualitative study took place in a Portuguese Central Hospital. The participants were nurses who attended the first CCEN and the strategy adopted used different methods and was based on semi-structured interviews, questionnaires (*Adaptive Competency Profile* and *Environmental Press Questionnaire*) and document analysis.



SKILL'S CIRCLE

Skills that are quoted as superior in the
EPQ – Hospital e EPQ - School



Conclusion

The study showed a link between work and learning experiences. This is related to the influence and complementation of both learning environments (school and hospital) in the development of skills; to the exchange of theoretical knowledge and practical work experiences between both learning environments; and to the definition of the learning styles. Since this study is based on working experiences, students have taken on a more active role in their own learning process and in their actual working practice, which in turn has made their professional choices for the future easier.

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