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The necessity and trends in language education for nurses

Alaric Naude

University of Suwon, South Korea

Since the time of Nightingale, nursing profession has undergone immense changes as well as challenges. From the beginning nursing has faced scrutiny and has worked to foster respect within the medical profession and the wider community. In many countries the situation for nurses has improved, yet, there is more pressure on nurses to become more highly educated and to excel in fields which may not be directly related to medicine. In a modern context nursing is undergoing a further phase in its evolution which will affect healthcare for years to come. Over the past few years, English as a lingua franca in the field of medicine has bolstered the need for nurses to know English for the sake of employment or to gain better opportunities. Medical tourism as well as a more connected global medical community means that there is a great need for specialist education in English for medical purposes. How can employers assist nurses in improving academically? How realistic is English education for nursing? How does English fluency affect nurses and hospitals? How important is a nursing core with English competency? In what ways does English education affect healthcare as a whole? These and many other questions along with the trend in nursing towards English competency requirements will be thoroughly explored in this presentation.

ssyandnyg@gmail.com

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