

Abstract:

Today's challenges tomorrow's excellence: Voices from second-degree accelerated nursing degree graduates

Over the last decade, shifts in demographics, technology, healthcare services and policies have had a major impact on the healthcare workforce landscape. The continuing problem of healthcare professionals, mostly the nursing workforce shortage have spurred not only changes in the nursing curriculum framework, design and contents to address the global aging population as well as the complex healthcare delivery system. National policies on health and healthcare acknowledge the role of nursing in achieving global healthcare needs. Thus, a new breed of nurses from the accelerated second-degree programmes are springing up exponentially worldwide since 35 years ago as a way to address the nursing shortage. Accelerated second-degree programme also aim to accommodate students who had already completed university level education in another discipline which is an intense, rigorous, compressed and fast-paced over two years. Who are the students accessing this programme? Why did they choose to study nursing after obtaining a university degree? What are their views and experiences while in the programme? What were their lived experiences as a newly registered nurses? How do faculty members and employers view their capabilities? This presentation will address this questions.