Author's response to reviews

Title: A qualitative study of nursing student experiences of clinical practice

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A qualitative study of nursing student experiences of clinical practice

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Author’s response to reviewers: Please See Over
Answer to the Reviewer’s Report

The Biomed Central Editorial Team, September 9, 2005

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Dr Farkhondeh Sharif, Sara Masoumi

Thank you for cooperation and consideration of our manuscript for publication in your Journal. We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.

Reviewer 1: (Dr Ella Mclafferty)
Major compulsory Revision:
1. More information on the unique nature of focus groups and their purpose:

*Done (page 3, last sentence)

2. An explanation about the observer and who were in relation to the researcher
*Done (page 5, under the data analysis section one paragraph before the last paragraph)

Minor Essential revisions
1. The table needs tidied. I am not sure that the table relating to demographic characteristics adds anything to the discussion

* The reviewer is correct and we have deleted the table and added a sentence at the beginning of the result section page 6
Reviewer 2 (Dr Ellisabeth Severinsson)

1. On page 4 It Would be helpful with a heading named data analysis.

* Done, page 6

2. I am still not sure of the type of analysis the authors are doing. Some concept at
   Some concepts at page 5 are in the tradition of Grounded theory?? Like line 8 from the
   top ‘substantive codes’ and further down ‘comparing’, page 6 ‘comparative analysis’.
   On page 9 the concept ‘themes’ is used, which I think is more correct.
3. For me it looks like the authors have done a qualitative content analysis. I suggest
   the article of Graneheim U.H & Lundman B (2004) entitled: Qualitative content analysis
   in nursing research: concepts, procedures and measures to achieve trustworthiness.
   This article is printed in Nurse Education Today 24, 105-112. The content from the data
   text can be interpreted and different level of abstraction can be made. This has been
   done and are shown in The Figure 1 (I should called it Table 1): This is a good
   description of the different steps in the analysis.

   Answer to question no 2 and 3:
   The reviewer is correct and we did the necessary changes. Actually in this research
   we had done Qualitative content analysis. According to the article that reviewer has
   suggested, creation of code, categories and themes according to that article is the core
   feature of qualitative content analysis which we did in our research. We added few
   sentences and explained more on content analysis. We compared the various codes
   based on differences and similarities and sorted into categories and finally the
   categories was formulate into a themes (page 5, 6 level 2 coding and page 17). We
   have modified figure accordingly and the word figure to table.

4. Is the theme ‘Initial clinical anxiety’ (page 7) the main theme? Or if you prefer main
   category? Or does it have the same status as the other three? If they are the ‘same'
   please omit page 9 the second sentences under the heading discussion the word
   ‘main’.

   Answer: It is the main theme and the word ‘main’ has been deleted in the second
   sentences under the heading discussion (page 10).
5. page 7 there is a statement from one of the nursing students….On the first day… the last sentences How you can look after me… should be How can you look after me…

Reviewer correct : Done page 7

6. page 7 in the text it says On of the students said. Please change the word said to expressed. Further down it can be corrected as well. You may use the word reported if you like.

Done page 7

7. page 9 the authors refer to Behyars and Nurses Aids with numbers I and 2. However, I cannot see the explanation of it in the text.

The word Behyar has been changed to Registered practical nurse which is similar and more universal. (page 9)

8. page 11 under the heading conclusion. ‘The focus groups data analysis revealed… it is the text or the findings that showed!

Done page 12


Overall, I would like the authors to consider my comments and I wish them good luck. I think this paper can be published after minor revision.

New references on clinical supervision were added and we have addressed this comment on page page 8 and 9

Thank you very much for the reviewers’ attention and cooperation