Reviewer's report

Title: A simple and short microbiology practical improves undergraduate nursing students' awareness of bacterial traits and ability to avoid spreading infections

Version: 1 Date: 28 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

"PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: The study is plain but effective in showing that even a short and simple activity can foster learning. The best element of the study is in fact the idea of making the students experience the presence of bacteria on their hands.

The study is weak from a theoretical point of view, since it does not provide a theoretical framework for the activity. The general framework of experiential learning could be a good choice.


REQUESTED REVISIONS:

From the design point of view, the idea of comparing post intervention score of nursing students with a different class, which did a different course is very weak. There are dozens of possible reasons for the observed differences or similarities, other than the intervention. I wonder if providing only the pre-post score could be a better choice.

The scoring system is not specified (one point for each right answer?), and the questionnaire psychometric properties were not described (at least the basic elements of classical item analysis: mean, distribution of scores, difficulty index)

In the Discussion, the limitations of the study should be discussed.

More references about similar experiments and a comparison with their results would enhance the quality of the article."
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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