Effects of Well-dying Education Program on Nursing Students

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Background

Death is one of the processes of life. Interest and social demands for well-dying are rising as death that can meaningfully meet the last moments of life. Nursing students may feel death as a negative emotion. Education about death was needed so that nurses could have a positive attitude toward death while providing end-of-life care, so the well-dying education program was applied to confirm the effect on the perception of death and the perception of well-dying.

Methods

The design of this study was a single-group pre-post experimental study. The study was conducted with 56 nursing students. The well dying program was consisted of an introduction to the program, the meaning of death, the meaning and method of writing an advance directive on life-sustaining treatment, funeral preparations, and writing of a will. Paired t-test was used with SPSS Win 26.0 program.

Results

After attending the program, among the sub-domains of the perception of death (t=3.5, p=.001), anxiety of death (t=-1.8, p=.078), and negativity of death (t=-1.5, p=.144), interest in death (t=2.9, p=.005), positivity of death (t=5.0, p<.001), will to respect life (t=2.3, p=.028). There was significant difference in ‘interest in death’, ‘positivity of death’, and ‘will to respect life’.

And among the sub-domains of the perception of Well-dying (t=2.7, p=.010), clinical signs (t=2.4, p=.020), sense of closeness (t=4.4, p<.001), personal control (t=1.7, p=.102), which significantly increased clinical signs and sense of closeness.

Conclusion

It was confirmed that the well-dying program had a meaningful effect on the positive perception of death, among nursing students. Therefore, the well-dying program can be applied for the purpose.