ABSTRACT


by

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This study was conducted to determine whether graduates (male and female, 18-26 years) of the first cohort of the reformed Basic General Nursing Education Programme demonstrated proficiency in providing quality nursing care to patients. 30% (10) were sampled from each hospital (Port of Spain and San Fernando General), where they are employed.

Stufflebeam’s CIPP model (1971), and Parlett and Hamilton’s illuminative model (1976) formed the theoretical framework for this study. Data collection procedures included: survey of records, questionnaires, interviews, unobtrusive observation and focused group discussions. Data included: features of the programme related to criteria of a curriculum package, influence of the concept and process of change
on the reform, and observed performance of graduates in the patient care setting.

Findings: Overall results, graduates Learning Centre North - 30% high proficiency and 70% proficiency performance level. Learning Centre South - 20% high proficiency, and 80% proficiency level of performance in providing nursing care, communicating clearly and effectively and assuming leadership and managerial roles. Proficiency was demonstrated despite such inhibiting factors as overcrowding and shortage of equipment and supplies. The ability to demonstrate proficiency despite these shortcomings suggest utilization of critical thinking skills, which enable graduates to cope with negative factors in the environment. Nevertheless, these factors need to be addressed so as to facilitate the provision of quality patient care.