

"Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care"

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Title	CHANGE IN ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF UNDERGRADUATE HEALTH PROFESSION STUDENTS TOWARDS INTER-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOLLOWING AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POST NATAL CARE
Type	Oral Presentation <i>High-Quality Learning and Collaborations in the Health Workforce</i>
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Abstract N ^o	TUFH559
Content	<p>Background: Interprofessional Education (IPE) has been identified as an educational program aimed at increasing collaboration among health professionals, IPE programs have been incorporated in several countries with positive results. The same may not be true for Asian cultures which are typically more hierarchical than others. The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of IPE on undergraduate health professional students' attitudes and perceptions in an Indian context. Methods: Following an IPE experience health professional students (n 96) from three professions (Medicine, Nursing, and Physiotherapy) completed a validated retro pre questionnaire. A Paired-sample t-test was used to compare pre-test and post-test scores. ANOVA was used to compare the magnitude of change. Qualitative analysis was done for the open-ended questions. Results: All three professions showed a significant improvement in attitude (p < 0.001). Physiotherapists were more comfortable (p ¼ 0.021) with questioning and being questioned and the nurses showed a significantly (p 0.012) greater increase in the extent of reliability as compared to the other two professionals. Participants identified the concepts of "teamwork", "knowledge of roles of other professionals" and "communication" as important to their learning and practice. Conclusions: The study identified a positive attitude among students and the given intervention resulted in a significant improvement in their comfort levels and reliability on other professionals. It would be reasonable to conclude therefore that acceptability for Interprofessional education in the Indian context is high in spite of the cultural differences and hierarchical nuances</p>