

# Clinical Experiences of Nursing Students: A Qualitative Study

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## Abstract

Clinical learning is a vital component of nursing education that takes place in a complex environment and has challenges that are not present in the classroom setting. Research studies have been done to determine strategies that promote students' learning in the classroom; however, student nurses' experiences to explore the factors that promote and inhibit their learning in the clinical area have rarely been studied. A qualitative-phenomenological research design was used and data were collected from 23 Filipino nursing students selected through purposive sampling. A semi-structured interview guide was used in conducting the one-on-one face-to-face interview. Data gathered were analyzed and interpreted following Colaizzi's method using a thematic framework approach. Seven main themes emerged from the data. From the participants' experiences, *support* (support from the clinical instructors, staff nurses, and doctors), *hands-on experience* (performance of skills in the classroom and actual performance of skills in the clinical area), and *classroom concepts*, were considered as the factors that promote their learning in the clinical area. On the other hand, *lack of information* (lack of orientation and lack of knowledge), *lack of self-confidence* (mistakes, anxiety, and nervousness), *lack of support* (doctors/clinical instructors' attitude and clinical instructors competence), *academic overload* (insufficient time and too much requirements) were considered as the factors that inhibit their learning in the clinical area.

**Key word:** *clinical learning, hands-on experience, classroom concepts*