A methodological study to develop “Clinical Competence Self Assessment Tool” to assess perceived clinical competence in upcoming nursing graduates of selected nursing colleges

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Abstract:

Introduction: Despite, shortage of nurses globally and increased absorption of inexperienced nursing graduates in hospitals, there is scarcity of reliable and valid tools to assess their clinical competence at the point of their graduation.

Aim: Development of “Clinical Competence Self Assessment Tool (CCSAT)” to measure perceived clinical competence among upcoming nursing graduates.

Materials and Methods: A Clinical Competence Self Assessment Tool (CCSAT) with 90 items was developed based on literature review, Delphi consensus and factor analysis results. It had items categorized in three subscales - professional behavior (19 items), knowledge (19 items) and skills (52 items). The face and content validity were established through Delphi consensus by a panel of National nursing experts and a psychologist. Two samples of upcoming nursing graduates participated in either the pilot (2017, n = 200) or main-testing (2018, n = 410) phase of the study to test the scale. Exploratory factor analysis was used to examine the scale’s construct validity. Items were reduced from the scale based on Exploratory Factor Analysis results from each sample. Cronbach’s alpha and Exploratory Factor Analysis was used to assess reliability and construct validity.

Results: The KMO (Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin) value for all three subscales was > 0.76 and Bartlett’s test of sphericity values < 0.00, depicting adequacy of data for factor analysis. The Cronbach’s alpha value was > 0.83 for all three subscales. Post main testing two items were reduced from pilot version tool. The overall value of Cronbach’s alpha for CCSAT was 0.953.
Conclusion: Results of the study provided initial evidentiary support for the CCSAT as a feasible, content valid, construct valid and reliable tool. Findings of the study have important implications for nursing education and practice. Nurse educators and nurse practitioners may be able to utilize the CCSAT tool in numerous situations. Study limitations and further recommendations for nursing are discussed.

Keywords: CCSAT, Clinical Competence, Instrument development, Psychometric tests, Reliability, Upcoming graduates, Validity.