

Abstract

Nursing Challenge: Competition as a Pedagogical Lever for Developing Clinical Reasoning and Teamwork

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Introduction. Contemporary nursing education requires active methodologies to bridge the theory-practice gap. The Treviso Nursing Degree Course developed a simulation-based competition to enhance clinical reasoning. Competition serves as a pedagogical driver, stimulating students to give their best while fostering rapid decision-making skills.

Methods. Following a pilot where some of the students managed the simulation setting and others participated in the actual team competition, a subsequent edition was held involving 130 students over two days. Key improvements included: clearly sharing objectives with students and clinical experts across various specialties, ensuring mandatory active rotation for all participants, and expanding debriefing time after providing specific facilitation training to all academic tutors.

Results. Participants reported high satisfaction (94%) and significant growth in teamwork and self-confidence. The competitive element provided crucial added value, motivating teams to excel and significantly increasing engagement compared to traditional didactic methods.

Discussion. Integrating simulation with gamification effectively develops professional identity and clinical competence. Success relies on structured debriefing and clear educational goals. Ensuring total active participation through competition maximizes student motivation and readiness for complex care environments.

Keywords: Education, Team Building Strategies, Simulation, Nursing Students, Gamification

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