ICN 2013 - Concurrent / Poster Submission

Topic: The nursing workforce and workplace

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ADAPTATION AND RESISTANCE - RESPONSE TO PRESSURE IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING CAREERS
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Abstract Content:

Background: Danish Nurses are under increasing pressure due to expectations from various sides such as the patient, the employing organization and themselves. Frequently these expectations represent opposite interests and seem to put pressure on nurses' professional identity and integrity.

Objectives: This study aims to gather an in-depth understanding regarding how nurses deal with this challenge.

Methods: In-depth interviews of nurses at different stages of their professional careers are analyzed inspired by the work of Steinar Kvale on qualitative research interview. Additionally, the analysis is inspired by Pierre Bourdieu's work on habitus, capital and field.

Findings: The findings suggest that nurses deal with the pressure by trying to adapt - up to a point. It appears to be of crucial importance that the nurses' professional identity and integrity is sustained. 'A balancing act between adaptation and resistance' is identified as the main theme. It appears to be essential for nurses' job satisfaction that they experience professional and personal recognition and have a certain room to manoeuvre. In order to achieve this, the nurses apply various strategies; they form alliances with colleagues or with the leader, they apply for further education hoping to become well equipped for the challenge, and they try to find their own niche. Inspired by Bourdieu, it appears that the nurses position themselves within the field.

Conclusions: Nurses deal with the pressure of various expectations by positioning themselves within the professional field, thus trying to sustain their professional identity and integrity to thrive in their professional lives.

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In case my abstract is not accepted for oral presentation it should still be considered for POSTER PRESENTATION: Yes

National Nurse Association: Denmark: Danish Nurses' Organization
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Presenting Author Bio 1: Kirsten Tarri Bak, Lecturer at Department of Nursing, VIA University College, Denmark. I participated in the nursing component of the research programme, 'Life history, profession and welfare state', which explored the profession of teachers, social workers, social educators and nurses. The research programme was supervised by Professor Annick Prieur, University of Aalborg, and the nursing component was headed by Ass. Professor Birte Hedegaard Larsen, Regional Nursing Research Centre, Viborg.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

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