

Pediatric Feeding Disorder Seminar Impacts Students' Attitudes

Sandra D. Baker, EdD, RDN, LDN, Jillian Trabulsi, PhD, RD, Kathryn Siemienski, M.S., Kelsey Coulter, BS, & Emily Martorano, BS

Background

Adult Learning Theory maintains that adults learn through experience. To gain experience in working with those with disabilities, nutrition majors established the Nutrition and Disability Club (NDC). Since club activities often focus on adults, faculty mentors and the NDC planned an event featuring feeding issues impacting nutritional status and growth of children with intellectual and physical disabilities. Undergraduate nutrition students have little exposure in providing care for this population or the team approach to treatment in coursework so an extracurricular seminar can meet this need.



Methods

Preparation:

The NDC and faculty collaborated and planned a 1.5-hour evidence-based seminar focusing on the feeding issues of children with disabilities. A pediatric hospital's Feeding Team was invited to present. The speakers included:

- ❖ Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
- ❖ Physician
- ❖ Speech Language Pathologist
- ❖ Psychologist

Nutrition majors and students with health-related majors were invited to the event.

Implementation:

Each provider reviewed their discipline's role and approach to addressing feeding issues in children with physical and intellectual disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, down syndrome and cerebral palsy. A question and answer time followed the presentations.

Evaluation:

Immediately following the seminar, student participants were sent an IRB-approved survey via email. Before distribution, the survey was tested for face validity and content.

Participant Survey Results

Demographics

138 students attended the seminar
76 students completed survey

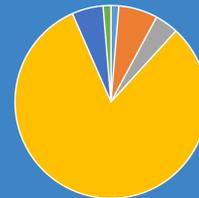
Undergraduate/Graduate Student:
Undergraduate-N=71 (95%)
Graduate-N= 4 (5%)

Gender

Male-N=5 (7%)
Female-N=70 (93%)

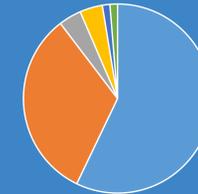
Member of UD Nutrition & Disabilities Club
No-N=71 (93%), Yes-N= 5 (7%)

Race



□ American Indian or Alaskan Native: 1 (1%)
□ Asian: 5 (7%)
□ Black or African American: 3 (4%)
□ White: 62 (82%)
□ More than one race: 4 (5%)
□ Other: 1 (1%)

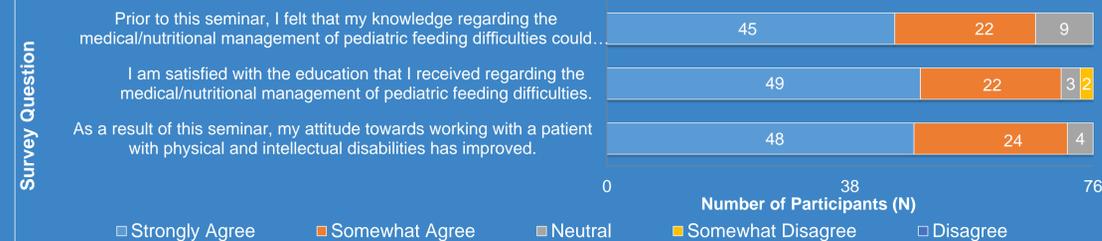
Majors



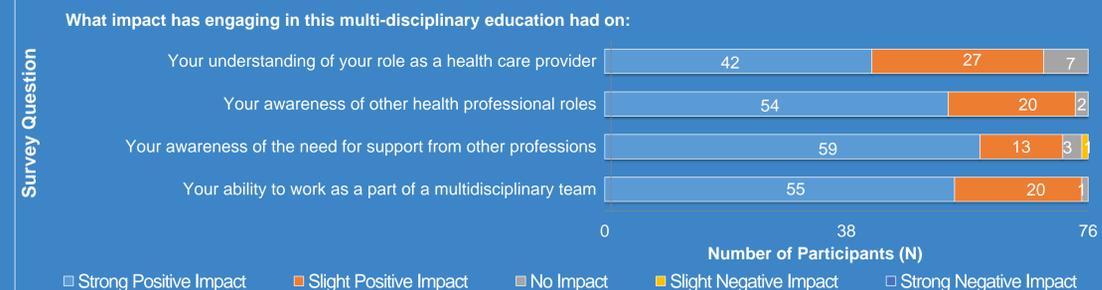
□ Nutrition and/or Dietetics: 44 (58%)
□ School of Nursing: 25 (33%)
□ Health Behavior Science: 3 (4%)
□ Kinesiology & Applied Physiology: 2 (3%)
□ Medical & Molecular Sciences: 1 (1%)
□ Other: 1 (1%)

Survey Responses

Participant Post-Survey Responses



Participant Post-Survey Responses



Conclusions

An extracurricular seminar can be an effective way to expose students to treatment of pediatric disability-related feeding issues as well as the team approach to treatment.



Acknowledgements

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