What Price Education?

The Impact of Short Courses on Daily Practice

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Education - knowledge

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In Today’s Competitive Workplace...

Health care professionals are expected not only to maintain their skills, but to take them to new levels.

Continuing Education

Mandatory ↔ Voluntary
Objectives of Short Courses

Enhanced Performance

- Knowledge
- Specific Skills

Critical Mass
Trained Human Resources

FACILITATE

Work Towards
Specified Improvements
Methods

Prior to initiating short-term training, participants' backgrounds and expectations should be identified:

- Brief job description
- Identify critical knowledge, skills and techniques to be learned
Methods

When designing short courses:

- Participatory techniques
- Simulation
- Information technology
- Sharing of experiences
- Learn by doing

Hands on approach
Ways to Measure the Impact

Gathering Information

- Questionnaires
- Follow up questionnaires
- Pre-test/post-test
- Follow up surveys
- Interviews
- Self efficacy questionnaires
- Commitment to change
The Evidence....

- O’Brien et al. (2001), reviewed 32 studies on effect of CE on clinical practice:
  - interactive workshops - changes in prof. practice
  - didactic sessions alone unlikely to change practice

- Bowles et al. (2001), evaluated the impact of a short course on solution focused therapy skills in nurses:
  - significant and cost-effective change in nurses’ attitudes
The Evidence....

- The effect of education on increasing clinical intervention by community Pharmacists:
  - The proactive clinical intervention, in the group that received intensive training, translated into very significant savings
  - Extrapolation predicted this group of pharmacists could save the Australian Healthcare system $15 million per year

(Benrimoj et al., Pharmacoeconomics, 2000)
The Evidence....

- The effect of training on dieticians’ knowledge and problem solving abilities:
  - Pre/post tests showed significant impact on knowledge and problem solving activities following a training program designed on a needs-assessment basis (1);
  - Post training Self-efficacy scale increased significantly after training (2);