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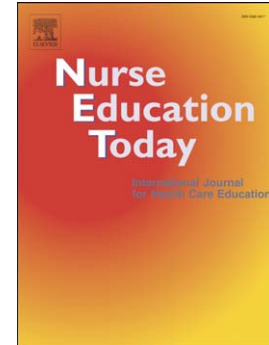
The impact of structural empowerment and psychological capital on competence among Chinese baccalaureate nursing students: A questionnaire survey

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Competence in the nursing has been increasingly addressed. However, studies from the international literature have demonstrated that graduated nurses are not ready and they are not competent to provide safe and effective nursing care. Therefore, it is important to assess nursing students' competence and to explore the relevant factors for the improving of nursing students' competence and the quality of nursing care.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this paper is to investigate the influence of structural empowerment, an environmental resource, and psychological capital, an intrapersonal resource, on baccalaureate nursing students' competence.

**Design and methods:** The study was designed as a cross-sectional survey. A total of 300 senior baccalaureate nursing students in China practicing in five major tertiary teaching hospitals were invited to participate in the current survey. 286 were completed and evaluated statistically. Thus, the response rate was 95.3%.

**Results:** The results of the study indicate that nursing students have medium-high level of competence, and medium-high level of structural empowerment and psychological capital. Students perceived higher level of structure empowerment and Psychological capital are more likely to achieve higher level of competence.

**Conclusions:** Structural empowerment and Psychological capital were significantly

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