

## Factors Affecting Theory-To-Practice Integration Among Bachelor Nursing Students with Clinical Skills: A National Study

### الخلاصة

**Background:** The development of clinical skills in nursing students requires the integration of theory into practise. In order to achieve good outcomes and ensure patient safety, one must be able to effectively use knowledge in practise.

**Objectives:** the objectives of the study are to identify the factors influencing performance in clinical practice among nursing students in Iraqi colleges of nursing, to explain the challenges faced by nursing students in the clinical learning environment, and to examine nursing students' perceptions of clinical teaching.

**Method and material:** A cross-sectional descriptive study design was adopted using an online questionnaire. non-probability sampling was used and 400 nursing students selected from all governmental nursing colleges in Iraq. The study period extended from the 25th of September, 2022, to the 25th of April, 2023.

**Results:** They have showed that 35% (140) of the respondents have disagreed regarding the dimensions of integration of theory, while 47% (189) have agreed regarding clinical supervision factors. Furthermore, 38% (154) of respondents agreed with the student-related factors dimensions. 35% (141) of those polled have agreed with the clinical environment dimensions.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** The study has revealed a number of challenges that nursing students face in the clinical learning environment. These challenges include lack of clinical supervision, limited resources, and time constraints. Furthermore, the students' perceptions of clinical teaching have been largely positive. The study has identified several areas for improvement, such as providing

more support for students, increasing resources and materials, and improving the quality of clinical teaching. The study recommended that cooperation between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Health would provide additional resources for nursing students in order to improve their clinical experience. This could be in the form of additional supervision and support or access to more resources and equipment.