Baby Friendly University Initiative : in pediatric nursing students' reported Knowledge and attitudes, three-year case study

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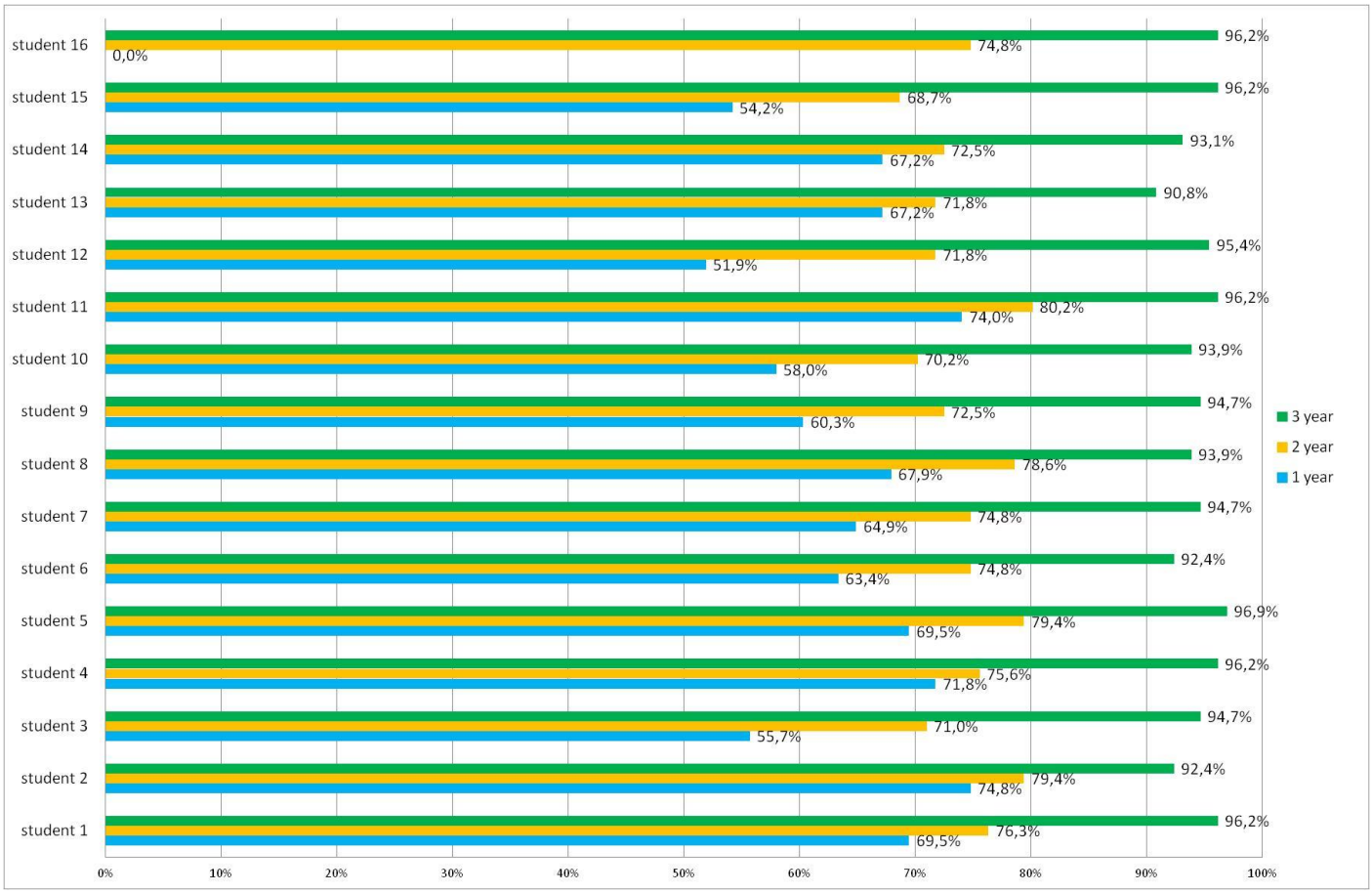
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Educational institutions are responsible for providing students with the best practice about breastfeeding promotion and services. The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of Baby Friendly University Initiative (BFUI) on pediatric nursing students' competence about supporting breastfeeding mothers through the establishment of a stable and empathetic relationship with their baby.

Observational and cross-sectional study conducted in a cohort of 16 Pediatric Nursing students of Milan University Study. Breastfeeding education during the three years course was implemented in each learning setting (lectures, laboratory and clinical practice) focusing on mothers' support about their infant feeding. Theoretical learning implementation was carried out through lectures - group work - clinical cases, professional laboratory. A specific 20-hours breastfeeding course was also carried out. A Breastfeeding Progress Test (BPT) was administered to monitor students' knowledge and competency advances. Clinical practice implementation was carried out through tutoring (meetings with mothers), internship with dedicated training evaluation forms, technical skills portfolio, teaching nursing folder. At the end of the 3rd year all the students obtained an average of correct answers over 90% at BPT (Standard UNICEF 80%) (figure 1). Similarly, at clinical practice evaluation all the students got an average rating of 28/30 (excellent). According to the present findings, BFUI represents an excellent program for teaching and assessing the optimal clinical practice in supporting breastfeeding mothers of both healthy and with special needs infants. Moreover, BFUI ensures that pediatric nurses enter the working world with adequate knowledge and competency with regard to breastfeeding promotion and support.

Figure 1



Reference

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Biography:

Dr. Elena Nicoletta Bezze earned her Nursing Degree in 1989 and completed her residency training in Nursing in 2009 at the University of Milan.
She began working as a nurse in hospital; she then worked as nurse teacher.
From 2007 to 2017 she has been working as Director of the Degree Course in Pediatric Nursing, at Fondazione IRCCS "Cà Granda" Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, University of Milan, Italy. She is currently the nursing coordinator of the outpatient neonatal clinic and the donor breast milk bank at NICU of Fondazione IRCCS "Cà Granda" Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico.
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