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Research Paper

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONCEPTS IN NURSING CARE OF CHILDREN AMONG STAFF NURSES IN SELECTED HOSPITAL

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ABSTRACT **Background of the study: Children are young human beings. As human beings children have a certain moral status. There are things that should not be done to them for the simple**
m for the simple reason that they are human. At the same time children are different form adult human beings. Methods: A descriptive research design, The investigator selected Non Experimental research design for the study. The present study was conducted at selected karpaga vinayaga institute of medical science and research centre. The population of the present study comprised of staff nurses working in at selected hospital. sample size was 100 staff nurses .sampling technique non probability convenient sampling technique. Result: The study results revealed that the frequency and percentage distribution of samples based on level of knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children., of all 100 samples 80(80%) of samples have adequate knowledge, 12 (12%) of samples have moderate knowledge and only 08(8%) of the samples have inadequate knowledge.

KEYWORDS :Knowledge, legal and ethical, children, nursing care

INTRODUCTION

Children are young human beings. As human beings children have a certain moral status. There are things that should not be done to them for the simple reason that they are human. At the same time children are different form adult human beings. There are things children may not do that adults are permitted to do.

Children are perceived as the happiness of the family. They satisfy parent's emotional, psychological, social and spiritual needs. They prevent loneliness and boredom and provide affection. Children prolong the parent's existence into future. They enliven the family life.

Today's health care delivery system is more dynamic and role of nurses has expanded rapidly, which expects specialization, autonomy and accountability from both ethical & legal perspective. This expansion has focused new concerns among nurse's especially pediatric nurses to have heightened awareness of legal and ethical issues.

Nursing of a hospitalized child is different from that of an adult. The child lacks decisional power and there are more chances for the nurse to face more ethical and legal problems. So the nurse needs to be more alert to prevent issues and dilemmas which she encounters mainly in areas like ICU's.

According to 2006 National Medical Malpractice Statistics reveal that nearly 225,000 individuals die each year in the U.S. as a result of medical malpractice, which is currently the third leading cause of death in the country.

A 2006 follow-up by the Institute Of Medicine study found that medication errors are among the most common medical mistakes, harming at least 1.5 million people every year. The study was conducted to legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of the children adopted non experimental descriptive co relational design with 50 samples of nurses working in pediatric ward by convenient sampling. Findings reveal that 10%, 64% and 26% nurses had inadequate, moderate and adequate knowledge.

2. **Objectives of the Study**

- To assess the knowledge regarding legal and ethical issues among staff nurses.
- To determine the association between the knowledge of staff nurses with selected demographic variables.
- To prepare an information booklet regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children.

Research Design

- "The research design is the overall plan for obtaining answers to the research questions or for testing research hypothesis"
- A descriptive research design is adopted for the present study. The purpose of a design is to achieve greater control and thus improve the validity of the study in examining the research problems. The investigator selected Non Experimental research design for the study.

Study Setting

Location for conducting the research is referred to as setting of the study. Based on the investigators familiarity with the settings and availability of the samples. The present study was conducted at selected karpaga vinayaga institute of medical science and research centre

Population

The population of the present study comprised of staff nurses working in at selected karpaga vinayaga institute of medical science and research centre

Sample and Sample Size

Sample Size:

Small portion of a population for observation and analysis is referred to as a sample. In this study, 100 staff nurses from selected hospital karpaga vinayaga institute of medical science and research centre Sampling Technique Sampling refers to the process of selecting a portion of population to represent the entire population. In the present study non probability convenient sampling technique.

Criteria for Selecting the Sample

Inclusion Criteria

The staff nurses

- Who are working in hospital
- Who are willing to participate in the study
- Who are present during the data collection
- Staff nurses who are qualified with either diploma or bachelor of nursing

Exclusion Criteria

- Who are not willing to participate in the study
- Who are not available during the data collection period
- Staff nurses with ANM and M.Sc nursing qualification

Table 11: Knowledge Regarding Legal and Ethical Concepts in Nursing Care of Children

Sl No	Maximum Possible Score	Mean	S.D	Range	Mean S.C %
Section-A	15	8.66	1.464	13-5	57.73%
Section-B	12	6.9	1.3	10-4	57.75%
Section C	15	8.54	1.329	11-6	56.93%
Total	42	23.85	2.272	30-18	56.78%

The above table shows the level of knowledge of the subjects with regard to Legal and Ethical Concepts in Nursing Care Of Children. As per the table the staff nurses knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts is;, mean 8.66, standard deviation 1.464 and mean percentage score 57.73% where maximum possible score was 15. Considering legal and ethical concepts; the mean is 6.9, , standard deviation 1.3, and mean percentage score 57.75% where the maximum possible score was 12.considersing the section c mean is 8.54,standard deviation1.329,and mean % score is 56.93% where maximum score was 15. The overall score displayed mean 23.85, SD of 2.272, and a mean score percentage of 23.85%where the maximum possible score was 42.

Knowledge Regarding Legal and Ethical Concepts in Nursing Care Of Children

Level of knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children. The results shows that, of all 100 samples 80 (80%) of samples have adequate knowledge, 12 (12%) of samples have moderate knowledge and only 08(8%) of the samples have inadequate knowledge.

Frequency and percentage distrubtion of samples based on level of knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children

S No	Level of Knowledge	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Adequate	76-100	80	80%
2	Moderate	50-75	12	12%
3	Inadequate	Below 50	08	8%

The main aim of the study was to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children and to provide information to them. Information was given to the staff nurses through an information booklet which included various aspects of legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children, elements of informed consent and confidentiality and measures to prevention of medico-legal issues and professional malpractice.

The implications are given on various aspects like **Nursing practice, Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Nursing Research** and also gives an insight to further studies. **Conclusions derived from the findings were:**

- Majority of the samples 37% belongs to the age group above 30 yrs.
- Most of the samples 70% were females.
- Most of the samples 70% were residents of urban area.
- Majority of samples 36% belongs to the professional experience.
- Most of the samples 47% were from G.NM staffs
- Most of the samples 65% were from Government hospital.
- Majority of the study samples, 50%, had no in-service education.
- Most of the subjects, 40% each, were working in medical ward
- Majority of the subjects", 42% source of information was pediatrician.
- Majority of the staff nurses, 80% had adequate knowledge

3. **Recommendations**

- The same study can be replicated on a large sample.
- A similar comparative study can be done between urban and rural areas.
- The study can be conducted in different settings.
- Study can be conducted on the knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children.
- A comparative study can be conducted among Medical and Non- medical college staff nurses to compare their knowledge regarding legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children.

CONCLUSION

This chapter dealt with the summary, various implications and limitations of present study and also suggested that studies of this kind should be an ongoing process to determine and update the knowledge regarding the legal and ethical concepts in nursing care of children, which can bring out a drastic change in the lives of many children in the community and world.

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