



EFFECTIVENESS OF SELF INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE REGARDING LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS IN MIDWIFERY NURSING ON KNOWLEDGE AMONG NURSES WORKING IN THE OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY UNIT AT SRI RAMACHANDRA HOSPITAL, PORUR, CHENNAI

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ABSTRACT

The law serves number of functions in nursing. From 600 nurses, 152 nurses had been booked under lawsuit during service in the midwifery nursing (Web based survey ANA, 2010). Nurses should be updated with the legal and ethical issues in midwifery nursing in order to protect themselves from lawsuits. Pre experimental one group pretest posttest design was used, 30 nurses of obstetrics and gynaecology ward were selected conveniently. After obtaining ethical permission and informed consent pretest was conducted on knowledge using self structured knowledge questionnaires then self instructional module regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing was distributed among the nurses and posttest was conducted on the 7th day. Majority of the nurses were between the age group 21-24 years. The comparison between the pretest and posttest knowledge level showed an increase in the knowledge with statistical significance at $p < 0.001$. There was a significant association of knowledge level with the monthly income, total years of professional experience and years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit level of involvement on the general facts of legal and ethical issues during pretest was significant at $P < 0.05$. This study suggests that self instructional module helps in improving the knowledge among nurses with a high statistical significant t value at the level of $p < 0.001$.

Keywords: Effectiveness, Self-instructional module, knowledge, Legal and ethical aspects, Nurses.

INTRODUCTION

Nurses, the angels who are with the mother throughout her perinatal period, taking care of the mother, supporting her, advising her pain and delivery, they give the immense happiness to the mother by holding their hand throughout the delivery and bringing them out with a little life in their hand, the little one who becomes the life of the mother. It becomes the responsibility of the nurse to see that the mother comes out of the delivery room fruitfully without causing any harm to the mother and the baby [1]. According to the statistics of WHO UNICEF in 2010, 72 mothers from 12,971 deliveries landed up in death because of negligence which happened by the nurses leading to sepsis, many deaths also occurred

due to septic abortions [2].

Pregnancy is a period where the mother needs all the love, care and nurture. Nurses should make sure that they provide standardized care to the mother because even a slightest negligence can put the nurse in to the lawsuit. From 600 nurses, 152 nurses had been booked under lawsuit during service in the midwifery nursing [3].

Legal issues can occur anytime during the service period of the nurses in the working field because of any negligence, malpractices or any violation of the code of the ethics. Standardized care is very important and also all the nurses should follow all the standards of care in order to provide competent care and avoid any kind of problems during their work period [4].

Ethics and standards are the part of the nursing field since they provide boundaries and framework to the nurses to abide by the rules during their practice in the nursing field. Nurses face the legal issues often during their service period which are mostly related with the negligence while administering the medications, while providing nursing care to the patients. Hence the nurses should be well versed with the legal and ethical issues in midwifery nursing in order to provide standardized care to the mother and the child and also to protect themselves from the legal suit [5].

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of self-instructional module regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing on knowledge among nurses.
2. Associate the background variables with knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing among nurses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A pre-experimental one group pretest posttest design study was conducted among 30 nurses working in the obstetrics and gynaecology ward of Sri Ramachandra Hospital, Porur, Chennai. Convenience sampling technique was used to select the samples. After obtaining informed consent from the nurses pretest was conducted using self-structured knowledge questionnaires.

The tool used for this study had three sections:

Section A: Part 1: Demographic variables

Section B: Questionnaires on knowledge comprising of 30

Procedure: The nurses were explained about the nature of the study and consent was taken. Then pre-assessment of the knowledge was done using self-structured knowledge questionnaires then self-instructional module regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing was distributed to the nurses and then post assessment of the knowledge was done on the 7th day.

Statistical Methods

The Descriptive statistics (frequency, mean standard deviation) were used to assess the demographic variables of both groups. Inferential statistics (chi-square, paired 't' test) were used to compare the knowledge level between pretest and posttest and to associate the knowledge level with the background variables using SPSS version 16.

Demographic variables

Table 1 describes that out of 30 staff nurses majority of them 21(70%) nurses were of 21-25 years of age, while coming to the educational status majority of them 27(90%) had completed GNM whereas 3 (30%) had completed B.Sc nursing. Coming to the

monthly income majority of them 16 (53.33%) earned Rs.8001- Rs.11000. Regarding the total years of professional experience around 14 (46.7%) nurses had an experience of ≥ 3 years. Whereas coming to the years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit, majority of the nurses 10 (33.3%) had an experience of >3 years. About the years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit at SRH, it was identified 10 (33.3%) nurses had an experience of 1-2 years. It was also found that none of the nurses had an exposure to any kind of legal and ethical issues during their work period.

RESULTS

Figure 1 describes regarding the comparison of pretest and posttest level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in obstetrical nursing among 30 nurses. Regarding the general facts on legal and ethical aspects in obstetrical nursing, it was found that around 20(66.7%) had inadequate knowledge, 10 (33.3%) had moderately adequate knowledge and no nurses had adequate knowledge in pretest whereas in posttest 20 (66.7%) had adequate knowledge and 10(33.3%) had moderately adequate knowledge.

Figure 2 describes regarding knowledge level on legal and ethical issues in which around 14 (46.7%) had inadequate knowledge and 14(46.7%) nurses had moderately adequate knowledge and 2(6.7 %) had adequate knowledge in pretest whereas in posttest 17 (56.7%) nurses were found to have adequate and 13 (43.3%) nurses had moderately adequate level of knowledge respectively.

Figure 3 describes about the nurses role in legal and ethical issues, it was found that 20 (66.7%) nurses had inadequate and 6 (20%) nurses had moderately adequate knowledge and 4(13.3%) had adequate knowledge in pretest, whereas in posttest 14 (46.7%) and 16(53 %) nurses had adequate and moderately adequate knowledge respectively.

This interpretation showed that there was a significant improvement in the knowledge level from pretest to posttest after the teaching with the self-instructional module.

Association between knowledge and selected demographic variables

Association between the knowledge with demographic variables was interpreted and there was no significant association except for monthly income, total years of professional experience and years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit which was significant with the chisquare value of 14.98, 5.801 and 3.592 at $p < 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

In this present study the outcome of the study results revealed the effectiveness of self instructional

module on knowledge among nurses. Regarding the general facts on the legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing, it was found that majority of around 20 (66.7%) had inadequate the level of knowledge in pretest, whereas in posttest 20 (66.7%) had adequate level of knowledge. These findings has been supported by reviews of many

literatures on legal responsibilities of the obstetrics nurse and concluded that there is a need for an in-depth research which may contribute to more qualified formal education for nurses concerning the legal implications of their practice [6].

Figure 1. Comparison on the level of knowledge regarding general facts on ethics and law in pretest and posttest among nurse's (N= 30).

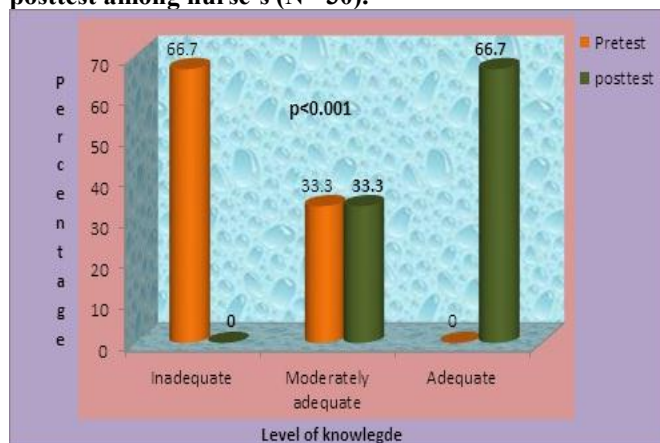


Figure 2. Comparison on level of knowledge regarding legal and ethical issues in nursing during pretest and posttest among nurse's (N= 30).

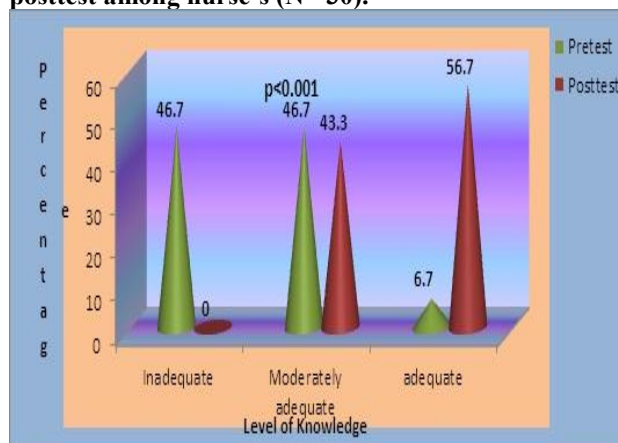


Figure 3. Comparison on the level of knowledge regarding Nurse's role of legal and ethical issues during pretest and posttest among nurse's (n= 30).

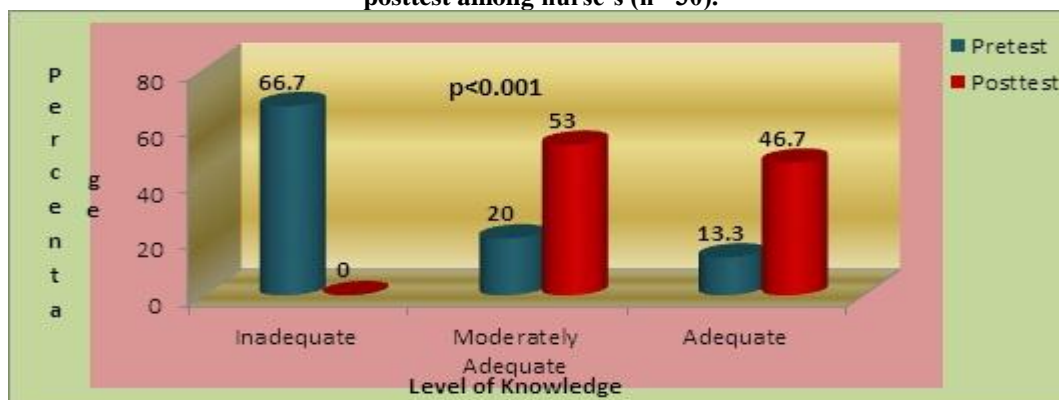


Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among nurses (N= 30).

Demographic Variables		No.	%
1.	Age (years)		
	21-25	21	70
	26-30	6	20
	31-35	3	10
2.	Educational status		
	GNM	27	90
	B.Sc Nursing	3	10
3.	Monthly Income (Rupees)		
	5001 – 8000	6	20
	8001 – 11000	16	53.3
	Above 11000	8	26.7
4.	Total years of professional experience.		
	< 1	3	10

1 – 2	5	16.7
3- 4	8	26.7
> 4	14	46.7
5. Total years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit.		
< 1	5	16.7
1 – 2	7	23.3
3- 4	8	26.7
> 4	10	33.3
6. Total years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit at SRH.		
< 1	7	23.3
1 – 2	10	33.3
3- 4	7	23.3
> 4	6	20.0
7. Exposed to any ethical issue during the practice?		
Yes	0	0
No	30	100

With respect to the legal and ethical aspects around 14 (46.7%) had inadequate level of knowledge and 14 (46.7%) nurses had moderately adequate level of knowledge in pretest,wherea, in posttest 17 (56.7%) nurses were found to have adequate and 13 (43.3%) nurses had moderately adequate level of knowledge respectively. The similar study conducted among the perinatal nurses who were charged with providing safe and effective care in both routine and emergency situation and the study concluded that essential nursing actions required when an obstetric emergency occurs within the context of redesigned obstetrics and gynaecology settings [7].

Considering the nurses role in the legal and ethical issues, it was found that 20 (66.7%) nurses had inadequate level of knowledge and 4 (13.3%) had adequate the level of knowledge in pretest, whereas in posttest 14 (46.7%) and 16 (53.3%) nurses had adequate and moderately adequate the level of knowledge respectively. This interpretation showed that there was a significant improvement in the knowledge level from pretest to posttest after teaching with the self instructional module.

Considering the overall level of knowledge on the legal and ethical aspects in midwifery nursing, it was found that around 20 (66.7%) nurses had inadequate level of knowledge and in pretest, whereas in the posttest 14 (46.7%) nurses had moderately adequate level of knowledge and 16 (53.3%) had adequate level of knowledge on the legal and ethical issues in midwifery nursing.

This concluded that the self instructional module had a very high statistically significant effect on the level of knowledge among nurses with the level of $p < 0.001$. Thus the stated hypothesis for this objective that, there is a significant difference in the level of knowledge of nurses before and after attending the teaching programme' was accepted [8].

The study results represented that there was no significant association between the levels of knowledge with selected demographic variables among nurses except there is an association between the demographic variables such as monthly income, total years of professional experience and years of experience in the obstetrics and gynaecology unit level of involvement on the general facts of legal and ethical issues during pretest ($P < 0.05$). The findings were supported by a study evaluating the manual vacuum aspiration for abortion provided by the midwives and he concluded that the trained and experienced nurses provide high quality comprehensive abortion care services in Nepal and there is a need for additional support in the form of facilitative supervision and hence training should be considered to strengthen the service comprehensive abortion care provision [8].

CONCLUSION

- Legal issues can take place with a minor mistake of a nurse because of negligence or any other reason in the existing health care systems in the modern world
- Hence on updating the knowledge on legal and ethical issues helps safeguarding themselves from an kind of penalties

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