

A Study To Assess The Effectiveness Of Information Booklet In Terms Of Knowledge Regarding Legal And Ethical Responsibilities In The Practice Of Nursing Among B.Sc Nursing Students.

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Abstract

“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.” (**Potter Stewart**) Nursing is an integral part of the health care system and nurses direct their energies towards the prevention, promotion, maintenance and restoration of health. The role of nurses has expanded rapidly within the past two decades to include expertise specialization, autonomy and accountability. The patient is considered the consumer of nursing and health care. With the advent of the **Consumer protection Act of 1986**, which has been drastically widened by the amendment of 1993 all professionals. Nursing also being a profession has come under the Act. The Nurse must also be familiar with laws as: I) **IPC sec 269-** negligent Act likely to spread infectious disease dangerous to life. II) **Sect 284-** Negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance. It is stated that changes have occurred over the past decade in legal responsibilities of nurses. To avoid legal charges of negligence, nurses must keep abreast of the rapidly changing areas of instrument, documentation, and patient care. Health care errors are the 8th leading cause of death in the world. About two-thirds of medical injuries occur in low and middle income countries like India. India is recording a whopping 5.2 million injuries each year due to medical errors and adverse events. Biggest sources are mishaps from medications, hospital acquired infections and blood clots that develops in legs from being immobilized in the hospital.

Nurses as partner of health care providers they may expect legal proceedings from the health care consumers. The curriculums of degree nursing programs have a chapter on legal concepts and its application on practice. Thus, the nurses in their learning and training period itself have reasonable and significant opportunity to learn about laws related to health care.

The statement of the present study is a study to assess the effectiveness of information booklet in terms of knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.Sc nursing 4th year students in selected colleges of nursing, Bikaner with the objectives of

- 1) To assess knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.Sc. nursing 4th year students of selected nursing colleges, Bikaner before giving information booklet.
- 2) To develop an information booklet on legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing.
- 3) To assess knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.Sc. nursing 4th year students of selected nursing colleges, Bikaner after giving information booklet.

Material and Methods

The research was experimental study. Quasi experimental research design was adopted. Independent variable was information booklet on legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing and dependent variable was knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing. This study was conducted on 100 samples (50 in Experimental Group and 50 in Control group) selected from the Selected Colleges of Nursing Bikaner. Pilot study was conducted in 40 samples (20 in Experimental group and 20 in Control group) selected from the selected Colleges of Nursing, Jhunjhunu. Data collection was done through structured knowledge questionnaires which had 38 items. Reliability of the structured knowledge questionnaires was done by using KR20 Formula and it was found to be $r = 0.8$.

Results

The result showed that 50% of the samples had possessed good knowledge, 44% of the samples had possessed average knowledge, 6% of the samples had poor knowledge in experimental group. 2% of the samples had possessed good knowledge, 8% of the samples had possessed average knowledge, 90% of the sample had poor knowledge in control group.

The Mean post test knowledge score of experimental group was 28.4 which was significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (18.24). Paired t test value was computed to find out difference of mean, and it was found that the mean post knowledge was significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score among experimental group at 0.05 level of significance. The calculated t value was 18.8371 which was higher than the table value at df (49).

The Mean post test knowledge score of control group was 17.44 which was not significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (16.52). Paired t test value was computed to find out difference of mean, and it was found that the mean post knowledge was not significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score among control group at 0.05 level of significance. The calculated t value was 1.9180 which was lower than the table value at df (49).

Conclusion

The present study's overall findings showed that students achieved good knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing after distribution of information booklet. Thus to conclude the investigator has achieved the objective for assessing the effectiveness of information booklet regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.sc Nursing 4th Students in selected Colleges of Nursing, Bikaner.

Keywords- Legal, Ethics, Legal responsibility, Ethical issue, Nursing, Information Booklet.

Introduction

India the Supreme Court has confirmed that the patients receiving deficient services from the medical practitioners, hospitals and health care centers are entitled to claim damages under **Consumer Protection Act (1986)**. Most common malpractice claims against Nurses:

-Failure to follow standards of care

- Failure to communicate
- Failure to document
- Failure to assess and monitor

Yadav Mukesh et.al (2015) conducted a study title “a study of medical negligence cases decided by the district consumer courts of Delhi”. This was attempted to explore the insight into ground realities and problems in the present health care system with ways and means to prevent these in health care institutions and medical fraternity. High cost of health care coupled with practice of defensive medicine will further aggravate the situation. Out of 48 cases studied 43 (89.58%) belongs to private hospitals and only 05 (10.42%) belongs to government hospitals. Surgical and allied specialities and investigational specialities are more at risk of alleged medical negligence and subsequent probability proof of medical negligence. Outcome of this study was definitely beneficial for all, for health care provider it will help in improving the quality of healthcare and doctor patient relationship, restoration of lost trust in medical profession.

Ethics refers to “a formal process for making logical & consistent decisions based upon moral beliefs”.

“An area of study that deals with ideas about what is good and bad behavior; a branch of philosophy dealing with what is morally right or wrong; a belief that something is very important.”

Nurses are bound by both ethical and legal guidelines that are part of the Nurse Practice Act, a set of laws designed to protect the public from harm and to protect the integrity of the nursing profession. The Nurse Practice Act varies from state to state. The Nurse Practice Act defines the ethical and legal obligations of nurses to provide high quality health care and to be upstanding members of the community.

Major ethical principles involve in nursing practice are autonomy, beneficence, Nonmaleficence, veracity, confidentiality, justice, fidelity, others

Recently in **march, 2017** an article published in **THE TIMES OF INDIA** with the title of “Medical Negligence cases rising: study”. This study was conducted by AIIMS Forensic department. The study shows that wrong treatment is the most common reason for people to complain about medical negligence, followed by lack of care, forced discharge. The study involves interviews of families of 20 patients who died due to alleged negligence. Allegation was found to be more common in age groups of children and adolescent (50%). This study also revealed that sometimes surgeon do negligence even they do surgery in wrong part of the body. Study recommended that doctors working in the emergency and in intensive care units should be trained in declaring death of the patient or a counsellor should be appointed for it.

S Shrestha, Jose P (2013) conducted a descriptive cross sectional study on “knowledge and practice of nursing ethics and laws among staff nurses” in universal college of medical sciences and teaching hospital Bhairawa Nepal. 60 staff nurses were selected by random sampling techniques. Self administered structured questionnaire was used for assess the knowledge and practice was assessed through checklist by observed the activities of nurses. In this study, among 60 respondents’ only 45% had adequate knowledge of ethics and rest of them had inadequate knowledge regarding nursing ethics. 53% had adequate knowledge of nursing law and only 46% had inadequate knowledge of it.

The above stated facts indicate the need for legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing. This study will also help in future to improve the behavior of students in changing their skills in clinical areas related to legal and ethical

responsibilities in nursing and no study was conducted in area of Bikaner related to legal and ethical issues in nursing. So, that I was selected this study.

Objectives

1. To assess knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.Sc. nursing 4th year students of selected nursing colleges, Bikaner before giving information booklet.
2. To develop an information booklet on legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing.
3. To assess knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.Sc. nursing 4th year students of selected nursing colleges, Bikaner after giving information booklet.

Hypothesis Of The Study:

H₀ : The mean post test knowledge score of B.sc Nursing 4th year students among experimental group regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of Nursing will be no significantly higher than mean pre-test knowledge score at 0.05 level of significance.

H₁: The mean post test knowledge score of B.sc Nursing 4th year students among experimental group regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of Nursing will be significantly higher than mean pre-test knowledge score at 0.05 level of significance.

Material and Methods-

The research was experimental study. Quasi experimental research design was adopted. Independent variable was information booklet on legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing and dependent variable was knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing. This study was conducted on 100 samples (50 in Experimental Group and 50 in Control group) selected from the Selected Colleges of Nursing Bikaner. Pilot study was conducted in 40 samples (20 in Experimental group and 20 in Control group) selected from the selected Colleges of Nursing, Jhunjhunu. Data collection was done through structured knowledge questionnaires which had 38 items. Reliability of the structured knowledge questionnaires was done by using KR20 Formula and it was found to be $r = 0.8$.

Statistical Analysis:

The data was recorded into a Excel Spread sheet after collection and was then analyzed using statistical software SPSS. Descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, and mean were calculated and inferential statistics to find out that The mean post test knowledge score of B.sc Nursing 4th year students among experimental group regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of Nursing will be significantly higher than mean pre-test knowledge score at 0.05 level of significance.

Section-I:Description Of Study Samples By Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table-I

(A)Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Students Of Experimental Group According To Socio Demographic Characteristics. (N= 50)

S.N.	Demographic Data	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age in years	19-20	0
		>20-21	16
			32

		>21	18	36
		More than 22years	16	32
2.	Gender	Male	25	50
		Female	25	50
3.	Marital status	Single	40	80
		Married	10	20
		Widow	0	0
		Divorced	0	0
4.	Permanent Residential area	Rural	39	78
		Urban	11	22
5.	Education of Mother	Illiterate	22	44
		Up to 5 th standard	11	22
		Up to 10 th standard	5	10
		Up to 12 th standard	7	14
		Graduate and above	5	10
6.	Education of father	Illiterate	4	8
		Up to 5 th standard	6	12
		Up to 10 th standard	7	14
		Up to 12 th standard	6	12
		Graduate and above	27	54
7.	Have you ever attended any workshopseminar/conference on legal and ethical issues	Yes	12	24
		No	38	76
8.	Have you ever read any articles on legal and ethical aspects related to health care sector	Yes	46	92
		No	04	08
9.	If yes, then specify source of information	-Mass media	16	32
		Nursing curriculum	17	34
		-In hospital duty	13	26
	Total		50	100

The table showed that 36% (18) of samples belonged to the age group of >21 years of age, 32% (16) of samples belonged to the age group of >20-21 years of age and remaining 32% (16) of samples belonged to the age group of more than 22 years of age. 50% (25) of the samples were males where as 50% (25) of the samples were females. 80% (40) of the samples were single and remaining 20% (10) of the samples were married. Majority of 78% (39) of the samples were from rural area ,44% (22) of the sample's mother's were illiterate, 22% (11) of the sample's mother's were up to 5th standard, 14% (7) of the

samples mother's were up to 12th standard, 10% (5) of the sample's mother's were up to 10th standard and remaining 10% (5) of the sample's mother's were graduate and above. Majority of 54% (27) of the sample's father's were graduate,. Majority of 76% (38) of the samples were not attended any workshop/ seminar/conference on legal and ethical issues. Most of 92% (46) of the samples were read articles on legal and ethical aspects related to health care sector. About 34% (17) of the samples were using Nursing curriculum as a source of information regarding legal and ethical aspects, 32% (16) of the samples were using mass media as a source of information and remaining 26% (13) of the samples gain information in hospital duty.

Table –II: (B)Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Students Of Control Group According To Socio Demographic Characteristics.

N=50

S.N.	Demographic Data	Frequency	Percentage (%)	
1	Age in years	19-20	0	0
		>20-21	11	22
		>21	27	54
		More than 22years	12	24
2.	Gender	Male	44	88
		Female	06	12
3.	Marital status	Single	38	76
		Married	12	24
		Widow	0	0
		Divorced	0	0
4.	Permanent Residential area	Rural	26	52
		Urban	24	48
5.	Education of Mother	Illiterate	16	32
		Up to 5 th standard	17	34
		Up to 10 th standard	8	16
		Up to 12 th standard	3	06
		Graduate and above	6	11
6.	Education of father	Illiterate	2	04
		Up to 5 th standard	6	12
		Up to 10 th standard	18	36

		Up to 12 th standard	10	20
		Graduate and above	14	28
7.	Have you ever attended any workshop seminar/conference on legal and ethical issues	Yes	08	16
		No	42	84
8.	Have you ever read any articles on legal and ethical aspects related to health care sector	Yes	17	34
		No	33	66
9.	If yes, then specify source of information	-Mass media	05	10
		Nursing curriculum	06	12
		-In hospital duty	06	12
	Total		50	100

The table showed that the Majority of 54% (27) of samples belonged to the age group of >21 years of age,. Most of 88% (44) of the samples were males. Majority of 76% (38) of the samples were single. More than half 52% (26) of the samples were from rural area. 34% of the sample's mother's were up to 5th standard, 32% (16) of the samples mother were illiterate, 16% (8) of the samples mother were up to 10th standard, 12% (6) of the samples mother were graduate and remaining 6% (3) of the samples mother were up to 12th standard. 36% (18) of the samples father were up to 10th standard, 28% (14) of the sample father were graduate, 20% (10) of the samples father were up to 12th standard, 12% (6) of the samples father were up to 5th standard and remaining 4% of the samples father were illiterate. Majority of 84% (42) of the samples were not attended any workshop/ seminar/conference on legal and ethical issues. Majority of 66% (33) of the samples were never read any articles on legal and ethical aspects related to health care sector.

SECTION II: Mean, Median, Standard Deviation And Range Of Knowledge Score Regarding Legal And Ethical Responsibilities In The Practice Of Nursing Among B.Sc. Nursing 4th Year Students Of Experimental Group And Control Group

Table -III

Mean, Median, SD, Range of Experimental Group

N=50,Max Score=38

Experimental Group	Mean	Median	SD	Range Of Score
PRE TEST	18.24	18	3.79	8-27
POST TEST	28.4	29	3.904	18-35

The Mean Pre-test Knowledge Score of experimental group was 18.24, Median was 18, SD was 3.79 and range of score was 8-27. The Mean post test knowledge score of experimental group was 28.4, Median was 29, SD was 3.904 and range of score was 18-35.

Table- IV: Mean, Median, SD, Range Of Control Group

N=50, Max. Score=38

Control Group	Mean	Median	SD	Range Of Score
PRE TEST	16.52	16	4.4462	8-25
POST TEST	17.44	17	4.3915	7-29

The Mean Pre-test Knowledge score of Control group was 16.52, Median was 16, SD was 4.4462 and range of score was 8-25. The Mean post test knowledge score of Control group was 17.44, Median was 17, SD was 4.3915 and range of score was 7-29.

Section III: To Find out Significance of Difference of Mean Knowledge Score Among Experimental Group And Control Group

t test was computed to find out the significance difference of knowledge score of experimental group. The following null hypothesis H0 has been made, to test the research hypothesis H1

H0= The Mean post test knowledge score of experimental group will not be significantly higher than the Mean pre test knowledge score of the experimental group.

Table –V: Table Showing Significance Of Difference Of Mean Knowledge Scores Of Experimental Group

(N=50)

Score	Mean	Median	SD	T Value
Pre Test	18.24	18	3.79	18.8371
Post Test	28.4	29	3.904	

Table value is 2.01 (at 0.05 level of significance)

Table –VI: Table Showing Significance of Difference of Mean Knowledge Scores of Control Group

(N=50)

Score	Mean	Median	SD	T Value
Pre Test	16.52	16	4.4462	1.9180
Post Test	17.44	17	4.3915	

Table value is 2.01 (at 0.05 level of significance)

The Mean Post test knowledge score in experimental group was 28.4 which was significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (18). Paired t test value was computed to find out difference of mean, and it was found that the mean post knowledge was significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score among experimental group at 0.05 level of significance. The calculated t value was 18.8371 which was higher than the table value at df (49).

The Mean Post test knowledge score in control group was 17.44 which was not significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score (16.52). Paired t test value was computed to find out difference of mean, and it was found that the mean post knowledge score was not significantly higher than the mean pre-test knowledge score among control group at 0.05 level of significance. The calculated t value was 1.9180 which was lower than the table value at df (49).

Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that information Booklet was effective in increasing the knowledge of selected B.sc Nursing 4th year students of selected Colleges of Nursing, Bikaner among experimental group at 0.05 level of significance.

Discussion

Assessment Of Knowledge Before Information Booklet-

In present the Mean Pre-test Knowledge Score of experimental group was 18.24, Median was 18, SD was 3.79 and range of score was 8-27 and the Mean Pre-test Knowledge score of Control group was 16.52, Median was 16, SD was 4.4462 and range of score was 8-25.

Similar findings were found in studies done by **Choudhary Ruchika Dugal (2016)** et.al who had administered Booklet and it was found that Pre test mean knowledge score of nurses regarding Ethical responsibilities and rights of children were 15 ± 2.54 in experimental group and 14 ± 2.50 in control group.

Increase In Knowledge After Administration Of The Information Booklet-

In present study the Mean post test knowledge score of experimental group was 28.4, Median was 29, SD was 3.904 and range of score was 18-35. Table value at df (49) is 2.01 which is less than calculated t value (18.8371). The Mean post test knowledge score of Control group was 17.44, Median was 17, SD was 4.3915 and range of score was 7-29. Table value at df (49) is 2.01 which is more than calculated t value (1.9180). So, information Booklet was effective.

Similar findings were found in studies done by **Choudhary Ruchika Dugal (2016)** et.al who had administered Booklet and it was found that after Educational intervention (Information Booklet) about Ethical responsibilities and rights of children, the mean score was 25 ± 2.66 in Experimental group, which was significant with P value of $P < 0.05$ and without Educational intervention, the mean knowledge score was 16 ± 2.52 in Control group.

Similar findings were found by **Mali Ramling et.al (2011)** who had administered self instructional module, there was a significant difference between pre test and post test mean knowledge scores. To find out the significance between the pre and post test knowledge score, the paired 't' test was used. It was found that there is a highly significant ($P = 2.49995E-18$), difference between the pre test and post test knowledge score. Mean pretest score is 19.28 and mean posttest score is 25.38. In the pretest the subjects scored the following scores in the subareas: Medico Legal Terms (Mean score 1.4), Admission Discharge (Mean score 1.32), Safety/responsibility (Mean score 6.06), Acts/Negligence (Mean score 1.32), Consent (Mean score 2.18), Clients rights (Mean score 2.96), Documentation (Mean score 2.14) and safeguarding (Mean score 1.88).

After the introduction of self instructional module the knowledge score in sub area increased considerably. The posttest scores in sub areas were: Medico Legal Terms (Mean score 3.68), Admission Discharge (Mean score 1.98), Safety/responsibility (Mean score 6.66), Acts/Negligence (Mean score 1.72), Consent (Mean score 3.06), Clients rights (Mean score 3.26), Documentation (Mean score 2.42) and safeguarding (Mean score 2.58). These findings highlighted that the dissemination of information through the self instructional module helped the subjects to increase their knowledge.

Based on the findings of the that all the subjects showed an increase in the posttest scores, it could be stated that knowledge through self instructional module or any other educational material could help to enhance the knowledge of nurses.

Conclusion

Overall findings showed that students achieved good knowledge regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing after distribution of information booklet. Thus to conclude the investigator has achieved the objective for assessing the effectiveness of information booklet regarding legal and ethical responsibilities in the practice of nursing among B.sc Nursing 4th Students in selected Colleges of Nursing, Bikaner.

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