



To assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among staff nurses.

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ABSTRACT

Background-Nursing Encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick as well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disable and dying people.

Methods- This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out to assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among staff nurses. After obtaining ethical clearance 30 Staff nurses were selected by using non-probability convenience sampling technique.

Results- 56.67% nurse had moderately adequate level of knowledge and 26.67% nurse had adequate knowledge.

Conclusion- Majority of the nurse have lack of adequate knowledge about Medico Legal issues.

Keywords: Knowledge, Medico Legal Issues, Staff Nurses.

INTRODUCTION

Nursing Encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick as well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disable and dying people. Nursing also includes the use of clinical judgment in the provision of care of enable people to improve, maintain, or recover health, to cope with health problem, and to achieve the best quantity of life, whatever their disease or disability, until death.

The important necessity for the nurse is to be aware of legal aspects associated with caring and helping people in the health care industry. Today unfortunately, more negligence cases

are occurring and less people want to get into the health care field, Because of fearing legal aspects and the inevitable law suits.

The primary goals of professional accountability in nursing are to maintain high standards of care and to prevent the patients from harm. Nurses should be aware of each action taken be able to defined their actions and be willing to accept the consequences of their actions. It is imperative for nurse to be accountable to themselves for proper use of their knowledge and skill in providing care.

Material and Methods

This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out to assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues among staff nurses. After obtaining ethical clearance 30 Staff nurses were

selected by using non-probability convenience sampling technique. The data collected from sample by using interview method and documented. Statistical analysis was performed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Inclusion Criteria

Nurses who are both male and female nurses.

Exclusion Criteria

1. On leave during the time of data collection.
2. Not willing to participate in the study.

Description of the Tool

The tool was developed with the help of related literature from various text books, journals, website, discussion and guidance from experts.

Part-I: Consists of age, religion, language, education, experience.

Part-II: Consists of semi structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding medico legal issues.

Results

Majority of staff nurses 14 (46.67%) are between the age group of 21-25 years, 18 (60%) staff nurses are females, 7 staff nurses have < 1 year of experience.

Table 1: The level of knowledge regarding medico legal issues in staff nurses.

Level of knowledge	No. of nurse	Percentage
Inadequate	5	16.67
Moderately adequate	17	56.67
Adequate	8	26.67
Total	30	100.0

56.67% nurse had moderately adequate level of knowledge and 26.67% nurse had adequate knowledge.

Discussion

An MLC is a case of injury/illness where the attending nurse, after eliciting history and examining the patient, thinks that some investigation by law enforcement agencies is essential to establish and fix responsibility for the case in accordance with the law of the land ¹. Many nurse are apprehensive in handling such cases may be because of fear, unwarranted laws and regulations, attending the court, harassment by the lawyers and questions by police personnel ².

With the increase in use of internet and social media, there is an increase in awareness among public on subject of ethical conduct of medical practitioners. Hence there are more cases against nurse. This issue is of immediate concern to medical fraternity. Hence all nurse must be aware of legal and ethical implications of clinical practice.

Conclusion

Majority of the nurse have lack of adequate knowledge about Medico Legal issues. Compulsory one month rotatory posting in Forensic Medicine Department should be introduced in their training period to increase the awareness and knowledge about Medico Legal issues.

References

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