KNOWLEDGE REGARDING FORENSIC SCIENCE AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN NURSING AMONG THE NURSES: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding forensic science and its importance in nursing among the nurses. The objectives of the study was to assess the knowledge regarding forensic science and its importance among the nurses and the association with their selected demographic variables. Descriptive research design was adopted. 300 sample was selected using random sampling technique from different nursing institution. Among them 32.67% nurses have adequate knowledge, 48.33% have moderate knowledge and 19% have poor knowledge. There is significant association found with the age, qualification and occupation.

Keywords: KNOWLEDGE, FORENSIC SCIENCE, NURSES

INTRODUCTION

Forensic science, the application of the methods of the natural and physical sciences to matters of criminal and civil law. Forensic science can be involved not only in investigation and prosecution of crimes such as rape, murder, and drug trafficking but also in matters in which a crime has not been committed but in which someone is charged with a civil wrong, such as willful pollution of air or water or causing industrial injuries.

Almost any science can be a forensic science because almost any science can contribute to solving a crime or evaluating a civil harm. In fact, with few exceptions, forensic sciences are no different in what they study than traditional sciences. The only difference is that forensic scientists apply the methods and techniques of established sciences to legal matters.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge of nurses regarding the need of forensic nursing in emergency department.

2. To associate knowledge of staff nurses with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: Descriptive approach was considered appropriate for the present study.

Study Design: Descriptive Survey Design.

Setting of the study: Kolkata & Murshidabad.

Sample: In this study sample consists of 300 nurse working in hospital, colleges, and community.

Sampling Technique: In this study random sampling techniques was adapted.

Criteria for the Sample Selection:

Inclusion criteria:

All the nurses who are willing to participate.

Nurses present during data collection.

Data collection instrument:

In the present study demographic data and self-administered structured questionnaire was used as tool for data collection.

Description of the Tool: The data collection tool has been divided into 2 sections.

Section- A: It consists of selected demographic variables such as age, sex, professional education, occupation, previous knowledge etc.

Section- B: It consists of structured questionnaire containing 20 multiple choice questions to choice questions it includes

Validity: Content validity ratio of the 2 item is 0.62.

Reliability: Reliability of the tool is 0.78. Analyzed using spearman brown formula.

Plan of data analysis: The data obtained are analyzed in terms of the objectives of the study using Descriptive analysis: Frequency and percentage to describe the demographic data of staff nurses.
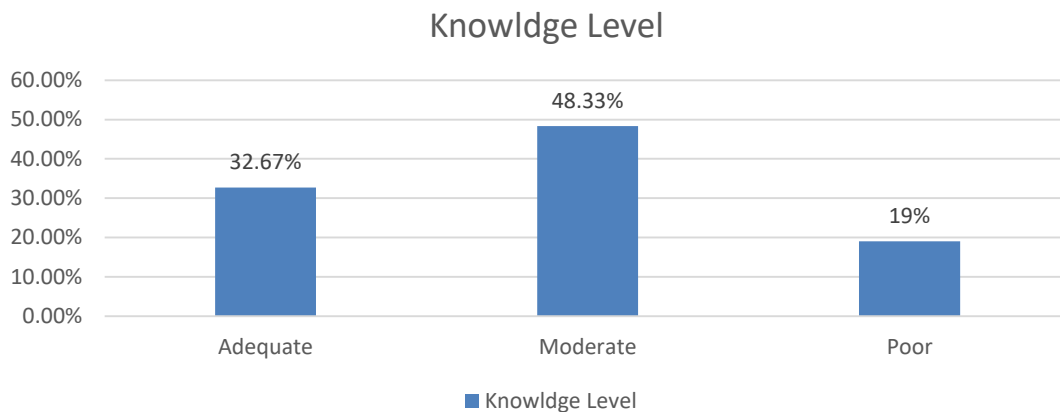
DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Section A: Table No-1: Frequency and percentage distribution of nurses by the Socio-demographic variables.

N=300

SL No	Demographic variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	24-30 years	202	67.33%
		31-36 years	80	26.67%
		37-42 years	12	4%
		Above 42 years	06	2%
2.	Gender	Male	54	18%
		Female	246	82%
		Others	-	-
3.	Religion	Hindu	176	58.67%
		Muslim	98	32.66%
		Christian	26	8.67
4.	Qualification	GNM	85	28.34%
		B.Sc (N)	146	48.66%
		M.Sc (N)	69	23%
		PhD & above	-	-
5.	Occupation	Staff nurse	194	64.66%
		Community health nurse	44	14.66%
		Professional teacher	49	16.34%
		Others	13	4.34%
6.	Previously completed any course regarding forensic nursing	Yes	08	2.67%
		No	292	97.33%
7.	Previously attended any session regarding forensic nursing	Yes	22	7.34%
		No	278	92.66%

Section B: Table- 2: Knowledge Levels of Staff Nurses

N=300

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate	98	32.67%
Moderate	145	48.33%
Poor	57	19%

Figure: Depict knowledge level of the nurses

Section- 3 Association between knowledge levels of nurses with their selected demographic data: n=300

1. As per this tabulated P value is 3.84,whereas calculated chi square value in age is 8.44,gender 0.78,Religion 1.26, Qualification 16.84,Occupation 7.26,Previously completed any course related to forensic nursing is 1.73 and Previously attended any session related to forensic nursing is 0.36.

2. Analysis shows there is significant association between knowledge of the nurses with age, qualification and occupation.

CONCLUSION:

Forensic nursing is an emergent specialty area of practice that has undergone substantive role development in recent years. Forensic nurses have not only begun to write about the challenging

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and distinctive nature of their practice and their unique practice arrangements, but have commenced a concerted call to action for greater recognition within the nursing profession and correction and criminal justice system. An increasing demand for forensic nursing skills in a range of community and hospital based clinical settings. The problematic nature of caring for forensic clients in both correctional and less restrictive contexts of care remains a salient feature of forensic nurses' accounts of their practice. The present study was carried out to determine the knowledge of staff nurses regarding the need of forensic nursing in emergency department.

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