



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION ON ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF NURSES AND RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN TERMS OF KNOWLEDGE OF NURSING PERSONNEL WORKING IN SELECTED HOSPITAL OF DELHI

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ABSTRACT

Nurses caring for children in critical care areas encounter ethical dilemmas therefore it is important for nurses to have a basic understanding of the laws that affect their practice and the ethical guidelines that can be used to resolve dilemmas. Prospective randomized experimental design was selected for this study. 100 Nurses from pediatric setting were selected from selected hospital and divided into two groups: Group A and B. Structured Knowledge Questionnaire (score of 0 to 30) was used to assess the knowledge about ethical responsibilities and rights of children. Pre knowledge test of ethical responsibilities and rights of children were done from both the groups. Group A received the educational intervention on ethical responsibilities and rights of children and Group B did not receive any educational intervention. Post knowledge test of ethical responsibilities and rights of children were done from Group A and B. There was significant ($p < 0.05$) effect on knowledge score among Nurses was seen in educational intervention group with mean knowledge score of 25 ± 2.66 as compared to non intervention group with mean knowledge score of 16 ± 2.52 . It shows that education about ethical responsibilities and rights of children can strengthen the knowledge of Nurses and can improve the quality of care.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are the major portion of the health care. In India about 35% percent of total population is children below 15 year of age. They are not only large in number but vulnerable group of the society. The past decade has seen a growing recognition of the importance of children's rights and listening to and consulting with children, both at a national and international level (Brien *et al.*, 2010). Today's health care system requires that Nurses have strong medical technical competences and the ability to focus on the ethical dimension of care. The objective of this review is thorough analysis of the literature about Nurses' ethical practice particularly with regard to their process of ethical reasoning and decision making and implementation of those decisions in practice. There view provides us with a more understandings of the way Nurses reason and acts in ethically difficult situation then immerse previously. Nurses are confronted every day with situation in which difficult decision must be made based on the determination of right and wrong.

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Nurses caring for children in critical care areas encounter ethical dilemmas therefore it is important for nurses to have a basic understanding of the laws that affect their practice and the ethical guidelines that can be used to resolve dilemmas (URL:<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20335914>). Ethical considerations are vital in any area dealing with human beings because they respect values, rights and relationships. Nurses are obligated to provide ethical and legal client care that demonstrates respect for others (Marlow and Redding, 2007). Remya U conducted a study in Chennai on legal, ethical knowledge, attitude and practice in caring for children among nurses working in NICU and PICU. The study conclude that the nurses need more strengthening of their knowledge to improve their attitude and practices in child care (Remya, 2011). Houghton *et al.* 2010 conducted an study an Ethical challenges in qualitative research: examples. This study examines the many ethical challenges that are specific to qualitative research. These challenges concern the issues of informed consent procedures, the researcher- participant relationship, risk-benefit ratio, confidentiality and the dual role of the Nurse-researcher. Each challenge will be examined and practical examples of how it was dealt with, using examples

from multiple case studies, will be described (Barnabas, Seema, 2004). The objectives of this study was to assess the knowledge and practice of staff Nurses regarding ethical responsibilities and rights of the children working in pediatric units of different hospitals and to assess the effectiveness of educational intervention in terms of knowledge of Nurses before and after distributing information booklet.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Designs and settings

The experimental study design was selected for this study. Study was done on 100 Staff Nurses working in different areas of pediatric settings of selected hospitals of Delhi. Nurses were randomly allocated into two groups i.e. Group A and B using computer generated random table. Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from institute Ethics Committee. Data was collected from June to November 2016.

Procedure for data collection

A letter explaining the purpose of the study was given to the subjects. Signed informed consent was taken from the subjects. Random assignment to either of the two groups: Group A and B was done based on randomization table. Demographic related data was collected from both the groups by interview technique using questionnaire. Pre knowledge test of ethical responsibilities and rights of children were done from both the groups. Group A (50 Nurses) received the educational intervention (information booklet) on ethical responsibilities and rights of children and Group B (50 Nurses) did not receive any educational intervention. Post knowledge test of ethical responsibilities and rights of children were done from Group A and B.

Measures

- **Section- A:** Demographic Data. It is comprised of items seeking general information about age, sex, religion, marital status, work experience, education qualification.
- **Section- B:** Structured Knowledge Questionnaire (score of 0 to 30) which deals with items to assess the knowledge of Nurses regarding ethical concepts and rights of children. The kalpaerson formula was used to find out the reliability of the tools. The reliability was found to be 0.88.

RESULTS

Demographic characteristics

The mean age of Nurses working in pediatric setting was 40 years. 84% were females, 65% were married, maximum 64% had qualification of GNM and 32% had B.Sc. Nursing. 60% Nurses had experience of more than 5 years and 25% had less than 2 years experience in pediatric setting. 90% Nurses had not attended any educational programme regarding ethical responsibilities and rights of children.

Effectiveness of educational intervention on knowledge of Nurses regarding ethical responsibilities and rights of children

As shown in figure 1, pre test mean knowledge score of Nurses regarding ethical responsibilities and rights of children were 15

± 2.54 in group A and 14 ± 2.50 in group B. After educational intervention (information booklet) about ethical responsibilities and rights of children, the mean knowledge score was 25 ± 2.66 in Group A which was significant with p value of $p < 0.05$ and without educational intervention, the mean knowledge score was 16 ± 2.52 in Group B. Thus a significance effect on knowledge score among Nurses was seen in educational intervention group as compared to non intervention group at 0.05 levels. It shows that education about ethical responsibilities and rights of children can strengthen the knowledge of Nurses and can improve the quality of care. There was no association found among staff nurse's knowledge regarding ethical responsibilities and demographic variables like marital status, religion, total experience and attended any in-service education programme. However, variables like age, gender, professional qualification and experience in pediatric unit had significance association at $p < 0.05$ level.

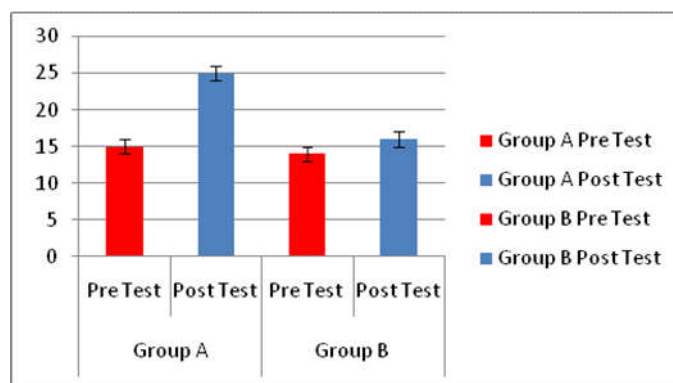


Fig. 1. Knowledge score (Mean \pm SD) with an without educational interventions in two groups

DISCUSSION

Pre test mean knowledge score of Nurses regarding ethical responsibilities and rights of children were 15 ± 2.54 in group A and 14 ± 2.50 in group B. After educational intervention (information booklet) about ethical responsibilities and rights of children, the mean knowledge score was 25 ± 2.66 in Group A which was significant with p value of $p < 0.05$ and without educational intervention, the mean knowledge score was 16 ± 2.52 in Group B. The above findings similar to the study conducted by Hakan Ozdemir M on midwives and nurses awareness of patient's right.

The method of cross-sectional descriptive survey conducted among participants working in university hospitals, state hospitals and village clinics on 150 midwives and 350 nurses. The study concluded that violation of patients' rights and health professionals' ignorance of appropriate practice means that there is an urgent need to reconsider how to approach this issue. It should be included in continuing education programmes at both graduate and postgraduate midwifery and nursing schools, and also demands more research (Hakan ozdemir *et al.*, 2009). The study results also supported by Remya U conducted a study in Chennai on legal, ethical knowledge, attitude and practice in caring for children among nurses working in NICU and PICU. A sample of 50 nurses working in NICU and PICU was taken. In which 10%, 64%, 26% of nurses were having inadequate, moderate, adequate knowledge respectively. The study concludes that the nurses need more strengthening of their knowledge to improve their attitude and practices in child care (Remya, 2011).

Conclusion

This study was concluded that educational intervention (information booklet) about ethical responsibilities and rights of children has significant effects on Nurses knowledge working in pediatric settings. Knowledge of legal and ethical issues plays an important role in development of health care services. There is a requirement for more studies on the subject of patient rights. In that regard, patient rights centers should be established and carried out according to the foreseen model set by national and international health systems. Studies aiming to teach health personnel, patients and their relatives about patient rights must be carried out.

Implications

Nursing education

Nursing students should be taught about the importance of ethical principles, factors which influence and decision making during dilemma and selection of various alternative methods while providing nursing care.

Nursing Practice

It is the responsibility of the Nurses to be aware of the advancement which takes place in medical research. As practicing of nurses, they can make all the attempts to create awareness regarding code of ethics, ethical principles and standards of nursing practice.

Nursing Research

Findings of the present study suggest the education and administration should encourage nurses to read, discuss and conduct research to improve body of knowledge behavior and attitude about code of ethics, INC standards, patient rights and ethical principles and bring about awareness for nurse and students.

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