A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of STP on Knowledge Regarding Legal and Ethical Aspects in Psychiatric Nursing among Staff Nurses

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Abstract

Psychiatric nursing is the science and art of providing protective, therapeutic, supportive, physical and social care to the people too ill to be completely responsible for management for their own behavior. For clients in mental hospitals and other institutional settings, the psychiatric nurse is the primary health care provider and is, in fact, a primary mental health care nurse. *Background of the study:* The role of nurses and professional nursing has expanded rapidly within the past few decades to include expertise specialization, autonomy and accountability, both from a legal and ethical perspective. This expansion has forced new concern among nurses and a heightened awareness of the interaction of legal and ethical principles. Ethics is the science relating to moral actions and one's value system. Many nurses envision ethics are dealing with principles or mortality and what is right or wrong. Ethics are concern with motivates and attitudes and the relationships of these attitudes for the individuals.

Keywords: Ethics; Psychiatric nursing.

Introduction

Psychiatric nursing is the science and art of providing protective, therapeutic, supportive, physical and social care to the people too ill to be completely responsible for management for their own behavior. For clients in mental hospitals and other institutional settings, the psychiatric nurse is the primary health care provider and is, in fact, a primary mental health care nurse.[1]

The role of nurses and professional nursing has expanded rapidly within the past few decades to include expertise specialization, autonomy and accountability, both from a legal and ethical perspective. This expansion has forced new concern among nurses and a heightened awareness of the interaction of legal and ethical principles. Areas of concerns include professional nursing practice, legal issues and ethical principles.

The term law is derived from its tantric root "lag" which means something which lies fixed or events. Law means a body of rules to guide human action. The law constitutes body of principles recognized or enforced by public and regular tribunals have the administration of justice.[2]

Nursing is defined as providing care to the healthy or sick individuals for preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative needs.

The Consumers are patients with complex needs. With increased awareness of health care, health care facilities and Consumer Protection Act, patients/clients are getting awareness about their rights. Nurses also have now the expanded role, with the result the legal responsibility is increased. Hence, it is important for nursing personnel working in hospital, community and educational field to develop understanding of Legal and Ethical Issues of Nursing.

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Nurses are one of the largest groups of professionals working in the health care system. Their presence in the health care system plays a very important role and helps in the speedy recovery from the illnesses.

A psychiatric nurse plays a very important role from the time of admission to discharge in which orientation, meeting all types of needs especially biological and emotional needs, explaining rights to patient, maintaining confidentiality, taking informed consent and following so many roles when patient goes to parole, all come under legal responsibilities of a psychiatric nurse.

Psychiatric nurse should be sufficiently aware of legal aspects of psychiatry. This will help to protect the patient's right and avoid in giving poor advice or innocently involving herself in legal issues.[3]

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric nursing among staff nurses.

2. To evaluate the effectiveness of STP regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses by comparing the pre-test and post-test.

3. To associate pre-test knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected socio-demographic variables.

Assumptions

- Nursing personnels were some knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

- Structured teaching programme was help to improve the knowledge of nursing personnel regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

Hypothesis

H_1: There was a significant difference between the mean pre-test and post-test knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

H_2: There was a significant association between the pre-test knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected socio demographic variables.

Organization of Study Finding

The data obtained were entered in a master data sheet for tabulation and statistical processing. According to the objectives of the study, the data was organized and presented under the following sections:

Section I

- Description of socio-demographic characteristics of samples.

Section II

- Percentage distribution of overall knowledge levels and knowledge in specific areas related to legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric nursing among staff nurses in pre-test and post-test.

- Mean, mean% and standard deviation of pre-test knowledge scores.

- Mean, mean% and standard deviation of post-test knowledge scores.

Section III

- Effectiveness of structured teaching programe among staff nurses on legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric nursing by comparing the pre-test and post-test assessment.

- Significance difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores.

Section IV

- Association between the knowledge of staff nurses on legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric nursing with selected demographic variables.

Results and Discussion

Section I

A preformed for selected personal information was used to collect the sample characteristics. The characteristics included age, gender, educational qualification, total clinical experience, religion and any additional information received regarding legal and ethical aspects in psychiatric care.

Section II

The level of knowledge was classified in three

aspects includes poor (0–35%), average (35–70%), good (70-above). The data of Table 1 shows that in pre-test majority of the subjects 66.67% (40) had average knowledge and 11.66% (7) subjects had good knowledge and 21.67% (16) had poor knowledge about the topic. Data present above: revels that in the assessment of post-test knowledge of staff nurse, majority 83.33% (50) of subject had

Table 1: Percentage distributions of overall knowledge level and knowledge in specific areas related to legal and ethical aspects.

N = 60

S. No.	Level of knowledge	% score	Pre–test		Post–test	
			Frequency	Frequency (%)	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	Poor	0–35	13	21.67	0	0
2	Average	35–70	40	66.67	50	83.33
3	Good	70-above	7	11.66	10	16.67

average knowledge while 16.67% (10) of them had good knowledge about the topic and none were found to be poor in knowledge.

Table 2 depicted areawise mean, mean%, standard deviation and overall score in pre-test knowledge scores of staff nurses comprising of two sections of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects,

the first section involve legal aspects data shows that maximum score allotted for this section was 15 and mean score, mean% and SD were consequently 7.53, 50.2%, and 5.78. In Section 2 ethical aspects the maximum score allotted was 15 and mean score, mean%, and SD were 6.66, 44.4% and 3.05 respectively.

Table 2: Shows mean, mean% and standard deviation of pre-test knowledge scores

S. No	Area	Maximum score	Mean score	Mean%	S.D
1	Related to legal aspects	15	7.53	50.2	5.78
2	Related to ethical aspects	15	6.66	44.4	3.05
Total		30	14.19	47.3	8.83

- Finally overall maximum score was of 30 and overall mean score, mean%, and SD were 14.19, 47.3% and 8.83 consequently.

Table 3 depicted areawise mean, mean%, standard deviation and overall score in post-test knowledge scores of staff nurses comprising of two sections of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects,

the first section involves legal aspects data shows that maximum score allotted for this section was 15 and mean score, mean% and SD were consequently 8.5, 56.66%, and 5.03. In Section 2 ethical aspects the maximum score allotted was 15 and mean score, mean%, and SD were 8.68, 57.86% and 2.27 respectively.

Table 3: Shows mean, mean% and standard deviation of post-test knowledge scores

S. No	Area	Maximum score	Mean score	Mean%	S.D
1	Related to legal aspects	15	8.5	56.66	5.03
2	Related to ethical aspects	15	8.68	57.86	2.27
Total		30	17.15	57.16	7.3

- Finally overall maximum score was of 30 and overall mean score, mean%, and SD were 17.15, 57.16% and 7.3 consequently

Section III

Effectiveness of Structured teaching programe of

knowledge among staff nurses on legal and ethical aspects by comparing the pre-test and post-test assessment.

Table 4 describes that overall findings revels that the mean% of post-test knowledge score was more compare to the mean% of the pre-test knowledge

score. The effectiveness of STP was observed in all the areas suggesting that it was effective in increasing the knowledge of staff nurses regarding legal and ethical aspects.

Conclusion

This study had shown that majority of the staff nurses had inadequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects. However the knowledge has significantly improved after the administration of STP; hence it has concluded that structured teaching programe is an effective teaching strategy in improving the knowledge of staff nurses regarding legal and ethical aspect in psychiatric nursing.

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