

Effectiveness of State-level Workshop on Nursing Ethics and Legalities Knowledge Among Nursing Officers at KIMS Hospital Bengaluru

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Abstract

Introduction: Over the past decade, nurses' roles have expanded, encompassing expertise, autonomy, and accountability from legal and ethical perspectives. Understanding healthcare legal aspects is crucial for high-quality practice, as nurses deal with human events like birth, death, and suffering. **Objective:** To evaluate the effectiveness of state-level workshop on nursing ethics and legalities knowledge among nursing officers at KIMS Hospital Bengaluru. **Method:** The study utilized a quasi-experimental design with a single-group pre-test–post-test approach, employing non-probability purposive sampling to select 60 nursing officers. A structured knowledge questionnaire was employed as the assessment technique, and the research took place at KIMS Hospital Bengaluru. **Results:** The findings indicate that before the intervention, 70% of participants demonstrated insufficient knowledge, while 30% exhibited moderate knowledge; none had adequate knowledge. After the intervention, 80% of respondents displayed adequate knowledge, and 20% showed moderate knowledge in relation to legal aspects in nursing. The post-test mean knowledge score of 15.80 ± 1.71 surpasses the pre-test mean knowledge score of 8.70 ± 1.50 , reflecting a significant difference of 7.10. **Conclusion:** The state-level workshop increased the knowledge of nursing officers about the nursing ethics and legalities.

Keywords: Workshop, nursing ethics, legalities, nursing officers, healthcare

INTRODUCTION

Nurses, who handle fundamental human events like birth, death, and suffering, face numerous legal concerns in their professional practice. Accountability is crucial, and nurses are responsible for their decisions and actions. A strong understanding of legal elements of healthcare is necessary for high-quality nursing practice in the world of latest medical technological breakthroughs. Legal responsibility in nursing practice refers to how nurses are required to follow the law in their professional actions. It is always preferable for all nurses to be aware of their legal obligations [1].

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Staff nurses, in their role of delivering comprehensive patient care, need to be acquainted with legal terminology, responsibilities, legal obligations, and fundamental nursing rights. This will result in the client receiving safe and professional treatment. Understanding the legal limitations within which nurses must work is essential for safe nursing practice. Additionally, all aspects of nursing today require a grasp of the implications of legal support and critical thinking on the nurse's part. Nurses must comprehend the law to avoid responsibility and preserve their clients' rights [2].

The progression in medical practices and the increasingly challenging healthcare landscape have resulted in a range of complex ethical dilemmas, placing heightened pressure on healthcare professionals, particularly nurses. According to a poll conducted at the American Nurses Association (ANA) Convention in 1994, as many as 79% of their members were presented with ethical difficulties daily to weekly. Nurses must be knowledgeable about numerous consumer rights in the health care system to deliver quality treatment and avoid responsibility [2].

The medical ethics non-maleficence principle emphasizes protecting patients' safety and preventing any injury or damage. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a study in 1999 to address the prevalence of medical errors in the United States, sparking major international change in patient safety. Since 2004, 140 nations have worked to strengthen their respective healthcare systems' patient safety policies [3].

Nurses, being the largest group of health professionals involved in patient care, are vulnerable to legal calamities and must be knowledgeable of the ethical and legal elements of patient treatment. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) developed a standard code of ethics in 1995 that guides nurses' decision-making and supports the patient's choice to decline care and treatment. To avoid disputes, the value of understanding ethics and legislation in the healthcare industry has expanded, emphasizing the need for training courses and refresher training for nurses to increase their ethical and legal understanding [4].

Objectives of the Research

1. To determine the knowledge level of nursing officers about nursing ethics and legalities.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of state-level workshop on knowledge about nursing ethics and legalities among nursing officers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Conducted in March 2023, the research took place at KIMS Hospital Bengaluru, utilizing a quasi-experimental design with a one-group pre-test and post-test. The selection of 60 nursing officers was achieved through a non-probability purposive sampling approach. Nursing officers with a diploma and at least one year of experience were chosen for the research. Following enrolment, a pre-test was administered, and workshop sessions were divided into several components. A tool with two elements was created: demographic characteristics and a structured knowledge questionnaire on nursing ethics and legalities. The tool's dependability was determined using the Karl Pearson correlation technique and the Spearman's Brown Prophecy formula, and it scored 0.86. The Medical Superintendent granted formal approval, and nursing officers provided informed consent.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Section I: Findings Related to Demographic Characteristics of the Subjects

The current study surveyed depicted 56% of respondents aged 26 to 29 years, predominantly Hindus (94%), with 54% married and 100% holding a diploma. The majority had monthly income between INR 25,000 and 50,000 and 65% had clinical experience from 1 to 5 years.

Section II: Effectiveness of Nursing Ethics and Legalities State-level Workshop on Knowledge Level

Table 1 and Figure 1 reveal that in pre-test, the majority, 70%, of respondents had inadequate knowledge, 30% of the respondents had moderate knowledge, and none of them had adequate knowledge. Contrastingly, in the post-test, no participants exhibited insufficient knowledge. Instead, 20% displayed a moderate level of knowledge, while the majority, constituting 80%, demonstrated an adequate level of understanding concerning nursing ethics and legalities.

Table 2 compares knowledge levels before and after the state level workshop regarding nursing ethics and legalities. The post-test mean knowledge score, recorded at 15.80 ± 1.71 , surpassed the pre-test

Table 1. Percentage distribution of nursing officers based on pre-test and post-test knowledge of nursing ethics and legalities ($N = 60$).

Level of knowledge	Pre-test		Post-test	
	<i>F</i>	%	<i>F</i>	%
Inadequate knowledge	42	70	0	00
Moderate knowledge	18	30	12	20
Adequate knowledge	00	00	48	80
Total	60	100	60	100

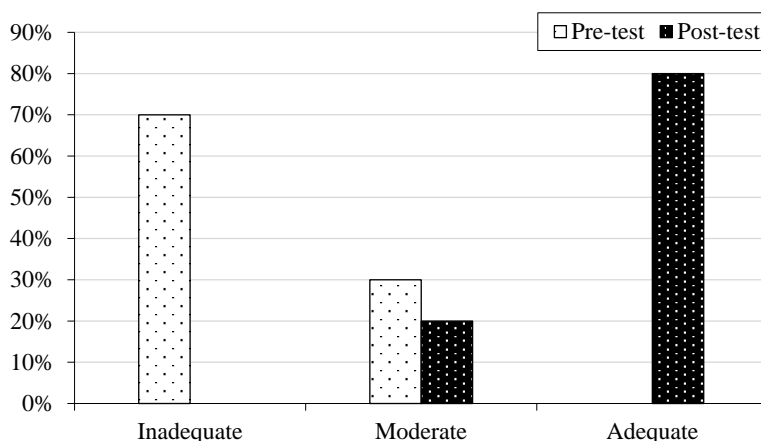


Figure 1. Percentage wise categorization of pre-test and post-test knowledge level about nursing ethics and legalities among nursing officers.

Table 2. Comparison between pre-test and post-test mean knowledge scores of respondents about nursing ethics and legalities.

Pre-test knowledge		Post-test knowledge		<i>t</i> -Value
<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	
8.70	1.50	15.80	1.71	23.79** <i>df</i> = 59

**Highly significant at $p \leq 0.001$.

Table 3. Showing difference between the pre-test and post-test knowledge mean score of respondents about nursing ethics and legalities.

Test	Max score	Mean score	Mean difference with 95% CI	Percentage of knowledge gain with 95% CI
Pre-test	20	8.70	7.10 (6.50–7.70)	35.50% (32.50%–38.50%)
Post-test	20	15.80		

mean knowledge score of 8.70 ± 1.50 , and this difference was deemed statistically significant ($t = 23.79$, $p \leq 0.001$). The determination of statistical significance was established through the application of the paired Student's *t* test.

According to Table 3, nursing officers had a pre-test score of 8.70 and a post-test score of 15.80, a difference of 7.10. This difference is substantial and statistically significant. On average, nursing officers learned 35.50% more information in the post-intervention test than in the pre-intervention test. The mean difference with 95% confidence interval (CI) and percentage with 95% CI were used to determine the differences and generalization of knowledge gain score between pre-test and post-test scores.

DISCUSSION

This study determined nursing officers' knowledge of nursing ethics and legalities. Results depicted that in the pre-test, 70% of the nursing officers had inadequate knowledge in both areas [5]. Furthermore, studies by Kumar et al. and Hariharan et al. found that only 20% of senior nursing staff knew much about relevant laws. Sharmil's study in Malaysia found that only 11.7% of nurses had the expected adequate knowledge on legal aspects of healthcare, while 88.3% had only a moderate level of knowledge. This indicates a knowledge deficit among nurses, highlighting the need for improved understanding of legal awareness and awareness among nursing staff [6–8].

The current study results depicted that workshop was found to be effective in enhancing the knowledge of nursing officers regarding nursing ethics and legalities. The post-test mean knowledge score of 15.80 ± 1.71 exceeds the pre-test mean knowledge score of 8.70 ± 1.50 , indicating a difference of 7.10. As a result, it can be concluded that the workshop was beneficial in boosting understanding of nursing ethics and legalities [9–12].

Limitations

1. The study was confined to 60 nursing officers from KIMS Hospital and did not include a control group.
2. The current study considers only one area, that is, knowledge, and the limited number of respondents restricts the study's generalizability.

CONCLUSION

To safeguard the public, patients, and themselves, nurses must be ethical and legal experts. The practice is informed by the law, with an emphasis on patient rights and treatment quality. Nurses should be aware of the ethical and legal concerns in order to prevent giving bad advice or inadvertently getting involved in legal situations, therefore protecting patients. The results of this research support the evidence that the state-level workshop increased the knowledge of nursing officers about the nursing ethics and legalities. It is advisable to periodically repeat the workshop to update the knowledge and motivation of nursing officers.

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