

A Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Program on Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects Among the Nurses of Selected Hospitals at Dharwad

Sujata Japannavar*

Abstract

Background: Nurses need to update their knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects to reduce the errors related to care and documentation maintained in the profession. The present study aims to assess the knowledge of nurses on medico-legal aspects, to plan the teaching program and to find the effectiveness of planned teaching program in improving the knowledge of nurses. **Material and Method:** An evaluative approach using one group pretest posttest design was adopted. 100 nurses were selected by probability simple random sampling technique at selected hospital of Dharwad as samples. The designed tool had content validity index of 79 and reliability of 0.89. The pretest was conducted to assess the knowledge of nurses on medico-legal aspects using designed tool. This was followed by the planned teaching program. After 15 days, post-test was given using the same designed tool and data was collected in the form of scores. The obtained scores were tabulated, and computed using SPSS 20.0 version software for statistical analysis. **Results:** The present study found that mean pretest knowledge scores were less than mean posttest knowledge. The study showed a mean increase in knowledge of 30.88%, indicating the effectiveness of the planned teaching program, which achieved a knowledge score of 31.07 with 99 degrees of freedom and a p-value of <0.001. The participants' knowledge levels improved to an adequate level regarding medico-legal aspects. Additionally, the study found no significant association between pretest knowledge scores and socio-demographic variables. **Conclusion:** The present study concluded that the planned teaching program was effective in enhancing knowledge, and it identified a significant association between pretest knowledge and attitude scores with certain demographic variables. The findings suggest that such educational interventions can significantly increase awareness among nurses, and the study recommends conducting further evidence-based research to promote awareness of medico-legal aspects among a larger population.

Keywords: Medico-legal aspects, knowledge, planned teaching program, nurses

*Author for Correspondence

Sujata Japannavar
E-mail: sujatacj@gmail.com

Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute, Hubballi, Karnataka, India

Received Date: August 26, 2024
Accepted Date: September 28, 2025
Published Date: October 07, 2025

Citation: Sujata Japannavar. A Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Program on Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects Among the Nurses of Selected Hospitals at Dharwad. International Journal of Evidence Based Nursing and Practices. 2025; 3(2): 9–14p.

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is the holy profession where the selfless care is catered to all kinds of patients, without considering their religion, gender and socioeconomic status. Nursing profession has its own ethical parameters and code of conduct [1]. Nurses are legally accountable for their actions and decisions when caring for patients, and must practice within their scope of their practice. Medico-legal issues in nursing involve understanding the legal aspects of healthcare and ensuring that nurses adhere to laws and regulations to protect themselves and their patients. Roles and responsibilities of

nurses include providing patient care, administering medications, collaborating with other healthcare professionals, and maintaining patient records. Knowledge of legal aspects in nursing is very necessary and essential for every nurse not only to safeguard themselves but also to safeguard clients from legal complications. In today's healthcare profession and industry, being aware of the legal aspects related to patient care has become increasingly important. Nurses must be aware about the updates on relevant laws, participating in continuing education, and seeking guidance from legal professionals when needed. By understanding these aspects, nurses can provide safer, more effective, and legally sound care to their patients. Nurses must also understand the scope of practice outlined in their state's Nurse Practice Act [2].

METHODOLOGY

An evaluative study was designed to assess the knowledge of nursing officers on medico-legal aspects, a total of 100 nursing officers from various departments of Karnataka medical college and research institute were selected, using probability simple random sampling technique. A structured knowledge questionnaire consists of 38 multiple choice questions, for every correct answer, score of one was awarded and for incorrect answer the score was zero. The tool validated by subject experts, administrator, advocates, and statisticians found the content validity index of knowledge as 79, and the reliability of knowledge as 0.89.

The researcher obtained ethical authority permission from the selected hospital, conducted pre-test to assess knowledge, following which planned teaching program was given. After 15 days, post-test was given to nurses with the same knowledge questionnaire. The data was statistically analyzed for effectiveness of the planned teaching program.

RESULTS

The present study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a planned teaching program in enhancing nursing officers' knowledge of medico-legal aspects.

Findings Related to the Socio-Demographic Variables

- *Age*: The study results show that, the majority of the nursing officers (59(59.00%)) belonged to age group 31–35 years, 41(41.00%) belonged to age group 25–30 years (Figure 1).
- *Gender*: In terms of gender, the maximum number of the nursing officers (53(53.00%)) were females and 47(47.00%) were males.
- *Religion*: Majority of the nursing officers belongs to Hindu religion (43(43.00%)), 34(34.00%) belong to Muslim religion, and 23(23.00%) belong to Christian religion.
- *Education*: Majority of the nursing officers (70(70.00%)) were diploma holders, and 30(30.00%) nursing officers were graduates.
- *Source of information*: In this study, majority of the nursing officers gathered the information from Mass media 43(43.00%), Personal experience 30(30.00%), and Friends 27(27.00%).
- *Experience*: Most (40(40.00%)) of the nursing officers had up to 10 years' experience, 35(35.00%) had 10–20 years of experience, and 25(25.00%) had experience of 20–30 years.

Findings Related to Comparison of Pretest and Posttest knowledge Mean% Scores

In the present study, it is observed that the comparison of pretest and posttest shows significant difference in Mean% scores in all the aspects (Figure 2). The overall Mean% of posttest 30(30.88%) in all aspects are higher than the pretest 21(21.91%). This implies that, the planned teaching program was significant in enhancing the knowledge level of the nursing officers regarding medico-legal aspects.

Findings Related to Level of Knowledge Score in Pretest and Posttest

In the present study, the pretest knowledge score of the nursing officer regarding medico-legal aspects was 20.91(54.77%), followed by planned teaching program, the posttest score was 30.88(77.2%) (Figure 3).

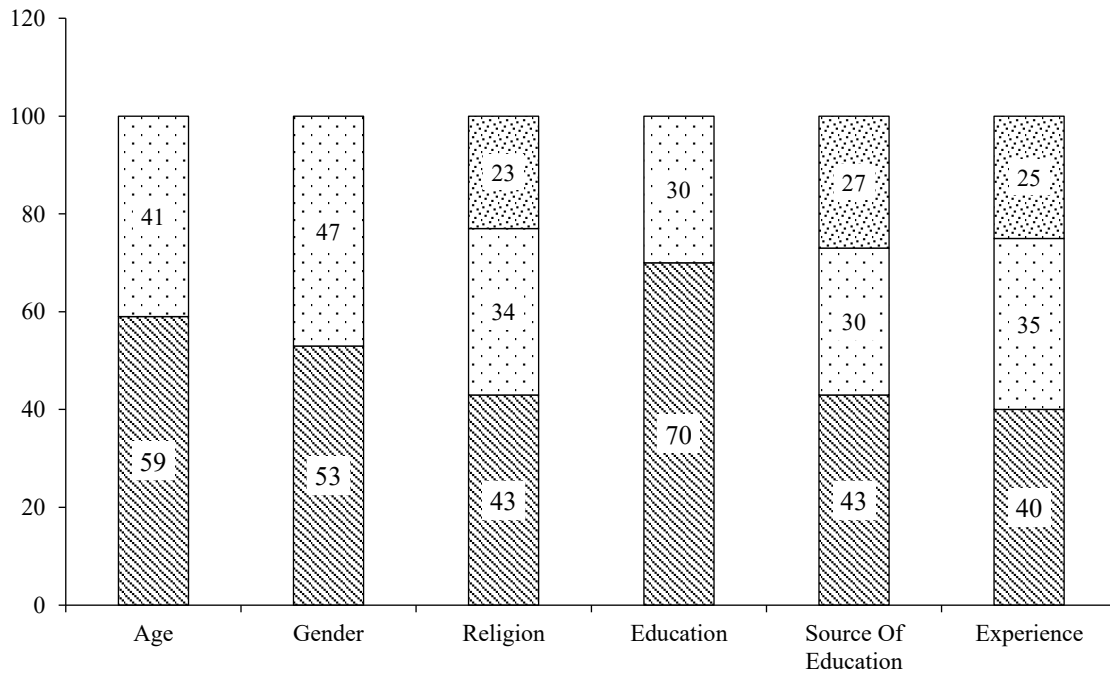


Figure 1. Multi-bar diagram describes the distribution of socio-demographic variable in the study.

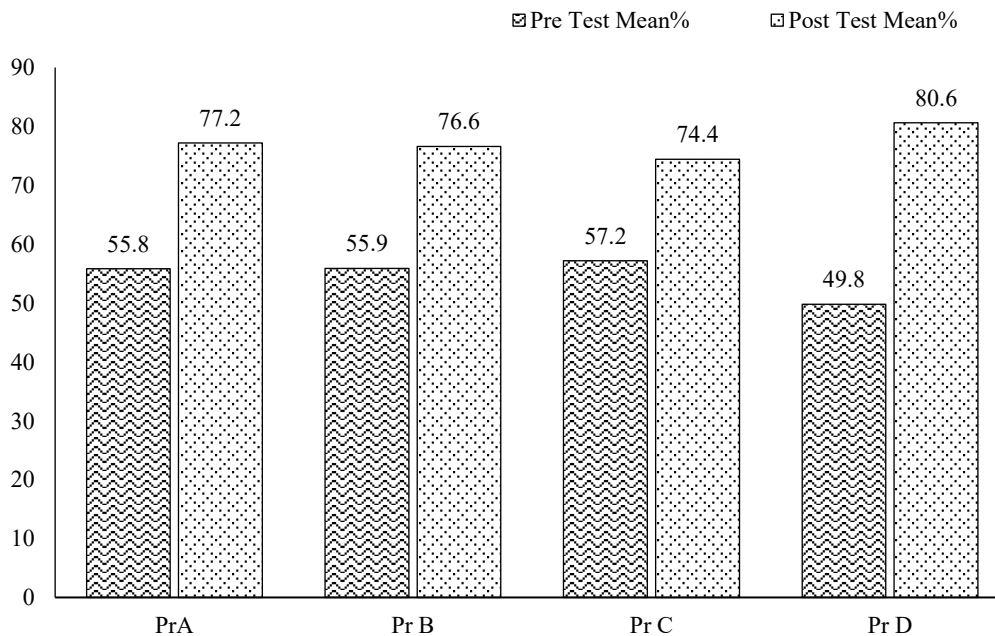


Figure 2. Bar diagram describes the comparison of Mean% of aspect wise pretest and posttest knowledge scores.

Findings Related to Pretest Knowledge Scores with Socio-Demographic Variables

In the present study, it is observed that the selected demographic variable showed no association, as shown by the pretest knowledge score of the nursing officer regarding medico-legal aspects (Table 1):

- **Age:** In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between age with pretest knowledge score of nursing officers ($\chi^2=6.604$, $df=8$, $p=0.58$).
- **Gender:** In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between gender with pretest knowledge of nursing officers ($\chi^2=12.506$, $df=8$, $p=0.130$).

- *Educational qualification:* In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between educational qualifications with pretest knowledge of nursing officers ($\chi^2=7.069$, $df=8$, $p=0.529$).
- *Religion:* In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between religion with pretest knowledge of nursing officers ($\chi^2=23.48$, $df=16$, $p=0.101$).
- *Source of information:* In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between sources of information with pretest knowledge of nursing officers ($\chi^2=18.038$, $df=24$, $p=0.801$).
- *Experience:* In the present study (Table 1), it was found that there is no association between experience with pretest knowledge of nursing officers ($\chi^2=191.96$, $df=16$, $p=0.895$).

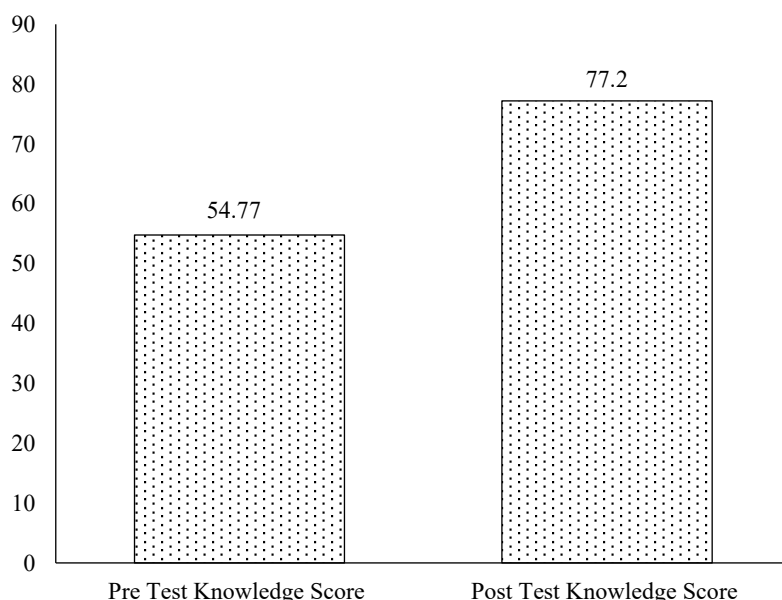


Figure 3. Bar diagram describes the level of knowledge of nurses in pre and posttest.

Table 1. Describes the association between pretest knowledge with socio-demographic variables.

Demographic variables	Response categories	Pre-test knowledge scores		χ^2	df	p-value	Inference
		Below median	Above median				
Age (years)	25 to 35	26	14	6.604	8	<0.580	NS
	36 and above	32	27				
Gender	Male	33	19	12.506	8	<0.130	NS
	Female	26	22				
Education Qualification	Diploma	36	25	7.069	8	<0.529	NS
	Under Graduation	23	16				
Religion	Hindu	19	17	23.482	16	<0.101	NS
	Muslim/Christian/others	40	24				
Source of information	Mass medias	31	21	18.038	24	<0.801	NS
	Health personnel/Friends or family members	19	12				
Experience	Up to 20	53	32	191.96	16	<0.895	NS
	20–30	12	09				

NS: Not Significant; χ^2 : Chi Square value; df: Degrees of freedom.

Table 2. Describes the effectiveness of planned teaching program on knowledge.

Nurses'	Sample size		Mean	Standard deviation	t Value	df	P value	Interference
Knowledge scores	100	Pre test	21.91	2.15	31.075	99	<0.001	Significant
		Post Test	30.88	1.64				

Findings Related to Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Program on Knowledge

The present study, it is observed that in knowledge aspect, the t value is 31.075 for 99 degrees of freedom with p value <0.001 respectively showing the significance of planned teaching program in improving the knowledge of nursing officers on medico-legal aspects (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

Findings Related To Sociodemographic Variables

- The present study shows that the majority of the nursing officers (59.00%) belonged to age group 31–35 years; these findings were similar to the findings of the study conducted by Hung and Gordon [3].
- The present study found that majority of the nursing officers were females (52.00%) in comparison to that of males (48.00%), these findings were similar to the findings of the study conducted by Labots *et al.* [4].
- The present study revealed that majority of the nursing officers were belonging to Hindu religion (43.00%); these findings were similar to the findings of the study conducted by Hiremath and Shinde [5].
- In the present study, 70.00% nursing officers were diploma holders, and 30.00% nursing officers were graduates; these were similar to the study conducted by Gandhar *et al.* [6].
- The present study found that majority of nursing officers (43.00%) got information by mass media, 30.00% got information by health personnel, and 27.00% got information by friends/family members [7].

Findings Related to Knowledge Scores in the Study

The present study showed that the post test knowledge scores (77.2%) are more than the pretest knowledge scores (54.7%), which reveals that the planned teaching program helped the nursing officers to improve their knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects [8].

Findings Related to Association Between Knowledge with their Socio-Demographic Variables

The study found no significant association of knowledge with age, gender, education, religion, source information and experience regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing [9, 10].

CONCLUSION

The aim of the present study was to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching program on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects among nursing officers of selected hospital. One-group pretest-posttest design was used for 100 nursing officers selected by probability purposive sampling technique. The data was collected using structured knowledge questionnaire, and the samples were from KIMS hospital, Hubli-Dharwad. The pretest was conducted by collecting the data regarding knowledge of nursing on medico-legal aspects, following which planned teaching program was conducted. After 15 days, the posttest was given, the collected data was tabulated, computed, and analyzed using SPSS 20.0 version software. The results of the study revealed a significant difference in mean knowledge scores; this is evidenced by increase in posttest knowledge scores compared to pretest knowledge score signifying the effectiveness of planned teaching program. Additionally, the study examined the association between pretest knowledge scores and selected demographic variables. The assessment of knowledge level showed that the percentage of posttest knowledge level was greater than percentage of pretest knowledge level; so the study signified statistical effectiveness of the planned teaching program in improving the knowledge of the nursing officers regarding medico-legal aspects.

Recommendations of the Study

The following are the recommendations of the study:

- Similar studies can be conducted to a large population to bring awareness on medico-legal aspects.
- Similar studies or comparative studies can be conducted among other institutes' nursing, medical, and paramedical staffs.

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Gangadhar Kadakol, and Dr. VG Veeresh for their support and guidance throughout the study.

REFERENCES

1. Open Resources for Nursing (Open RN); Ernstmeyer K, Christman E, editors. Nursing Fundamentals [Internet]. Chapter 1 Scope of Practice. Eau Claire (WI): Chippewa Valley Technical College; 2021. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK591808/>
2. Boehning AP, Haddad LM. Nursing Practice Act. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK559012/>
3. LO Po Hung, Gordon. A study of comprehensive nursing assessment of patients in hospital. Thesis. Chinese University of Hong Kong; 1998 Dec. Available at: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/48532412.pdf>
4. Labots G, Jones A, de Visser SJ, Rissmann R, Burggraaf J. Gender differences in clinical registration trials: is there a real problem? *Br J Clin Pharmacol.* 2018; 84(4): 700–707.
5. Rajanidevi Hiremath, Sanjay Shinde. Assess the Knowledge of Primary School Teachers regarding Behavioral Problems and Their Prevention among school going Children in Selected Government Primary Schools at Bagalkot. *Int J Adv Nurs Manag.* 2017; 5(3): 215–222. doi: 10.5958/2454-2652.2017.00046.4 6.
6. Shivcharan Singh Gandhar, Ankita Bhambal, Jaya Deshmukh, Shruti Ukey, Onkar Bhosale, Shivani Goykar, Adarsh Munde. A Pre-experimental study to assess the effectiveness of training module on knowledge and attitude regarding emergency codes among people nursing officers in selected hospitals of Pune. *Int J Adv Res Nurs.* 2024; 7(2): 306–309. DOI: 10.33545/nursing.2024.v7.i2.D.433.
7. Thirunavukarasu MR, Velmurugan A. Knowledge regarding law and ethics among nurses at a tertiary care hospital in rural India. *Age.* 2018; 21(30): 33–66.
8. Verghese LT, Jomon CU. Knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in patient care among critical care nurses. *International Journal of Health Sciences and Research (IJHSR).* 2016; 6(3): 197–201.
9. KaurH, Sodhi JK, Sharma K. A Study to Assess the Knowledge Regarding Legal Responsibilities in Nursing. *Int J Healthc Sci.* 2014; 2(1): 50–53.
10. Kumar H, Gokhale, Jain K, Mathur DR. Legal awareness and responsibilities of nursing staff in administration of patient care in a trust hospital. *J Clin Diagn Res.* 2013 Dec; 7(12): 2814–7. doi: 10.7860/JCDR/2013/7737.3886. Epub 2013 Nov 18. PMID: 24551645; PMCID: PMC3919375.