



EFFECTIVENESS OF STRUCTURED TEACHING PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS IN MIDWIFERY AMONG STAFF NURSES WORKING IN SELECTED HOSPITALS KAMRUP, ASSAM : AN EVALUATIVE STUDY

MARIA K LALROHLUPII¹, ARLINE BESHRA², NANDITA DAS³

¹M.Sc Nursing, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecological Nursing, Asian Institute of Nursing Education, North Guwahati, Assam, India.

²Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecological Nursing, Asian Institute of Nursing Education, North Guwahati, Assam, India.

³Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecological Nursing, Asian Institute of Nursing Education, North Guwahati, Assam, India.

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND :

As a nurse, there is a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and safety of the patients. Upholding ethical principles and legal frameworks is vital for maintaining patient trust, safety and dignity, upholding nursing standards, building a good professional reputation, adhering to legal frameworks and regulations, protecting patient's rights and responsibilities, mitigating legal risks and avoiding lawsuits. Ethics in nursing refers to the moral principles guiding the actions and decisions in patients care. It involves recognizing the values and beliefs of the patients, respecting their autonomy, promoting their well-being and avoiding or minimizing potential harm.

The importance of ethics in the practice of medicine was manifested at least 2500 years ago in the Hippocratic traditions, which emphasize the virtues that were expected to characterize and guide the behavior of physician. Over the past 50 years, medical technology expanded exponentially, so that obstetrics and gynecological had to face complex ethical questions regarding assisted reproductive technologies,

prenatal diagnosis and selective abortion, medical care at the beginning and end of life, the use of genetic information. Medical knowledge is not sufficient to solve these problems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To assess the knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses working in selected hospital Kamrup, Assam.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses working in selected hospital Kamrup, Assam.
3. To associate the level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses working in selected hospital Kamrup, Assam with selected demographic variables.

METHODS AND MATERIALS:

A quantitative approach with pre-experimental one group pretest-posttest design was used by non-probability convenient sampling technique for obtaining adequate sample of the study. The study was conducted at selected hospitals of Kamrup, Assam. By using non-probability convenient sampling technique 85 samples were collected on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data to assess the knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery and data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

The analysis revealed that out of 85 staff nurses who are working in selected hospitals of Kamrup, Assam; Majority i.e.36 (42.4%) were in the age group of 31-35 years, 65 (76.4%) were GNM, 34 (40.0%) had a working experience of 5-10 years, 30 (35.3%) are from Post Natal ward, 48 (56.5%) had a working experience of 1-5 years in a specific working area,85 (100%) had not attended any seminar or workshop on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery, 85 (100%) has previous awareness on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery,85 (100%) has sources of awareness on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery through books and lectures. On assessing the level of knowledge in the pretest, majority of the staff nurses i.e. 63 (74.12%) had inadequate knowledge and 22(25.88%) had moderately adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. After the STP, 56(65.88%) had adequate knowledge and 29(34.12%) had moderate adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. The pretest mean score of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery was 6.28 ± 2.20 and the post-test mean score of knowledge was 15.61 ± 2.53 . The mean difference score was 9.32. The calculated paired “t” test value of value of $t=27.998$ was statistically significant at $p<0.001$ level. H_0 was rejected and H_1 was accepted which clearly infers that there was significant difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge score regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among staff nurses. This shows that after the administration of STP on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among staff nurses was found to be effective in improving the post-test knowledge score which was also evident from the increase in the mean score from 6.28 to 15.61. The demographic variables like age, educational qualification, total years of working experience ,working

area and total years of experience in specific working area did not show statistically significant association with level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses at $p < 0.05$ level.

CONCLUSION

After analysing data collected, the study shows that staff nurses have gained adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery after administration of structured teaching programme which is found to be effective in enhancing the knowledge of staff nurses. Therefore, it is recommended to organize in-service education and training programs in hospital settings in order to upgrade their knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Legal and ethical aspects, Midwifery, Staff Nurses

INTRODUCTION:

As a nurse, there is a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and safety of the patients. Upholding ethical principles and legal frameworks is vital for maintaining patient trust, safety and dignity, upholding nursing standards, building a good professional reputation, adhering to legal frameworks and regulations, protecting patient's rights and responsibilities, mitigating legal risks and avoiding lawsuits. Ethics in nursing refers to the moral principles guiding the actions and decisions in patients care. It involves recognising the values and beliefs of the patients, respecting their autonomy, promoting their well-being and avoiding or minimizing potential harm.

The area of ethics is complex, difficult and could be seen, by some, as off-putting. This need not be so. It should be used as a daily tool to support decision-making and to enable rather than disable practice. If used like this it should be liberating and empowering. Being ethically aware is a step towards being an autonomous practitioner. It means taking responsibility, empowering others and facilitating professional growth and development.

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3. To associate the level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery among the staff nurses working in selected hospital Kamrup, Assam with selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY:

A quantitative approach with pre-experimental one group pretest-posttest design was used by non-probability convenient sampling technique for obtaining adequate sample of the study. The study was conducted at selected hospitals of Kamrup, Assam. By using non-probability convenient sampling technique 85 samples

were collected on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data to assess the knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery and data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL:

The tool used for the study consisted of two sections:

- **Section I:** Dealt with Demographic Variables-Age, Education Qualification, Total Years of Working experience, Working area, Total years of experience in specific working area, Any Seminar or Workshop attended on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery, Had previous awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery, Sources of awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery.
- **Section II:** Dealt with Self-Structured Knowledge questionnaire to assess the level of knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in nursing. It consisted of 22 questions and each questions had one correct answer out of the given options.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS:

- **Period of data collection:** The data collection period was scheduled from 8th November -30th November from 9 am to 4 pm.
- **Data collection procedure:** A brief self-introduction and purpose of the study was explained to the sample prior to data collection. Data was collected after obtaining the informed consent of the participants for their willingness to participate in the study. The semi-structured knowledge questionnaire was distributed among the participants in order to assess the level of knowledge among staff nurses regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery. The questionnaire took 15-20 minutes to complete and the structured teaching programme on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery was given after pre-test. Then on the 7th day, post-test was taken using the same structured questionnaire on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery.

RESULTS:**Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of staff nurses.**

N = 85

Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age		
<25 years	-	-
26 – 30 years	25	29.4
31 – 35 years	36	42.4
36 – 40 years	24	28.2
Above 40 years	-	-
Educational qualification		
GNM	65	76.4
Post B.Sc. Nursing	10	11.8
B.Sc. Nursing	10	11.8
M.Sc. Nursing	-	-
Total years of working experience		
<1 year	3	3.5
1 – 5 years	21	24.7
5 – 10 years	34	40.0
>10 years	27	31.8
Working area		
Antenatal ward	29	34.1
Postnatal ward	30	35.3
Labour room	26	30.6
Total years of experience in specific working area		
<1 year	4	4.7
1 – 5 years	48	56.5
5 – 10 years	30	35.3
>10 years	3	3.5
Any Seminar or Workshop attended on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery		
Yes	-	-
No	85	100.0
Had previous awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery		
Yes	85	100.0
No	-	-
Source of awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery		
Books and Lectures	85	100.0
Books, lectures and conferences	-	-

The table 1 portrays that most of the staff nurses, 36(42.4%) were aged between 31–35 years, 65(76.4%) were GNM, 34(40%) had 5 – 10 years of working experience, 30(35.3%) were working in postnatal ward, 48(56.5%) had 1 – 5 years of experience in specific working area, 85(100%) had not attended any seminar or workshop on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery, 85(100%) had previous awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery and 85(100%) had books and lectures as source of awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of pretest and post-test level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses.

N = 85

Level of Knowledge	Pretest		Post Test	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inadequate knowledge ($\leq 33\%$)	63	74.12	-	-
Moderate knowledge (34 – 66%)	22	25.88	29	34.12
Adequate knowledge ($> 66\%$)	-	-	56	65.88

The table 2 findings show the frequency and percentage distribution of pretest and post-test level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. It shows that in the pretest, 63(74.12%) had inadequate knowledge and 22(25.88%) had moderately adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. After the STP, 56(65.88%) had adequate knowledge and 29(34.12%) had moderate adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses.

Table 3: Effectiveness of STP on knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses.

N = 85

Variables	Mean	S.D	Mean Difference	Paired “t” test and p- Value
Pretest	6.28	2.20	9.32	t = 27.998 p=0.0001, S***
Post Test	15.61	2.53		

***p<0.001, S – Significant

The table 3 shows that the pretest mean score of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery was 6.28 ± 2.20 and the post-test mean score of knowledge was 15.61 ± 2.53 . The mean difference score was 9.32. The calculated paired “t” test value of value of $t=27.998$ was statistically significant at $p<0.001$ level. This clearly infers that after the administration of STP on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among staff nurses was found to be effective and the staff nurses gained adequate knowledge in the post test.

Table 4: Association of pretest level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses with their selected demographic variables.

N = 85

Demographic Variables	Inadequate		Moderate		Chi-Square p-value / Fisher Exact test p-value
	f	%	f	%	
Age					$\chi^2=0.083$ d.f=2 p=0.507 N.S
<25 years	-	-	-	-	
26 – 30 years	18	21.2	7	8.2	
31 – 35 years	27	31.8	9	10.6	
36 – 40 years	18	21.2	6	7.1	
Above 40 years	-	-	-	-	
Educational qualification					p=0.687 N.S
GNM	49	57.6	16	18.8	
Post B.Sc. Nursing	6	7.1	4	4.7	
B.Sc. Nursing	8	9.4	2	2.4	
M.Sc. Nursing	-	-	-	-	
Total years of working experience					p=0.759 N.S
<1 year	2	2.4	1	1.2	
1 – 5 years	14	16.5	7	8.2	
5 – 10 years	26	30.6	8	9.4	
>10 years	21	24.7	6	7.1	
Working area					$\chi^2=0.741$ d.f=2 p=0.690 N.S
Antenatal ward	23	27.1	6	7.1	
Postnatal ward	22	25.9	8	9.4	
Labour room	18	21.2	8	9.4	
Total years of experience in specific working area					p=0.924 N.S
<1 year	3	3.5	1	1.2	
1 – 5 years	35	41.2	13	15.3	
5 – 10 years	22	25.9	8	9.4	
>10 years	3	3.5	0	0	
Any Seminar or Workshop attended on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery					-
Yes	-	-	-	-	
No	63	74.1	22	25.9	
Had previous awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery					-
Yes	63	74.1	22	25.9	
No	-	-	-	-	
Source of awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery					-
Books and Lectures	63	74.1	22	25.9	
Books, lectures and conferences	-	-	-	-	

N.S – Not Significant

The table 4 shows the association of demographic variables with pretest level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. The demographic variables did not show statistically significant association with pretest level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses at $p<0.05$ level.

Table 5: Association of post test level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses with their selected demographic variables.

N = 85

Demographic Variables	Inadequate		Moderate		Chi-Square p-value / Fisher Exact test p-value
	f	%	f	%	
Age					$\chi^2=1.336$ d.f=2 p=0.513 N.S
<25 years	-	-	-	-	
26 – 30 years	10	11.8	15	17.6	
31 – 35 years	13	15.3	23	27.1	
36 – 40 years	6	7.1	18	21.2	
Above 40 years	-	-	-	-	
Educational qualification					p=0.731 N.S
GNM	23	27.1	42	49.4	
Post B.Sc. Nursing	2	2.4	8	9.4	
B.Sc. Nursing	4	4.7	6	7.1	
M.Sc. Nursing	-	-	-	-	
Total years of working experience					p=0.674 N.S
<1 year	2	2.4	1	1.2	
1 – 5 years	7	8.2	14	16.5	
5 – 10 years	12	14.1	22	25.9	
>10 years	8	9.4	19	22.4	
Working area					$\chi^2=0.218$ d.f=2 p=0.897 N.S
Antenatal ward	10	11.8	19	22.4	
Postnatal ward	11	12.9	19	22.4	
Labour room	8	9.4	18	21.2	
Total years of experience in specific working area					p=0.110 N.S
<1 year	3	3.5	1	1.2	
1 – 5 years	13	15.3	35	41.2	
5 – 10 years	11	12.9	19	22.4	
>10 years	2	2.4	1	1.2	
Any Seminar or Workshop attended on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery					-
Yes	-	-	-	-	
No	29	34.1	56	65.9	
Had previous awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery					-
Yes	29	34.1	56	65.9	
No	-	-	-	-	
Source of awareness on legal and ethical aspect in midwifery					-
Books and Lectures	29	34.1	56	65.9	
Books, lectures and conferences	-	-	-	-	

N.S – Not Significant

The table 5 shows the association of demographic variables with post-test level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses. The demographic variables did not show statistically significant association with post-test level of knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery among the staff nurses at $p<0.05$ level.

CONCLUSION:

After analysing data collected, the study shows that staff nurses have gained adequate knowledge on legal and ethical aspects in midwifery after administration of structured teaching programme which is found to be effective in enhancing the knowledge of staff nurses. Therefore, it is recommended to organize in-service education and training programs in hospital settings in order to upgrade their knowledge regarding legal and ethical aspects in midwifery.

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