



“A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING CARE AMONG IV YEAR B.SC. NURSING STUDENTS AT COLLEGE OF NURSING, SVIMS, TIRUPATI.”

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ABSTRACT

Objectives:

- To assess the knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV B.Sc. nursing students at college of nursing, SVIMS,Tirupati.
- To find out the association between the knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care of IV year B.Sc. nursing students with their selected demographical variables.

Methodology A descriptive design was adopted. Eighty-three IV year B.Sc. nursing students were selected by using non probability purposive sampling technique on the basis of inclusion criteria to assess the knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care.

Results: Regarding the level of the knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among 83 IV year B.Sc. nursing students 10 had inadequate knowledge,30 had moderate knowledge and 43 had adequate knowledge. There was a statistically significant association of knowledge regarding legal aspects and age,

religion, gender, type of family ,monthly family income and marital status at 0.05 level . The mean knowledge score was 2.39 and standard deviation 0.69.

Conclusion: These findings suggested that extensive knowledge will be needed to bring awareness among legal aspects in psychiatry nursing care.

KEY WORDS: knowledge, legal aspects, psychiatry nursing care .

INTRODUCTION:

Legislation is an important mechanism to ensure appropriate, adequate, timely and humane health care services. In a country like India, mental health care is not perceived as an important aspect of public health care.

The fundamental aim of mental health legislation is to protect, promote and improve the lives and mental well-being of citizens. It also plays a vital role in dictating the terms and conditions of mental health care and protecting the human rights of people with mental disorders.

NEED FOR STUDY :

Many health professionals and staff nurses were unaware of the legal aspects of psychiatric care among their patients, according to the investigator. It could be harmful to patients, the community, and healthcare professionals. Student nurses play an important role in the health-care setting. They can share their knowledge and positive attitude with other professionals, family members, and members of the community. Investigator interested to assess the level of knowledge among nursing students towards legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEGAL ASPECTS IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING CARE AMONG IV YEAR B.SC. NURSING STUDENTS AT COLLEGE OF NURSING, SVIMS , TIRUPATI.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. nursing students at college of nursing, SVIMS,Tirupati
- To find out the association between the knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. nursing students with their selected demographical variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

- **KNOWLEDGE:** level of understanding regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. Nursing students.
- **LEGAL ASPECTS IN PSYCHAITRY CARE:** legal aspects in psychiatric care include admission and discharge procedure, mental health act, Indian lunacy act, rights of mentally ill, civil and criminal responsibility.

- **NURSING STUDENTS:** individual formally enrolled in the College of Nursing in pursuit of a B.Sc. nursing degree

ASSUMPTION:

- ✓ Students will have some knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care.

CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK

The conceptual frame work for the present study was adopted from **General system theory by Leudwing Von Bertalaffy (1968)**. General system theory explains that, a system of interrelated elements in the abstracts system is the human being & their environment.

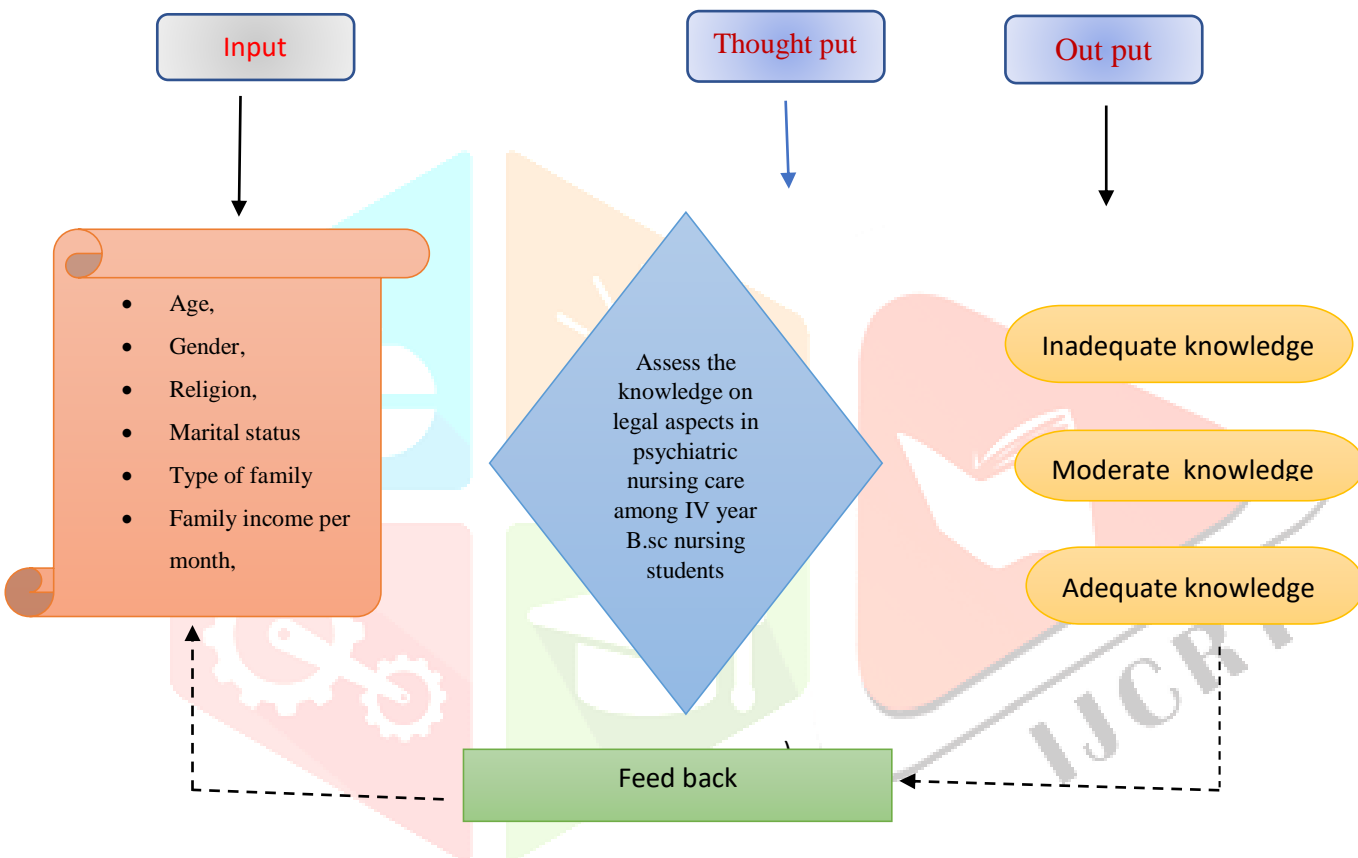


Fig: 1 Conceptual frame work based on modified general system theory by Leudwing Von Bertalaffy (1989)

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH

In this present study non-experimental approach was adopted to carry out the study. **RESEARCH DESIGN**

The research design adopted for the study to achieve the objective was descriptive research design.

SETTING OF THE STUDY

Location for conducting research College of Nursing, SVIMS. Tirupati. College of nursing started function at SVIMS in the September, 1996 with a 4 year B.Sc., Nursing Degree Programme. The annual intake of students is 100 per year. IV year B.Sc. nursing class room is in II year flow SVIMS, Tirupati.

POPULATION:

The population included in this study was IV year B.Sc. nursing students, college of nursing, SVIMS, Tirupati.

SAMPLE:

The sample includes the IV year B.Sc. nursing students from College of Nursing, SVIMS, Tirupati. Who fall under inclusion criteria.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

In this present study **non-probability purposive sampling technique** was used for selection of sample..

SAMPLE SIZE:

The sample size consists of 83 IV year B.Sc. nursing students from College of Nursing, SVIMS, Tirupati.

CRITERIA FOR SAMPLE SELECTION

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

Nursing students who were:

- willing to participate in the study
- available at the time data collection.

DEVELOPMENT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

The knowledge of sample was measured based on the instrument developed. The instrument consists of two sections:

SECTION: -A

It deals with the socio-demographic variables such as age, gender, religion, marital status, type of family, and family income per month.

SECTION: -B

A structured knowledge questionnaire was prepared regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care. It consists of '30' items. The maximum source of knowledge is '30' and minimum is '0'. Each correct answer awards '1' mark in knowledge and each wrong answer awards '0' mark.

SCORE INTERPETATION

It consists of '30' multiple choice questions related to knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care. Which carries '1' mark for correct answer and '0' for wrong answer. The maximum score of instruments was '30' and minimum score was '0' based on that a category of knowledge level was described as below.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE SCORE

- ❖ Inadequate knowledge 0-7
- ❖ Moderate knowledge 8-16
- ❖ Adequate knowledge 17-30

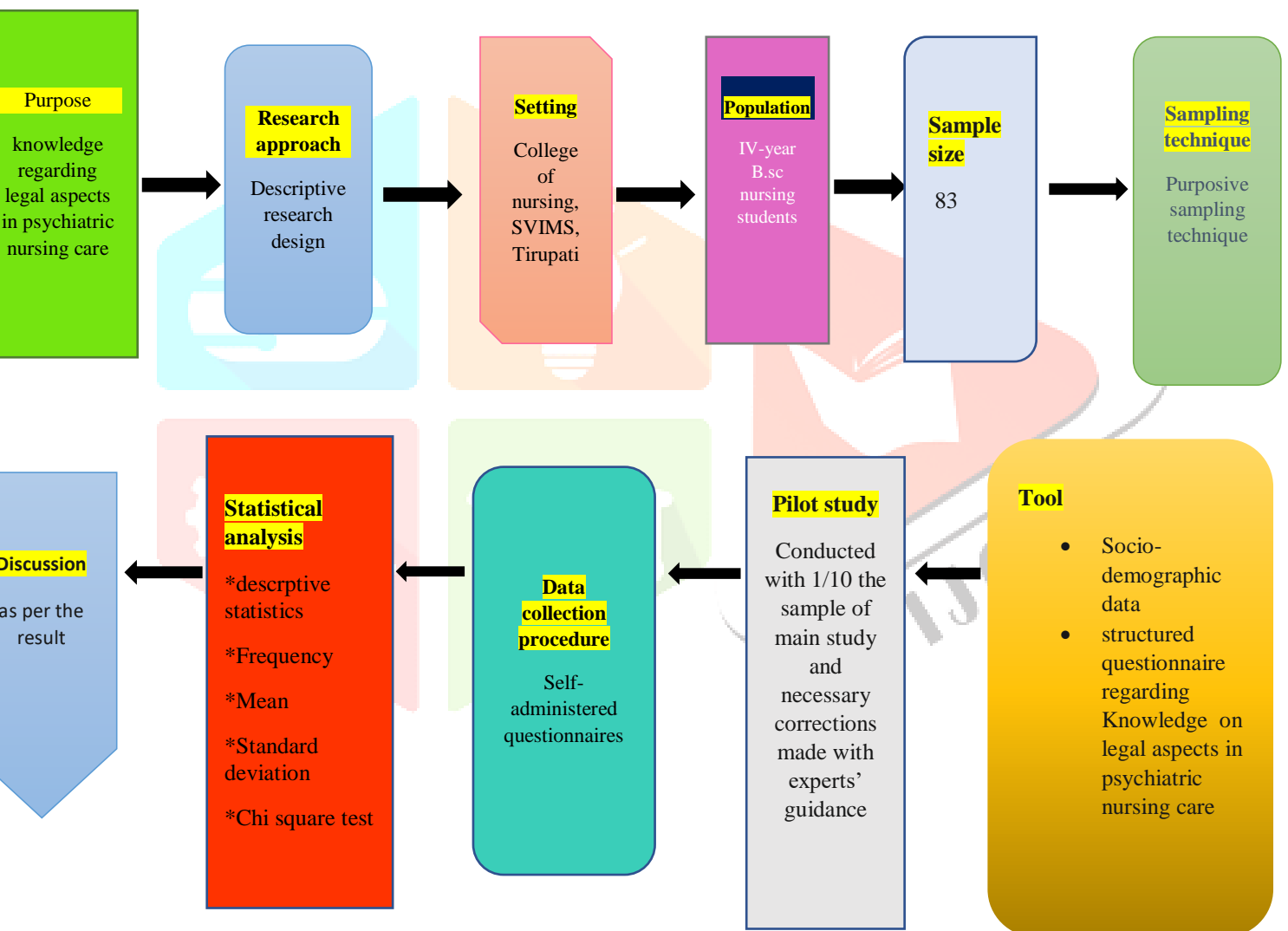


Fig: 2 SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF RESEARCH DESIGN

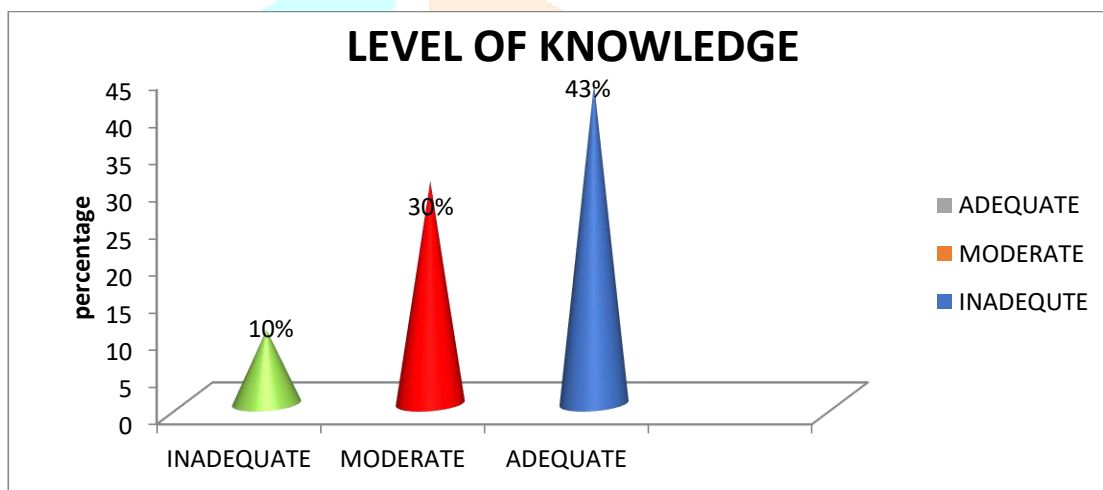
RESULTS:

Out of the 83 sample majority 39(46%) were in the age of 22 years, 72(87%) were females, 70(84%) were Hindu 63(76%) were unmarried, 70(84%) were belongs to nuclear family, 23(28%) were having monthly income Rs.6,175-18,496/-.

The score of knowledge regarding 10(12%) had inadequate knowledge, 30(36%) had moderate knowledge, 43(52%) had adequate knowledge regarding on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. nursing students.

Table :1 Frequency and percentage distribution of level knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. Nursing students.

Level of Knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Inadequate knowledge	10	12
Moderate knowledge	30	36
Adequate knowledge	43	52



The score of knowledge regarding 10(12%) had inadequate knowledge, 30(36%) had moderate knowledge, 43(52%) had adequate knowledge regarding on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. nursing students.

Table :2

Distribution of Mean and Stranded Deviation on legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. nursing students.

Knowledge on Legal Aspects In Psychiatric Nursing Care Among IV year B.Sc. Nursing Students	Mean	Standard deviation
	2.39	0.69

The mean score of knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric nursing care among IV year B.Sc. Nursing students was 2.39 and standard deviation was 0.69. There was a statistically significant association level of knowledge regarding legal aspects and age, religion, gender, type of family, monthly family income and marital status at 0.05 level .

CONCLUSION:

The following conclusion were drawn from the study.

- Majority 30(36%) of the students had moderate knowledge on legal and ethical issues in nursing.
- Majority of the students were belongs to the age 22(39%).
- Majority 84 % of the students belongs to Hindu.
- There was statistically significant association of knowledge regarding legal aspects and age, religion, gender, type of family, monthly family income and marital status at 0.05 level. The findings suggested that extensive knowledge will be needed to bring awareness among IV year Nursing students on legal aspects in psychiatry care.

IMPLICATIONS:

The investigator has drawn the following implications from the studies which were of vital concern to the field of nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

Nursing practice

Nursing students are key persons of a health team, who play a major role in the health promotion and maintenance; it is a practicing profession, so that the researchers generally integrate findings into practice.

- Nurses can conduct teaching session for staff nurses, which will help in improvement of knowledge of nurses.
- Nursing personnel can offer opportunity to create awareness among staff nurses regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care through continuing education.

Nursing education

The present study emphasizes on enhancement regarding knowledge of nursing students on legal aspects in psychiatric care.

- ✓ The student nurses from school of nursing and college of nursing would be encouraged to attend specialized courses and seminars regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care.
- ✓ Nursing schools, college, and teachers should come forward and encourage the students to provide the information on legal aspects in psychiatric care with the help of audio-visual aids.

Nursing Administration

- Nursing leaders should enhance nursing services through reinforcement of teaching through the readymade video package.
- Teaching program can be given to staff nurses using various channels of communication regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care.

Nursing Research

- ❖ Nursing research can be focused on selected legal aspects in psychiatric care, which could help to improve nurse's autonomous decisions and collaborate with the medical team to ensure continuing care towards more successful management.
- ❖ This study will serve as a valuable reference material for future investigators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A Similar study can be undertaken by utilizing other domain like attitude and practice.
- A similar study can be undertaken on large scale.
- An explorative study may be conducted to identify the awareness, knowledge, and practice of health personnel regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care.
- A similar study can be undertaken using different teaching methods.
- A similar study can be replicated with a control group.

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