



Effectiveness of self-instructional module on knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses at selected hospitals, udaipur.

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ABSTRACT

Background

Legislation forms an important component in the implementation of mental healthcare. It has long been known that there is a dynamic relationship between the concept of mental illness, the treatment of the mentally ill and the Law. Therefore adequate education is necessary for staff nurses regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care to enable them to be aware of the legal issues, acts under legal aspects and to protect the rights of clients under their care. Objectives of the study were To assess the existing knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses. To assess the post-test knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses. To evaluate the effectiveness of self instructional module regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses. To associate pre-test knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected demographic variables. **Methodology** The modified conceptual frame work for the present study was based on Wiedenbach's Clinical Nursing Practice-A Helping Art Theory. Quasi experimental- one group pretest posttest design was adopted for the present study. The Structured Knowledge Questionnaire was developed to collect the data. Pilot study was conducted among 6 staff nurses and samples were selected by using simple random sampling to find the feasibility of the study. The main study was conducted at Pacific hospital, Udaipur among 60 staff nurses and the data collected was analyzed and interpreted based on descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results** The findings of the study showed that in pretest, 34 (56.6%) of the subjects had inadequate level of knowledge, 25(41.8%) of the subjects had moderate level of knowledge and 1(1.6%) had adequate knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care. In post

test the majority 42(70%) of the subjects had moderate level of knowledge, 14 (23.4%) of subjects had adequate level of knowledge and 4(6.6%) of them had inadequate level of knowledge. It was clear that the mean posttest knowledge score 20.63 was significantly higher than the mean pretest knowledge scores 15.32 with an enhancement of 5.28 and 't' value was 11.94 which showed that SIM was effective in increasing the knowledge level of staff nurses. There was significant association found between the pre test knowledge score of staff nurses with selected demographic variables like religion and gender at the level of $p < 0.05$. Hence the research hypothesis was accepted. **Interpretation and Conclusion.** The present study attempted to assess the effectiveness of SIM on knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care and found that the SIM was effective in improving the knowledge of staff nurses.

Key words: Knowledge, Effectiveness, Self Instructional Module, Staff Nurse, Legal Aspects.

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.

Nursing is an emerging profession. The professional nurses demonstrate unique skills, critical thinking and systematically inquiry and uses discretion and judgment in practice.¹

Psychiatric nurses provide a variety of services to mental health patients, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because of this, psychiatric nurses can face a number of legal concerns as well. To make sure they're legally protected, it is important for psychiatric nurses to stay up-to-date on legal and ethical issues in their field.²

There is a dynamic relationship between the concept of mental illness, the treatment of the mentally ill and the law. Legal and ethical context of care is important for all psychiatric nurses as it focuses concern on the rights of patients and the quality of care they receive. With the increasing awareness of rights in our democratic set-up, a mental health professional especially nurses should know the basic legal and ethical aspects of forensic psychiatry while working in a mental health institution.³

A descriptive survey approach was made in R.L. Jalappa Hospital and Research Centre, Tamka, Kolar among 30 Staff nurses (15 Diploma staff nurses and 15 Graduate staff nurses) to assess the attitude towards rights of

hospitalized psychiatric patients and result showed that 83.45% of graduate nurses and 100% of diploma nurses had unfavorable attitude and 16.6% of graduate nurses having favorable attitude and concluded that it is needed to develop nursing guidelines in protecting human rights of mentally ill patients.⁵

1.4 Objectives

1. To assess the existing knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.
2. To assess the post-test knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of self instructional module regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.
4. To associate pre-test knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected demographic variables.

1.5 Hypotheses

H₁: There is a significant difference between the mean pretest and posttest knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

H₂: There is a significant association between the pretest knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected demographic variables.

1.1 Research Approach

A quantitative approach was considered most suitable for the study, as the aim was to find out the knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses working in selected hospitals, Udaipur.

1.2 Research Design

Quasi experimental one group pre test post test design was adopted for the present study.

3.3 Variables:

Variables identified in this study are,

Independent variable:

The independent variable was self instructional module on knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

Dependent variable:

Dependent variable was knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

Demographic variables:

Demographic variables were age, gender, religion, qualification, marital status, clinical experience in years, monthly income (In Rupees) and previous source of information.

Setting of the study

In this study, the research was conducted in Pacific Hospital, Udaipur. The criteria for selecting setting were geographical proximity, feasibility of conducting the study and availability of the samples.

3.4 Population

The population was 95 staff nurses.

3.5 Sample:

Sample is a subset of population. In this study the sample size was 60 staff nurses, were selected who fulfill the inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria.

3.6 Sampling technique:

A simple random sampling technique was used for selection of samples. The sample who were available at the time of data collection and also who fulfill the inclusion criteria were selected.

3.7 Criteria for sample selection

The criteria for sample selection were mainly depicted under two headings which includes the inclusive and exclusive criteria.

Inclusion criteria:

The study includes

1. The professionals who have been working in the hospital for the past one year.
2. Staff nurses both male and female.

Exclusion criteria:

The study excludes

1. The staff nurses who are not available at the time of data collection.
2. The nurses who are not willing to participate in the study.

3.8 Development and Description of the tool

The tool used for research study was structured questionnaire which was prepared after an extensive review of literature and discussion with the experts, to assess the effectiveness of self instructional modules on the knowledge of legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

Description of the tool

The structured questionnaire consisted of 2 sections covering the following areas.

Section A

This section consists of eight items seeking information on demographic data which includes age, gender, religion, qualification, marital status, clinical experience in years, monthly income (In Rupees) and previous source of information.

Section B

Structured questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses. The total number of questions was 30.

Scoring key

The knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care was measured in items of knowledge scores. Each correct answer was given a score of one and wrong answer scores of zero. The maximum score was 30 and the minimum score was 0. To interpret level of knowledge the scores were distributed as follows.

1. Inadequate knowledge <50%
2. Moderate knowledge 50-75%
3. Adequate knowledge >75%

Development of self instructional module:

It was developed based on review of literature and objective stated for knowledge test. The title of the module is self instructional module on legal aspects in psychiatric care. The self instructional module consists of objectives and guideline for the use of self instructional module. It was prepared in the form of booklet. The content of self instructional module includes information about forensic psychiatry, Civil and Criminal Laws, Indian Lunacy Act and Indian Mental Health Act, Admission

and discharge procedure, Rights of mentally ill and Role of nurses in Legal Psychiatry. It also includes conclusion and glossary. The self instructional module was tested during the pilot study and was found feasible. No further modification was made prior to the administration of self instructional module during main study.

Content validity

The first draft of the tool consists of demographic data and the second draft of the tool consists of knowledge questions on legal aspects in psychiatric care. The entire section of the tool was validated by five nursing experts and one Clinical Psychologist, two experts in law and one statistician for establishing content validity. Their suggestions were taken into consideration and modifications were incorporation in the preparation of the tool.

Reliability

In order to establish reliability of the tool, the split half technique with the Spearman Brown's Prophecy formula was used and reliability co-efficient of the tool was calculated by using raw score formula i.e. $r = \frac{2r}{1+r}$. The calculated value was 0.9 and the developed tool was found to be reliable.

3.10 Pilot study

Pilot study is a small scale version or a trial run done in preparation for a major study. Formal permission was obtained from the Manager of the PMCH, Udaipur. The tool was used for pilot study to test feasibility and practicability. Six staff nurses were selected from the Pacific Hospital. The simple random sampling technique was used to select samples. The findings showed that the study is feasible and practical.

Procedure for data collection

The investigator obtained formal approval from Pacific Hospital, Udaipur. The investigator selected 60 samples by using a simple random sampling technique. After a brief self introduction the investigator explained the purpose of the study and obtained consent from them. On the first day demographic data and structured knowledge questionnaire on knowledge of legal aspects in

psychiatric care was given to each subject to complete. The time required was 30-40 minute.

The pre-test knowledge score was found. After that, self instructional booklet was given to them on the same day. Then after a period of one week, post test was conducted for the same samples. The data was collected for the period of four weeks.

3.11 Plan for data analysis

The obtained data was planned to analyze on the basis of the objectives of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Descriptive statistics:

Frequency and percentage distribution was used to analyze the demographic variables of the staff nurses age, gender, religion, professional qualification, marital status, clinical experience in years, monthly income (in rupees) and previous source of information. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the level of knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

Inferential statistics

Paired ‘t’ test were used to analyse the difference between pre test and post test knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses. Chi- square was used to analyse the association between pre-test levels of knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses with their selected demographic variables.

Section 1: Demographic Variables of Staff nurses.**Table 1.1: Frequency and percentage distribution of Staff nurses according to age, gender, religion, qualification, marital status, years of experience, family income and previous source of information.**

n=60

Sl. No	Demographic variables	Characteristics	No.	%
1.	Age in years	21-30	37	61.7
		31-40	16	26.7
		41-50	4	6.6
		Above 50	3	5.0
2.	Gender	Male	26	43.4
		Female	34	56.6
3.	Religion	Hindu	44	73.4
		Muslim	5	8.4
		Christian	11	18.2
		Others	-	-
4.	Professional Qualification	Diploma in nursing	48	80.0
		Post BSc nursing	8	13.4
		BSc nursing	4	6.6
5.	Marital status	Married	33	55.0
		Unmarried	26	43.4
		Separated	-	-
		Widow	1	1.6
6.	Clinical Experience	1-5 yrs	33	55.0
		6-10 yrs	2	33.4
		11-15 yrs	4	6.6
		Above 15yrs	3	5.0
7.	Monthly income (Rs)	5000-10000	44	73.4
		10001-15000	15	25.0
		15001-20000	1	1.6
		Above 20000	-	-
8.	Previous source of information	Worked in psychiatric hospital	6	10.0
		Inservice education	3	5.0
		Through peer group	-	-
		Mass media	-	-
		During nursing course	51	85.0

Table 2.1.6:

Mean, Standard deviation and Mean percentage for level of knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses before and after SIM.

n=60

Sl. No	Knowledge aspects	Pre-test			Post-test			Enhancement		
		Mean	SD	Mean %	Mean	SD	Mean %	Mean	SD	Mean %
1.	General Information	2.15	0.57	43	3.42	0.56	68.4	1.26	0.87	25.2
2.	Legal aspects in psychiatric Care	13.17	3.48	52.6	17.22	3.13	68.8	4.06	3.23	16.24
	Overall	15.32	3.68	51.1	20.63	3.29	68.7	5.31	3.44	17.7

The above table represents the mean, mean percentage and standard deviation of pre test and post test level of knowledge of staff nurses regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care. It revealed that the subjects had pre-test mean of 15.32 with standard deviation of 3.68 and mean percentage 51.1. The post test score revealed that the subjects had a mean of 20.63 with standard deviation of 3.29 and mean percentage 68.7.

Section 2.2: Examining the effectiveness of SIM

Table 2.2.1: Improvement in the knowledge regarding legal aspects in psychiatric care among staff nurses.

n=60

Sl. No	Aspect of knowledge	Max score	Mean difference	SD of difference	Mean difference %	t-value	p-value
1.	General information	5	1.26	0.87	25.4	11.14*	p<0.05
2.	Legal aspects of knowledge	25	4.06	3.23	16.2	9.79*	p<0.05
Overall		30	5.31	3.44	17.7	11.94*	p<0.05

Note: *- Significant at 5% level (ie., p<0.05)

Discussion :-

Pre-test result shown that 34 (56.6%) of the subjects had inadequate level of knowledge and 25 (41.8%) had moderate level of knowledge, 1(1.6%) of them had adequate knowledge. The mean score for over all knowledge of the staff nurses was 15.32(51.1%) with standard deviation of 3.6. This showed that subjects had inadequate knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric care.

This indicated that the knowledge of staff nurse was inadequate and it was necessary for the investigators to improve the knowledge of subjects by giving specific information on legal aspects in psychiatric care which would enable them to improve their knowledge on legal aspects in psychiatric care.

The finding of the study was supported by an explorative Survey conducted among 30 nurses working in selected medical college and Hospital, Bangalore to assess the knowledge regarding rights of mentally ill. The study revealed that majority of participants i.e., 25(83.3%) were not aware of rights of mentally ill persons and only

2(6.7%) of them are having highly adequate knowledge. An awareness programme was conducted to improve the existing level of knowledge.⁴

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