KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING NABH DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES AMONG NURSING STUDENTS IN SELECTED NURSING COLLEGES, GUWAHATI, ASSAM: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

BACKGROUND: Nurses engage in various activities from the time of a patient's admission to his or her discharge from the hospital, helping patients to meet their needs that also include the recording and reporting. Each of the activities done by the nurses and the condition of the patient should be documented properly as authentic and crucial evidence.

Current health care system required that documentation ensures continuity of care, furnishes legal evidence of the process of care and supports evaluation of quality of patient care. National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI), set up to establish and operate accreditation and other allied programs for healthcare organizations. The mission of NABH is to operate accreditation and allied programs in collaboration with stakeholders focusing on patient safety and quality of healthcare by adopting various national and international best practices. NABH is an Institutional Member as well as a Board member of the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) and on the board of the Asian Society for Quality in Healthcare (ASQua).

Patient safety can be evaluated by mapping adverse events that occur in healthcare units. Studies done by Panesar et al. in 2015 have shown that 1-24 adverse incidents occur during every 100 consultations in the primary care context. A link between patient safety and inadequate documentation has previously been reported by studies examining documentation and adverse events in primary care. Andersson et al. in 2018, examined serious adverse events reports submitted by nurses in Swedish nursing homes to the Health and

Social Care Inspectorate and found that a "lack of competence" and "incomplete or lack of documentation" were the two most common factors that contributed to adverse events.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the level of knowledge regarding the NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students of selected nursing colleges, Guwahati, Assam.

- To assess the level of attitude regarding the NABH documentation guidelines among the nursing students of selected nursing colleges, Guwahati, Assam.

- To find out correlation between the level of knowledge and level of attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students of selected nursing colleges, Guwahati, Assam.

- To find out the association of knowledge and attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students of selected nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam with the selected demographic variables.

METHODS AND MATERIAL

A descriptive research design was used in the study to accomplish the objectives. By using multistage probability simple random sampling technique, sample size was selected. The study was conducted among 260 nursing students of selected nursing colleges, Guwahati, Assam. Respondents were selected on the basis of the inclusion criteria. Semi- structured knowledge questionnaire and 5 Point Likert Scale were used to assess the knowledge and attitude.

RESULTS

The findings of the study showed that out of 260 nursing students, majority of the nursing students i.e. 48.5% belongs to the age group ≤22 years, 47.3% belongs to the age group of 23-30 years and 4.2% belongs to the age group of ≥30 years. Majority of the nursing students i.e. 97.7% are female, whereas 2.3% are male. Majority of the nursing students i.e. 50.8% are from 4th year BSc. Nursing student, 25.8% from 1st year Post Basic BSc. Nursing student and 23.4% are from the 2nd year Post Basic BSc. Nursing student. 100% of the nursing students are clinically expose to both the government and private hospitals. Majority of the nursing students i.e. 88.1% does not attend any training programme regarding NABH documentation guidelines, whereas 11.9% of the nursing students have attended training programme regarding NABH documentation guidelines. 71% of the students attended 1 session, 22.6% of the students attended 2 sessions and 6.4% of the students attended 3 sessions of training regarding NABH documentation guidelines. Majority of the nursing students i.e. 63.5% obtained information from the hospital, whereas 36.5% of the nursing students obtained information from the teachers. Majority of the students i.e. 72.31% had moderately adequate knowledge, 15% of the students had inadequate knowledge and 12.69% had adequate knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines. Whereas in attitude, majority of the nursing students i.e. 82.69% had moderately desirable attitude, 14.23% of the nursing students had desirable attitude and 3.08% of the nursing students had undesirable attitude towards NABH documentation guidelines.

There was a positive correlation calculated (r= 0.401) between the knowledge and attitude which was found to be statistically significant at $p<0.001$ level.

The association was statistically tested for knowledge for Fisher Exact test and analysis depicted that the demographic variable, educational level ((χ^2=21.867, p=0.0001) had statistically significant association with level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at p<0.001 level. The other demographic variables did not show statistically significant association with level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at p<0.05 level.

The association was statistically tested for attitude by Fisher Exact test and analysis depicted that the analysis depicted that the demographic variables age **(p=0.003)** and educational level **(p=0.006)** had statistically significant association with level of attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at p<0.01 level and the other demographic variables did not show statistically significant association with level of attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at p<0.05 level.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing data collected, 72.31% of the nursing students had moderately adequate knowledge, 15% of the students had inadequate knowledge and 12.69% had adequate knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines. Whereas in attitude, majority of the nursing students i.e. 82.69% had moderately desirable attitude, 14.23% of the nursing students had desirable attitude and 3.08% of the nursing students had undesirable attitude towards NABH documentation guidelines. Therefore, it is recommended that there should be more training programmes and awareness about the quality documentation and for that NABH documentation guidelines should be teach and implemented in the practice.

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Attitude. NABH, Documentation, Guidelines, Nursing students.

INTRODUCTION: Quality documentation promotes effective communication between caregivers, which facilitates continuity and individuality of care. The quality of nursing documentation has been measured by using various audit instruments, which reflected variations in the perception of documentation quality among researchers across countries and settings. So, there is a need to have a knowledge on the NABH documentation Guidelines for the nurses working in the NABH accredited hospitals and healthcare settings to maintain a continuous quality care to the patient.

Clinical nursing documentation is essential in letting nurses and nursing students to learn and continuously reflect on their choice of interventions for patients and the effects of their interventions. Therefore, it is vital to the quality and continuity of nursing care. Nursing documentation can be described as a reflection of the entire process of providing direct nursing care to patients. Consequently, there is international consensus that clinical nursing documentation has to reflect the phases of the nursing process, namely assessment, diagnosis, care planning, implementation of interventions and evaluation of care or - if relevant - handover of care.

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METHODOLOGY

A descriptive design was used in the study to accomplish the objectives using multi- stage probability sampling technique for obtaining adequate sample for the study. Study was done on 260 nursing students in 4 selected nursing colleges, Guwahati, Assam. Respondents were selected on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria; semi structured knowledge questionnaire and 5 Point Likert Scale was used to assess the knowledge and attitude respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL-

In order to meet the objectives of the study, the following tools were constructed which consists of three sections:

Section-I: Demographic Perfoma

Section-II: Semi-structured questionnaire

Section-III: 5 Point Likert Scale

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE:

Data collection process was scheduled from 28th September to 19th October 2023

Prior to data collection, formal permission was taken from the Principals of all the four Nursing colleges. With permission obtained, the investigator enquired about the class hours and number of nursing students from 4th year BSc. Nursing students, 1st year and 2nd year Post Basic BSc. Nursing students and the class coordinators were informed regarding the study and the period of data collection.

Formal brief introduction was given by the investigator about the topic and the purpose of the study and informed consent was taken. Nursing students were assembled at the respective classes. 260 samples were selected using simple random sampling (Lottery method). Each student took approximately 30-40 minutes to complete the questionnaire and was collected.

RESULTS:

SECTION I: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of Nursing students.

TABLE:1

N = 260

Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age		
≤22 years	126	48.5
23 – 30 years	123	47.3
>30 years	11	4.2
Gender		
Male	6	2.3
Female	254	97.7
Others	-	-
Educational level		
B.Sc. Nursing 4th year	132	50.8
Post Basic Nursing 1st year	67	25.8
Post Basic Nursing 2nd year	61	23.4
Clinical exposure		
Private hospital	-	-
Government hospital	-	-
Both	260	100.0
Any training programme attended regarding NABH Documentation guidelines		
Yes	31	11.9
No	229	88.1
Number of sessions		
1	22	71.0
2	7	22.6
3	2	6.4
Source of information about NABH documentation guidelines		
Yes	95	36.5
No	165	63.5

The table 1 portrays that most of the nursing students, 126(48.5%) were aged ≤22 years, 254(97.7%) were female, 132(50.8%) were B.Sc. Nursing 4th year students, 260(100%) had both private and government hospital exposure, 229(88.1%) had not attended training programme regarding NABH documentation guidelines, 22(71%) had attended 1 session of training and 165(63.5%) had no source of information about NABH documentation guidelines.

SECTION II: Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing students according to their knowledge regarding NABH Documentation Guidelines

Table: 2   **n= 260**

Level of Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Inadequate (<50%)	39	15.0
Moderately adequate (50 – 75%)	188	72.31
Adequate (>75%)	33	12.69

The Table 2 depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students.

It shows that in the 188(72.31%) had moderately adequate knowledge, 39(15%) had inadequate knowledge and 33(12.69%) had adequate knowledge.

SECTION III: Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing students according to their attitude towards NABH Documentation Guidelines.

Table-3   **n= 260**

Level of Attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Undesirable (<50%)	8	3.08
Moderately desirable (50 – 75%)	215	82.69
Desirable (>75%)	37	14.23

The Table 3 depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of level of attitude towards NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students.

It shows that in the 215(82.69%) had moderately desirable attitude, 37(14.23%) had desirable attitude and 8(3.08%) had undesirable attitude towards NABH documentation guidelines.

SECTION IV: Correlation between the knowledge and attitude regarding NABH Documentation Guidelines among the nursing students

Table 4   **n=260**

Variables	Mean	S.D	Karl Pearson's Correlation 'r' p-Value
Knowledge	18.67	3.86	**r = 0.401**
Attitude	32.92	4.75	**p=0.0001, S*****

***p<0.001, S – Significant

The Table 4 depicts that the mean score of knowledge was 18.67±3.860 and the mean score of attitude was 32.92±4.75. The calculated Karl Pearson's Correlation value of r=0.401 shows a positive correlation between knowledge and attitude which was found to be statistically significant at p<0.001 level. This clearly infers that when knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students increases then their attitude towards it also increases.

SECTION V: Association between the knowledge of the nursing students regarding NABH Documentation Guidelines with selected demographic variables.

Table 5

Demographic Variables	Inadequate		Moderately adequate		Adequate		Chi-Square p-value / Fisher Exact test p-value
	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Age							p=0.097 N.S
≤22 years	23	8.8	93	35.8	10	3.8	
23 – 30 years	15	5.8	88	33.8	20	7.7	
>30 years	1	0.4	7	2.7	3	1.2	
Gender							p=0.370 N.S
Male	2	0.8	4	1.5	0	0	
Female	37	14.2	184	70.8	33	12.7	
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Educational level							χ^2=21.867 d.f=4 p=0.0001 S***
B.Sc. Nursing 4th year	23	8.8	98	37.7	11	4.2	
Post Basic Nursing 1st year	8	3.1	55	21.2	4	1.5	
Post Basic Nursing 2nd year	8	3.1	35	13.5	18	6.9	
Clinical exposure							-
Private hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Government hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Both	39	15.0	188	72.3	33	12.7	
Any training programme attended regarding NABH Documentation guidelines							p=0.148 N.S
Yes	7	2.7	18	6.9	6	2.3	
No	32	12.3	170	65.4	27	10.4	
Number of sessions							p=0.577 N.S
1	5	16.1	14	45.2	3	9.7	
2	2	6.5	3	9.7	2	6.5	
3	0	0	1	3.2	1	3.2	
Source of information about NABH documentation guidelines							χ^2=3.027 d.f=2 p=0.220 N.S
Yes	17	6.5	70	26.9	8	3.1	
No	22	8.5	118	45.4	25	9.6	

***$p<0.001$, S – Significant, $p>0.05$, N.S – Not Significant

The table 5 shows the level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students with their selected demographic variables. It was observed that the demographic variable educational level (**χ^2=21.867, p=0.0001**) had statistically significant association with level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at $p<0.001$ level. The other demographic variables did not show statistically significant association with level of knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students at $p<0.05$ level.

SECTION VI: Association between the attitude of the nursing students towards NABH Documentation Guidelines with selected demographic variables.

Table 6   **n= 260**

Demographic Variables	Undesirable		Moderately Desirable		Desirable		Chi-Square p-value / Fisher Exact test p-value
	f	%	f	%	f	%	
Age							
≤22 years	0	0	113	43.5	13	5.0	**p=0.003**
23 – 30 years	7	2.7	95	36.5	21	8.1	**S****
>30 years	1	0.4	7	2.7	3	1.2	
Gender							
Male	0	0	5	1.9	1	0.4	p=1.000
Female	8	3.1	210	80.8	36	13.8	N.S
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Educational level							
B.Sc. Nursing 4th year	0	0	117	45.0	15	5.8	**p=0.006**
Post Basic Nursing 1st year	3	1.2	53	20.4	11	4.2	**S****
Post Basic Nursing 2nd year	5	1.9	45	17.3	11	4.2	
Clinical exposure							
Private hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Both	8	3.1	215	82.7	37	14.2	
Any training programme attended regarding NABH Documentation guidelines							p=0.204 N.S
Yes	2	0.8	23	8.9	6	2.3	
No	6	2.3	192	73.8	31	11.9	
Number of sessions							
1	2	6.5	17	54.8	3	9.7	p=0.561
2	0	0	5	16.1	2	6.5	N.S
3	0	0	1	3.2	1	3.2	
Source of information about NABH documentation guidelines							χ^2=2.003 d.f=2 p=0.367
Yes	2	0.8	76	29.2	17	6.5	N.S
No	6	2.3	139	53.5	20	7.7	

**p<0.01, S – Significant, N.S – Not Significant

The table 6 shows the level of attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines among nursing students with their selected demographic variables. It was observed that the demographic variables age **(p=0.003)** and educational level **(p=0.006)** had statistically significant association with level of attitude regarding NABH documentation guidelines.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study showed that out of 260 nursing students, majority of the students i.e. 72.31% had moderately adequate knowledge, 15% of the students had inadequate knowledge and 12.69% had adequate knowledge regarding NABH documentation guidelines. Whereas in attitude, majority of the nursing students i.e. 82.69% had moderately desirable attitude, 14.23% of the nursing students had desirable attitude and 3.08% of the nursing students had undesirable attitude towards NABH documentation guidelines.

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