

Awareness and Interest to Practice Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among Students Nurses, at Selected Nursing Colleges of Guwahati, Assam: A Descriptive Study

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Abstract: ***Background:** Independent nurse midwifery practitioner is a registered professional nurse/Advanced Practice Nurse (APNs) with a license to practice, who is prepared for advanced nursing practice by virtue of knowledge and skills obtained through a post-basic or advanced education program of study. The APN is prepared to practice in an expanded role to provide health care to individuals, families and groups in a variety of settings but not limited to homes, hospitals, institutions, offices, industry, schools, community agencies, public and private clinics, and private practice. They are capable of solo practice with clinically competent skills and are legally approved to provide a defined set of services without assistance or supervision of another professional.¹ **Objectives:** 1) To assess the awareness of student nurses regarding Independent nurse midwifery practitioner. 2) To assess the interest among student nurses to practice Independent nurse midwifery practitioner. 3) To find the correlation between the awareness and interest among student nurses to practice independent nurse midwifery practitioner. **Methods and Materials:** A descriptive study design was used to accomplish the objectives. Study was undertaken on 216 student nurses of M.sc nursing 2nd year, M.sc nursing 1st year, B.sc nursing 4th year, Post basic B.sc nursing 2nd year in selected nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam by using non probability purposive sampling technique. Participants were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Structured awareness questionnaire and structured interest questionnaire were used to assess the level of awareness and interest regarding Independent nurse midwifery practitioner. **Results:** The findings of the study shows that out of 216 student nurses of M.sc nursing 2nd year, M.sc nursing 1st year, B.sc nursing 4th year, Post basic B.sc nursing 2nd year in selected nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam, majority of the student nurses i.e. 201(93.1%) had moderately adequate awareness whereas 15(6.9%) had inadequate awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses. The study further revealed that out of 216 student nurses shows that majority i.e. 214(99.1%) had moderately adequate interest whereas 2(0.9%) had inadequate interest regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses. **Conclusion:** A descriptive study was conducted to assess Awareness and Interest to practice Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses at selected nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam. The study revealed that out of 216 majority i.e. 201(93.1%) had moderately adequate awareness and 15(6.9%) had inadequate awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses and majority i.e. 214(99.1%) had moderately adequate interest and 2(0.9%) had inadequate interest regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses, the mean score of awareness was 8.85 ± 1.72 and the mean score of interest was 7.42 ± 0.88 . The calculated Karl Pearson's Correlation value of $r=0.278$ shows a positive correlation between awareness and interest which was found to be statistically significant at $p<0.001$ level. This clearly infers that when awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses increases then their interest towards it also increases.*

Keywords: Awareness, Interest, Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner, Advance practice nurse.

1. Introduction

Independent nurse midwifery practitioner is a registered professional nurse/Advanced Practice Nurse (APNs) with a license to practice, who is prepared for advanced nursing practice by virtue of knowledge and skills obtained through a post-basic or advanced education program of study. The APN is prepared to practice in an expanded role to provide health care to individuals, families, and groups in a variety of settings including, but not limited to homes, hospitals, institutions, offices, industry, schools, community agencies, public and private clinics, and private practice. They are capable of solo practice with clinically competent skills and they are legally approved to provide a defined set of services without assistance or supervision of another professional.¹

The Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner will be responsible for the promotion of health of women throughout their life cycle, with special focus on women during their childbearing years and their newborns. She will be responsible for providing respectful maternity care during preconception, pregnancy, childbirth and post-natal period including the care of newborn. She will be responsible and accountable for her practice. The Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner will practice independently and collaboratively with the doctors in the hospital and within the existing peripheral health system consisting of skilled birth attendants, auxiliary nurse midwives, nurses, doctors and specialists. She can be posted in a facility where no obstetricians are available and provide midwifery care based on predetermined midwifery care protocols and alongside treatment protocols and drugs permitted for use by Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner.¹

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Objectives

- To assess the awareness of student nurses regarding Independent nurse midwifery practitioner.
- To assess the interest among student nurses to practice Independent nurse midwifery practitioner.
- To find the correlation between the awareness and interest among student nurses to practice independent nurse midwifery practitioner

2. Methods and Materials

A descriptive study design was used to accomplish the objectives. Study was undertaken on 216 student nurses of M.sc nursing 2nd year, M.sc nursing 1st year, B.sc nursing 4th year, Post basic B.sc nursing 2nd year in selected nursing colleges of Guwahati, Assam by using non probability purposive sampling technique. Participants were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Structured awareness questionnaire and structured interest questionnaire were used to assess the level of awareness and interest regarding Independent nurse midwifery practitioner.

Tool

The data was collected by using structured awareness questionnaire and interest questionnaire. And the content validity of the tool was established by five nursing experts in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology and community health nursing.

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 data - It consists of age, Educational qualification, gender, religion, marital status, Source of information

Section II: Structured awareness questionnaire

Section III: Structured interest questionnaire

Data Collection

For conducting the main study, the data collection period was scheduled from 02.12.22 to 22.12.22 .After getting ethical clearance from the INS trust ethics committee (GNRC Complex), Dispur, Guwahati, Assam, a formal written permission was obtained from the Principal of seven nursing colleges, With permission obtained, the investigator enquired about the class hours of B.Sc.(N) 4th year, Post basic B.Sc.(N)2nd year, MSc.(N) 2nd year and MSc (N) 1st year of the nursing students and the Principal and Class coordinator were informed regarding the study and the period of data collection.

The name of the colleges were-

- 1) Purbanchal Educational Welfare Society (PEWS) group of institution
- 2) Arya nursing college
- 3) Faculty of Nursing, Assam Down Town University
- 4) Pratiksha College of nursing
- 5) Hayat Institute Of nursing education

- 6) Rahman Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences:
- 7) Army Institute of Nursing

3. Results

Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of the student nurses

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of the student nurses, N = 216

Demographic Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age		
20 – 24	144	66.7
25 – 30	61	28.2
30 and above	11	5.1
Educational qualification		
B.Sc.(N) 4 th year	128	59.3
Post basic B.Sc. (N) 2 nd year	41	19.0
M.Sc. (N) 2 nd year	13	6.0
M.Sc. (N) 1 st year	34	15.7
Gender		
Male	9	4.2
Female	206	95.3
Others	1	0.5
Religion		
Christian	69	31.9
Hindu	93	43.1
Islam	33	15.3
Others	21	9.7
Marital status		
Married	15	6.9
Unmarried	199	92.1
Widowed	1	0.5
Divorced	1	0.5
Source of information		
Health education programme	56	25.9
Family	12	5.6
Friends	36	16.7
Neighbors	1	0.5
Mass media	111	51.4

Study revealed that out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 144 (66.7 %) were in between 20 – 24 years, 61 (28.2%) were in between 25 – 30 years and 11 (5.1%) were in between 30 and above. Student nurses, majority were i.e. 128(59.3 %) were in B.Sc. (N) 4th year, 41 (19.0%) were in Post basic B.Sc.(N)2nd year, 13 (6.0%) were in M Sc. (N)2nd year and 34 (15.7%) were in M.Sc. (N)1st year. Majority of the student nurses were i.e. 206 (95.3%) were female, 10 (4.6%) were male. In terms of religion the result shows that out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 93 (43.1%) were Hindu, 69 (31.9%) were Christian ,33 (15.3%) were Islam and others were 21 (9.7) and 199(92.1%) were unmarried, 15 (6.9%) were married, 1 (0.5%) were widowed and divorced and out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 111(51.4%) were aware regarding Independent nurse midwifery practitioner from mass media, 56 (25.9%) from health education programme, 36 (16.7%) were from friends, 12 (5.6%) were from family and 1 (0.5%) were from neighbors.

Frequency and percentage distribution of level of awareness of student nurses regarding independent nurse midwifery practitioner, n = 216

Level of Awareness	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean	SD	Range of score	Total score
Inadequate (0 – 5)	15	6.9	8.85	1.72	1-10	16
Moderately Adequate (6 – 10)	201	93.1				
Adequate (11 – 16)	-	-				

The table II depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of level of awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses.

It shows that, majority i.e. 201 (93.1%) had moderately adequate awareness and 15(6.9%) had inadequate awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses.

Frequency and percentage distribution of level of interest of student nurses regarding independent nurse midwifery practitioner, n = 216

Level of Interest	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean	SD	Range of Score	Total Score
Inadequate (0 – 4)	2	0.9	7.42	±0.88	0-8	12
Moderately Adequate (5 – 8)	214	99.1				
Adequate (9 – 12)	-	-				

The table III depicts the frequency and percentage distribution of level of interest of Student Nurses regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner.

It shows that majority i.e. 214(99.1%) had moderately adequate interest and 2(0.9%) had inadequate interest regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses.

Correlation between awareness and interest regarding independent nurse midwifery practitioner among student nurses, n = 216

Variables	Mean	S.D	Karl Pearson's Correlation 'r' Value
Awareness	8.85	1.72	r = 0.278
Interest	7.42	0.88	p=0.0001, S***

Note: p<0.001, S – Significant

The table IV shows that the mean score of awareness was 8.85±1.72 and the mean score of interest was 7.42±0.88. The calculated Karl Pearson's Correlation value of r=0.278 shows a positive correlation between awareness and interest which was found to be statistically significant at p<0.001 level. This clearly infers that when awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses increases then their interest towards it also increases.

4. Discussion**Part A- Discussion of demographic characteristics:****Age:**

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 144 (66.7 %) were in between 20 – 24 years, 61 (28.2%) were in between 25 – 30 years and 11 (5.1%) were in between 30 and above.

Educational qualification

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 128(59.3 %) were in B.Sc. (N) 4th year, 41 (19.0%) were in Post basic B.Sc.(N)2nd year, 13 (6.0%) were in M Sc. (N)2nd year and 34 (15.7%) were in M.Sc. (N)1st year .

Gender:

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 206 (95.3%) were female, 10 (4.6%) were male.

Religion:

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 93 (43.1%) were Hindu, 69 (31.9%) were Christian, 33 (15.3%) were Islam and others were 21

Marital status

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 199(92.1%) were unmarried, 15 (6.9%) were married, 1 (0.5%) were widowed and divorced.

Source of information:

Out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 111(51.4%) were from mass media, 56 (25.9%) were from health education programme, 36 (16.7%) were from friends, 12 (5.6%) were from family and 1 (0.5%) were from neighbors.

Part B

The study findings shows that out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 201(93.1%) had moderately adequate awareness and 15(6.9%) had inadequate awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses

Part C

The study findings revealed that out of 216 student nurses, majority i.e. 214(99.1%) had moderately adequate interest and 2(0.9%) had inadequate interest regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses.

Part D

In the present study, the finding shows that the mean score of awareness was 8.85±1.72 and the mean score of interest was 7.42±0.88. The calculated Karl Pearson's Correlation value of r=0.278 shows a positive correlation between awareness and interest which was found to be statistically significant at p<0.001 level, this clearly infers that when awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses increases then their interest towards it also increases. Hence, there is a correlation between awareness and interest regarding independent nurse midwifery practitioner among student nurses.

5. Conclusion

From the present study it was concluded that there was a moderately adequate awareness regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses and moderately adequate interest regarding Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner among student nurses. The evidence presented in this study suggests that more interventions and awareness is required in Independent Nurse Midwifery Practitioner and more research is required in the field of advance nursing practice.

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