

Knowledge on Palliative Care among Student Nurses at Selected College, Coimbatore

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Abstract: *Palliative care is a health care specialty that is both a philosophy of care and an organized, highly structured system for delivering care to persons with life-threatening or debilitating illness from diagnosis till death and then into bereavement care for the family. Nurses address the patient suffering which involves taking care of issues beyond physical symptoms. The purpose of the study is to assess the Knowledge on Palliative Care among Student Nurses at Selected College.*

Keywords: Palliative care, Student Nurses, Knowledge, Patient care

1. Introduction

Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness. It prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual. Palliative care uses a team approach to support patients and their caregivers. This includes nurses addressing the practical needs and providing bereavement counselling. It offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death.

Palliative care is explicitly recognized under the human right to health. It should be provided through person-centered and integrated health services that pay special attention to the specific needs and preferences of individuals. (Kose S, Akin S 2019)

Need for the study

Palliative care is required for a wide range of diseases. The majority of adults in need of palliative care have chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases (38.5%), cancer (34%), chronic respiratory diseases (10.3%), AIDS (5.7%) and diabetes (4.6%). Many other conditions may require palliative care, including kidney failure, chronic liver disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, neurological disease, dementia, congenital anomalies and drug-resistant tuberculosis. (WHO,2020)

Statement of the problem:

A Study to assess the Knowledge on Palliative Care among Student Nurses at Selected College, Coimbatore.

Objectives of the study:

- To assess the level of knowledge on palliative care among Student Nurses.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of knowledge on palliative care among Student Nurses

Operational Definition:

Knowledge

It refers to acquiring and understanding the concepts of palliative care by student nurses

Palliative care:

Palliative care is a specialized medical care that aims to improve the quality of life for patients and their families with serious illnesses.

Hypothesis:

H₁ -There is a significant difference in the level of knowledge on palliative care among Student Nurses.

2. Methodology

Research Approach: Quantitative Approach

Research Design: Pre- experimental design.

Research Setting: College of Nursing, Sri Ramakrishna Institute of Paramedical Sciences

Target Population: Student Nurses.

Accessible Population: B.Sc. nursing Second year

Sampling Technique: Non probability convenience sampling technique.

Sample Size: 95.

Independent variable: Palliative care

Dependent variable: Knowledge of student nurses.

Data Collection

Pre- experimental design was adopted. By using the convenience sampling technique, 95 student nurses were selected. Pre-test was conducted by using structured

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questionnaire on knowledge regarding palliative care. After the pre-test, palliative care module was implemented which includes the lecture cum demonstration. Post test was conducted by using same structured questionnaire after seven days.

Data was analyzed by using statistical analysis.

Demographic Profile:

S. No	Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age		
	18 years	4	4
	19 years	54	57
	20 years	26	27
	Above 20 years	11	12
2	Gender		
	Male	21	22
	Female	74	78
3	Area		
	Urban	32	34
	Rural	63	66
4	Previous knowledge on palliative care		
	Yes	20	21
	No	75	79
5	Personal experience with chronic illness or loss		
	Family members	78	82
	Friends	3	3
	Neighbor	1	1
	None of the above	13	14

Assessment of knowledge on Palliative Care:

S. No	Knowledge score	Pre test	Post test
1	Adequate (21-30)	-	60(63%)
2	Moderately adequate (11-20)	88(93%)	35(37%)
3	Inadequate (0-10)	7(7%)	-

Effectiveness of Knowledge on Palliative care among Student Nurses

S. No	Group	Mean	SD	Mean difference	't' Value	Table value
I	Pre test	13.904	2.784	6.658	5.87	3.29
	Post test	20.562	2.615			

*Significant at 0.05 level

3. Results and Discussion

This study focused on assessing the knowledge of Student Nurses regarding Palliative care, majority 96% of the students had good knowledge and 4% had moderately adequate.

Pre-test and post-test mean score was 13.905 and 20.562 respectively with mean difference of 6.658. The calculated t 'value 5.87 was greater than table value of 3.29 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the stated hypothesis is accepted and shows that significant difference in the level of knowledge on palliative care among Student Nurses.

4. Conclusion

Students have oncology posting with different oncological conditions which needs palliative care meticulously. The gained knowledge on palliative care which support the

student nurses to alleviate the patient suffering from physical symptoms as well as psychological, spiritual and considering the patient as a whole. It helps the patients live actively until death and then into bereavement care for the family.

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