

Effectiveness of Tailored Teaching Programme on Forensic Nursing among Nursing Students in Selected Nursing Colleges, Kanniyakumari District

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Abstract: Background: Forensic nursing is a sub - specialty in nursing that focuses on nursing practice caring for victims and offenders, living and deceased, at the clinical legal interface.¹ Aims: This study aimed to assess the effectiveness of a tailored teaching programme on knowledge regarding Forensic Nursing among nursing students in selected nursing colleges, Kanniyakumari district. Settings and design: The study was conducted at Bethlahem College of Nursing, Kanniyakumari district. Methods and materials: A pre - experimental one - group pre - test and post - test design was adopted. 228 nursing students were selected using a nonprobability convenience sampling technique. The data were collected using a self - structured questionnaire to assess knowledge about forensic nursing. After the pre - test, a tailored teaching program was given, and a post - test was conducted. Statistical analysis used: Data were collected and analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Results: In the pre - test, 87% of students had inadequate knowledge, and 13% had moderately adequate knowledge. In the post - test, there was a significant increase; 66% of students had inadequate knowledge, 29% had moderately adequate knowledge, and 5% had adequate knowledge regarding forensic nursing. The mean score of pre - tests was 7.34, and the mean score of post - tests was 9.58, and the mean difference was 2.24. The paired t value obtained for knowledge was 15.16, which was found significant at the 0.05 level ($P < 0.05$). Conclusions: The results demonstrate that specific training in forensic nursing is crucial, underscoring the necessity for a dedicated curriculum unit to be integrated into nursing programs.

Keywords: effectiveness, structured teaching programme, knowledge, forensic nursing, nursing students.

1. Introduction

Nursing is an emerging profession. The professional nurses demonstrate unique skills, critical thinking, a systematic inquiry, and use discretion and judgment in practice.²

Forensic nursing is a specialized field that bridges the gap between healthcare and the legal system. This unique nursing specialty combines medical expertise with investigative skills to address health issues related to violence, trauma, and criminal activities. Forensic nurses play a crucial role in providing care to victims of abuse, collecting and preserving evidence, and collaborating with law enforcement agencies to support legal proceedings.³

2. Background of the Study

In 2024, the crime rate in India stood at 445.9 per 100, 000 people, marking a notable decrease from 487.8 in 2020. The prevalent crimes in India continue to be theft, robbery, and assault.⁴

Nurses often find themselves at the forefront when it comes to interacting with victims of physical, sexual, religious, or social violence.⁵ This grants them a unique and privileged position not only within the realm of care but also in encouraging and implementing the preservation, collection, and documentation of medical - legal evidence.⁶ In response to these circumstances, the field of Forensic Nursing has been

established, and the individuals within it have undergone specialized training.⁷

3. Need and Significance of the Study

Chander P. et al., (2025) conducted a similar study to assess the effectiveness of health education on knowledge regarding forensic nursing among 100 B. Sc. (Hons.) Nursing third - and fourth - year students of the College of Nursing, AIIMS Raipur. A pre - experimental one - group pre - test and post - test design without a control group was adopted. The data were collected by a self - structured questionnaire through offline mode to assess the knowledge about forensic nursing. The mean score of pretests was 10.18, the mean score of post - tests was 23.15, and the mean improvement was 12.97. The paired t value obtained for knowledge was 31.85, which was found significant at the 0.05 level ($P < 0.05$).⁸

Kumar DR. et al., (2023) conducted a study to improve the knowledge regarding forensic nursing among the nursing students of selected nursing colleges of the District, Mohali. A quantitative approach and a pre - experimental, one - group pre - test - post - test design were used to carry out the study. A convenient sampling technique was used to select 100 nursing students to improve their knowledge regarding forensic nursing through the socio - demographic profile, self - structured questionnaire, and structured teaching programme. The findings of the study showed that a was significant difference between the pre - test and post - test knowledge score of nursing students, the mean comparison of

knowledge scores in pre - test and post - test demonstrates the effectiveness of structured teaching programme the mean knowledge score increased from 12.76 ± 2.978 in the pre - test to 26.90 ± 1.992 in post - test marking a mean difference of 14.140. The result of the intervention proved that statistically significantly higher knowledge was acquired by nursing students of Mohali regarding forensic nursing.⁹

Research reveals a significant gap in knowledge among nursing students regarding the field of forensic nursing. It is essential to implement comprehensive educational programs that focus on forensic nursing for nursing students, equipping them with the necessary skills and understanding to effectively support victims and engage in the judicial process.

Aim of Study

The study aimed to improve the knowledge regarding forensic nursing among nursing students in a selected nursing college, Kanniyakumari District

Statement of the Problem

A study to assess the effectiveness of a tailored teaching programme on Forensic nursing among nursing students in selected nursing colleges, Kanniyakumari District.

Objectives

- Assess the baseline score of knowledge regarding forensic nursing among nursing students
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a tailored teaching programme on forensic nursing among nursing students
- Find the association between knowledge regarding forensic nursing among nursing students with their selected socio - personal variables

Operational Definitions

Effectiveness:

Effectiveness refers to the desired change in the level of knowledge regarding forensic nursing among nursing students after a tailored teaching programme.

Tailored Teaching Programme:

Tailored Teaching Programme refers to a structured educational training event with a specific topic delivered through direct conference, lasting 6 hours, featuring numerous presentations by a few designated speakers and including interactive sessions to clarify doubts.

Knowledge:

Knowledge refers to the Information acquired by the nursing students through the tailored teaching programme regarding forensic nursing.

Forensic Nursing:

Forensic nursing is a nursing specialty that integrates nursing and the legal system to bridge the gap between the health care system and the criminal justice system.

Nursing students:

Nursing students are undergraduate students studying II - year and III - year BSc (N) at Bethlahem College of Nursing, Cross College of Nursing, and White Memorial College of Nursing who aspire to become registered nurses or midwives.

Hypotheses

H1: There was a significant difference between the pre - test and the post - test mean knowledge score of nursing students.

H2: There was a significant association between knowledge regarding forensic nursing among nursing students with their selected socio - personal variables

Assumptions

- Nursing students may lack knowledge regarding Forensic nursing.
- A tailored teaching programme may help nursing students to improve their knowledge regarding Forensic nursing.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of the present study was based on Kenny's Open System Model

4. Research Methodology

- **Research Approach:** Quantitative approach
- **Research Design:** Pre - experimental one - group pre - test and post - test design
- **Variables:** Independent variable: Structured teaching programme
Dependent variable: Knowledge

Setting: Bethlahem College of Nursing, Kanniyakumari District, Tamilnadu

Population

The target population of this study was BSc nursing students. The accessible population was II - and III - year BSc nursing students

- **Sample:** The II - and III - year BSc Nursing students who fulfilled the inclusion criteria
- **Sampling Technique:** Non - probability convenient sampling technique was used.
- **Sample size:** 228

Criteria for Sample Selection

Inclusive criteria

- Students who attended the seminar on Forensic Nursing conducted at Bethlehem College of Nursing.
- Both male and female students.

Exclusive criteria

- Students who were not willing to participate.

Tools For Data Collection

Tool - 1 Socio - personal variables

Socio - personal variables include age, gender, class, previous knowledge, and sources of information.

Tool - 2 Self - Structured Questionnaire

The data was collected through a well - prepared multiple - choice questionnaire. It consists of 20 questions, and the total score is 20.

Table 1: Grading of Knowledge Level

Level of Knowledge	Score Range
Inadequate	1 - 10
Moderately Adequate	11 - 15
Adequate	16 - 20

Validity of Tool

The tool was prepared on forensic nursing and given to the experts for content validity, who were from the nursing field. All suggestions for tool validation were incorporated and modified.

Reliability of Tool

It is a degree of consistency or dependability with which an instrument measures the attributes. The reliability of the tool was calculated by the Karl Pearson method.

Pilot Study

The pilot study was conducted to find out the practicality of the study. It was conducted on 10% of the total sample size in selected nursing colleges in the Kanniyakumari district.

Data Collection Procedure

After getting prior permission from the concerned authorities, data collection researchers introduced themselves, explained the purpose of the study, and clarified queries among 228 nursing students who fulfilled the Inclusion criteria. Data was collected from subjects regarding socio - demographic variables. Knowledge regarding forensic nursing was assessed through a structured questionnaire. After that, a tailored teaching programme was given regarding forensic nursing with the help of a PowerPoint presentation. After one week post - test was conducted using the same questionnaire.

5. Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Descriptive statistics

Frequency, mean, and standard deviation were used to describe socio - personal variables and the level of knowledge

Inferential statistics

- A paired t - test was used to evaluate the effectiveness of a structured teaching programme on Forensic nursing among nursing students
- The Chi - square test was used to find the association between the knowledge level and socio - personal variables.

6. Findings of the Study**Section A**

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among nursing students.

S. No	Demographic variables	N=228	
		f	%
1)	Age:		
	a) 17 - 19 years	73	32
	b) 20 - 22 years	146	64
	c) 23 - 25 years	9	4
2)	Gender		
	a) Male	31	14
	b) Female	197	86
3)	Class		
	a) II BSc (N)	60	26
	b) III BSc (N)	168	74
4)	Previous knowledge		
	a) Yes	35	15
	b) No	193	85
5)	Sources of information		
	a) Educational institution	15	6
	b) Internet	14	6
	c) Others	6	3
	d) Nil	193	85

Table 1 shows that, age - wise, 73 (32%) nursing students belong to the age group of 17 - 19 years, 146 (64%) students belong to the age group of 20 - 22 years, and 9 (4%) students belong to the age group of 23 - 25 years

Regarding gender, 31 (14%) nursing students were male and 197 (86%) were females

By class - wise, 60 (26%) were studying in II BSc (N) and 168 (74%) were studying in III BSc (N).

Concerning previous knowledge, 35 (15%) of students had previous knowledge, whereas 193 (85%) did not know about forensic nursing.

Considering the sources of information, 15 (6%) of them got information through educational institutions, 14 (6%) through the internet, 6 (3%) through other modes, and 193 (85%) don't have any sources of information.

Section B

Percentage distribution of Pre - test and post - test levels of knowledge on Forensic nursing among nursing students

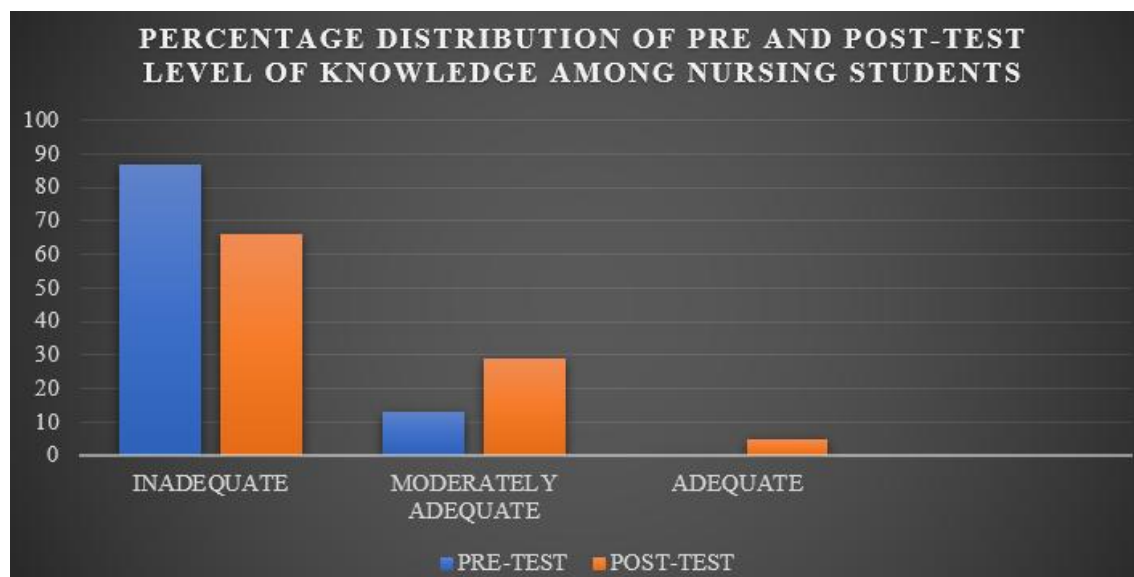


Figure 1 depicts that among the nursing students, 87% in the pre - test and 66% in the post - test had inadequate knowledge, 13% in the pre - test and 29% in the post - test had moderately

adequate knowledge, and none in the pre - test and 5% in the post - test had adequate knowledge.

Section C

Table 2: Comparison of the pre - test and post - test mean, mean difference, standard deviation, and paired 't' value on levels of knowledge regarding Forensic nursing among nursing students

S. No	Test	Mean	Standard deviation	Mean difference	Df (n - 1)	Paired 't' test
1.	Pre - test	7.34	2.97	2.24	227	15.16 ** P<0.05
	Post - test	9.58	3.14			

Table 2 shows that the mean in the pre - test was 7.34 and in the post - test was 9.58, the standard deviation in the pre - test was 2.97 and in the post - test was 3.14, the mean difference was 2.24, and the paired 't' value of 15.16, which was significant at $p < 0.05$.

7. Discussion

From the above findings, according to age 73 (32%) nursing students belong to the age group of 17 - 19 years, 146 (64%) students belong to the age group of 20 - 22 years, and 9 (4%) students belong to the age group of 23 - 25 years. Regarding gender, 31 (14%) nursing students were male and 197 (86%) were females. By class - wise, 60 (26%) were studying in II BSc (N) and 168 (74%) were studying in III BSc (N). Concerning previous knowledge, 35 (15%) of students had previous knowledge, whereas 193 (85%) did not know about forensic nursing. Considering the sources of information, 15 (6%) of them got information through educational institutions, 14 (6%) through the internet, 6 (3%) through other modes, and 193 (85%) don't have any sources of information.

Among the nursing students, 87% in the pre - test and 66% in the post - test had inadequate knowledge, 13% in the pre - test and 29% in the post - test had moderately adequate knowledge, and none in the pre - test and 5% in the post - test had adequate knowledge.

Also, the mean in the pre - test was 7.34 and in the post - test was 9.58, the standard deviation in the pre - test was 2.97 and, in the post, - test was 3.14, the mean difference was 2.24, and

the paired 't' value of 15.16, which was significant at $p < 0.05$. Hence, the research hypothesis H1 was accepted.

In this study, a statistically significant association was found between the pretest knowledge scores and selected demographic variables of nursing students, such as age, previous knowledge, and source of information at the $p < 0.05$ level using the chi - square test.

8. Conclusion

The study's findings indicate a significant difference between the pre - test and the post - test scores, suggesting that the Tailored teaching programme was effective in enhancing the knowledge among nursing students.

9. Recommendations

- 1) The study can be replicated with large samples to generate the findings.
- 2) The study can be done in different settings.
- 3) A comparative study can be done between different colleges of nursing.
- 4) The same study can be done on different samples.

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Conflict of Interest: Nil

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Ethical Clearance: Obtained permission from the institutional ethical clearance committee. Confidentiality of subjects was ensured.

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