

# Assess the Effectiveness of Self Instructional Module on Knowledge Regarding Communication to Unconscious Patient among Staff Nurses Working in ICU at Selected Hospitals in Maharashtra

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**Abstract:** *Communication has been acclaimed as the foundation of all nursing care, especially for unconscious patient who is increasingly dependent on the speech & hearing channel for sensory stimulation. The nurses working in ICU should have specialized knowledge & skills to communicate with unconscious patients. This study was based on evaluative approach. The method used for this study was Quasi- experimental one group pre test- post test. Depending on the objectives & hypothesis the data were analyzed by using various statistical tests. The study concluded that the SIM was a good method of conveying information to staff nurses regarding the necessity of communication to unconscious patient.*

**Keywords:** communication, unconscious patient, staff nurses, ICU, SIM

## 1. Introduction

“Unconsciousness spans a broad spectrum, from momentary loss of consciousness as seen with fainting, to prolonged coma that may last weeks, months or even years (Hickey, 2003).” The causes of unconsciousness will dictate the length of the coma and the prognosis<sup>6</sup>. According to CDC (2013) “Each year, traumatic brain injuries contribute to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability. Every year at least 1.7 million TBI’s occur either as an isolated injury or along with other injuries.” This incidence shows a greater expand of unconsciousness in a continuum. When such a greater range of population is affected by unconsciousness, it becomes a challenging experience for nurses to care and cure for the unconscious patient in a demarcated manner<sup>4</sup>.

Nursing is a communicative intervention and the foundation of nursing lies in the communicative attitude. In order to provide quality nursing care, we need to communicate with all patients whether sick or well conscious or unconscious<sup>3</sup>.

Intensive Care Unit is a specialized setting where the critical patient are received and cared. Most patients in critical care settings are unconscious, sensorial deprived, and have limited mobility due to disease or any other infirmity. While caring such patients, verbal communication can be easily missed or nurses consider communication as unimportant<sup>1</sup>. Unconscious patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) can develop sensory overload or sensory deprivation if there is lack of verbal communication with them.

Owen, A. M. et al. (2006). A classical study was carried out by Owen and his collaborators through Brain-scanning technique called **functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)** which demonstrates that a woman in a vegetative state could respond to verbal commands, the scan revealed

that she activated the same areas of her brain as healthy subjects who were asked to do the same.<sup>8,4</sup>

Tosch (1988) also reported that after regaining consciousness some patients said they heard and understood various conversations that took place while they were unconscious<sup>7</sup>.

According to Sisson (1990), Hearing is the last sense to go when a person becomes unconscious<sup>7</sup>.

Nurses have to successfully communicate to unconscious patient since they are deprived of all means of communication. Communication with unconscious patient is view as a good nursing practice and an essential part in the care of unconscious patient.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Literature Survey

Abdul-Elah Alhaidary ( 2009) conducted grounded theory, a qualitative methodology study in Saudi Arabia on “The Value of Nurse Communication with Unconscious Patients in ICU”. A convenience sample of 40 nurses from Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit, qualifications in between Diploma, Associate Degree, and Bachelor of Nursing, Caring for post operation patients, severe traumatic patients, and posts resuscitated patients, Nurse’s age ranging from 25 to 50 years, experience 3 years and more in Intensive Care Unit were selected for the study. He concluded from his study that in Intensive Care Unit nurses are dealing with a lot of machines and they intend to forget that they are dealing with a human being who needs respect and care which can be done with only one way by effective communication.

Finke et.al. (2008), conducted a systematic review on “the effectiveness of nurse communication with patients with complex communication needs with a focus on the use of augmentative and alternative communication” aims and

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objectives of the study were, to systematically review the research regarding communication between nurses and patients with complex communication needs (CCN). From the review it was concluded that communication between nurses and patients is critical to providing and receiving quality care. Nurses and patients have reported concern and frustration when communication is not adequate.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Problem definition

A study to assess the effectiveness of Self Instructional Module on knowledge regarding Communication to Unconscious Patient among Staff nurses working in ICU at selected Hospitals.

#### Objectives

- 1) To assess the pre-test level of knowledge regarding communication to Unconscious patient among staff nurses working in I.C.U.
- 2) To assess the post- test level of knowledge regarding communication to unconscious patient among staff nurses working in I.C.U.
- 3) To assess the effectiveness of self instructional module on knowledge regarding communication to unconscious patient among staff nurses working in I.C.U.
- 4) To find out the association between pre-test levels of knowledge regarding Communication to unconscious patient among staff nurses working in Intensive Care Unit with their selected demographic variables.

### 4. Methodology/ approach

The present study is a quantitative study, with evaluative approach, the research design selected is quasi experimental one group pre test - post test design. This design was selected as it best matched the study topic. The study was conducted at selected hospitals in Maharashtra. The population & samples were 60 staff nurses working in ICU & fulfilling the inclusion & exclusion criteria. The sampling technique used in this study was Simple random sampling & tools used for the data collection included demographic Performa & structured knowledge questionnaire.

### 5. Results

Structured knowledge questionnaire was used for data collection. The analysis was done with the help of descriptive & inferential statistics such as mean, SD, percentage, 't' test, & 'p' value.

**The data was analyzed and is presented in the following sections:-**

**Section I:** Description of demographic variables of staff nurses working in ICU.

**Section II: 1-** Assessment of knowledge before administration of Self Instructional Module.

**Section II: 2-** Assessment of knowledge after administration of Self Instructional Module.

**Section III:** Effectiveness of Self Instructional Module.

**Section VI:** Association of pre- test knowledge regarding communication to unconscious patient with selected demographic variables.

Scores	Mean	SD	Mean	t- value	p- value
Pre- Test	13.53	5.017	0.648	22.62	0.000
Post Test	17.283	5.227	0.675		

Significance -  $p < 0.05$

The p value is less than the level of significance that is 0.05. This indicates that there is statistical significance difference between the Pre- test & Post test score related to knowledge of staff nurses regarding communication to unconscious patient. Hence it proves that, the significance post test knowledge score was higher as compared to the pre test knowledge score. This statistical difference shows the effectiveness of Self- Instructional Module.

There is no significance association between gender, religion, marital status, qualification & area of working ICU & Experience in ICU.

### 6. Discussion

The finding of the study was discussed with reference to the objectives and with the findings of the other studies in this section. The present study was undertaken to assess the effectiveness of self instructional module on knowledge regarding communication to unconscious patient among staff nurses working in ICU at selected hospitals in Maharashtra.

Effective communication is one of the foundations of professional nursing practice and the art of caring holistically for patients. Indeed, as nurses are the professional groups that have the greatest contact with patients, ensuring their communication needs are fully met has been established as one of the most important skills of nursing. Even with developments in technology, most health care remains firmly communication-centered. Therefore, the more effectively and efficiently the nurse communicates, the more accomplished they will become in fulfilling their health care role.

A study was conducted by **Alasad Jafar. et.al (2005)** in Jordanian ICU's with regard to verbal communication to the critically ill patients. 28 critical care nurses from 3 hospitals were selected and interviewed along with participant observation. The study revealed that communication within the critical care setting was not effectively and consistently applied and was seen as a barrier to 'get the job done'. Unconscious patient received less verbal communication and interaction.<sup>3</sup>

**Helen Sheela Wilson (2001)** A study was done in CMC Vellore to assess the knowledge, practice and attitude of ICU Nurses on communication to unconscious patients. They studied 42 nurses and analyzed by observation, questionnaire, checklist, and interview. The findings concluded majority nurses had 60.9% knowledge, 11.9% practice, and most of the nurses had favorable attitude regarding communication to unconscious patient.<sup>25</sup>

## 7. Conclusion

Results of this current study suggest that we should talk to unconscious patients, and contributes to the reflection on the practice of communication with unconscious patients, in order to sensitize nurses and other healthcare professionals to the importance of communication in the intensive care unit and contributes to improving the overall quality of care. Thus there is the need for continued research in this area to identify the most effective verbal stimuli to use, and develop a standardized message that may be used by nurses and family to make the most effective use of the communication that takes place.

## 8. Future Scope

The future scope of this study has implications for nursing administration, nursing education, nursing research and nursing practice.

### Nursing practice

Nurses should be trained to improve their knowledge about communication to unconscious patient. For achieving knowledge they should have good observation skill, and also they should have up to date knowledge on how to communicate with an unconscious patient. The result of the study will help the nurse to enlighten their knowledge on importance of health education. The intensive care unit nurse should organize and conduct teaching programmes among other or junior registered staff nurses on communication to unconscious patient to prevent complication of ICU Syndrome.

### Nursing education

Staff nurses working in ICU should be trained to acquire knowledge in assessing the clients suffering from unconsciousness and plan out a teaching program based on how to communicate with them in the hospitals. Although communication is included in the nursing curriculum more emphasis should be given to develop the skill so that they can impart the information to the clients effectively. Nurses need to be made aware that family participation is an important aspect of care. Continuing nursing education should be conducted for need awareness.

### Nursing administration

Administrators in nursing service both in the hospital and community should initiate and organize In-service education programmes so that practicing nurses are kept abreast with advances in the field of nursing & could pay more emphasis on the communication needs of the patient, especially the unconscious ones.

### Nursing research

One of the aims of nursing research is to expand and broaden the scope of nursing. The expanded role of a professional nurse emphasizes those activities which promote health maintenance behavior among the people. The present study is only an initial investigation in the area of assessing the knowledge of the registered staff nurses on communication to unconscious patient. Further research in the area will help the nurse to prepare observational

checklist on skills in knowledge and practice regarding communication to unconscious patient.

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## Author Profile



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