A Study to Assess Effectiveness of Self Instructional Module on Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects in Nursing among Registered Nurses of Selected Hospital

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Abstract: _Background:_ _Nursing is an integral part of the health care system and nurses direct their services towards the prevention, promotion, maintenance & restoration of health. There has been a revolution in health care system as a result of new technologies and the role of nurses has also expanded rapidly including expertise specialization, autonomy & accountability. In the new world of nursing practice, knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing has been emerged as an immediate concern to prevent them from any lawsuit. Today, health service consumers are better informed than in the past about health and illness through news papers, magazines, television and multimedia. It is thus imperative that all nurses should be aware of their responsibility to the patient and also sensitive to medico legal issues if quality health care is to be assured. In view of the above changes, it was felt that self instructional module (SIM) must be an effective option in enhancing the knowledge of registered nurses on medico-legal aspects in nursing._ _Aim:_ _A quasi experimental study was conducted at Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (I.G.M.C.H) Shimla, H.P. with an objective to assess the effectiveness of self instructional module on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing among registered nurses._ _Methodology:_ _Quantitative approach and quasi experimental research design was used to conduct the present study. Convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 60 registered nurses (30 in experimental group and 30 in control group). Pretest knowledge of study sample regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing was assessed through self-administered questionnaire and then post test knowledge was assessed after 1 week of providing self instructional module (SIM) to the experimental group._ _Results:_ _The study findings showed that knowledge score of experimental group in pretest was-majority of the subjects i.e. 23(76%) had average knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing, 2(6.7%) had good knowledge whereas 5 (16.7%) had below average knowledge. Whereas in control group no subject i.e. 0(0%) had good knowledge, 26(86.7) had average knowledge and 4(13.3%) had below average knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing. After administration of SIM to experimental group, it was found that that in experimental group majority of the subjects i.e. 28(93.3%) had good knowledge while 2(6.7%) had average knowledge and no subject was in category knowledge score of below average. In control group 1(3.3%) had good knowledge score, 25(83.3%) had average knowledge and 4(13.3%) were in knowledge score category of below average. Findings revealed that there is significant change in post knowledge score of experimental group with increase in pretest mean score i.e. 13.03 to 23.37 in post test at t value 13.541 with degree of freedom is 29. Standard deviation of experimental group was 3.409 in pretest while in post test, it became 3.527._ _Conclusion:_ _Thus findings indicated that there is increase in the knowledge score of experimental group after administration of SIM and hence it is proved that there is an effect of SIM to enhance the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing among registered nurses._

Keywords: I.G.M.C.H., SIM

1. Introduction

A nurse is one who opens the eyes of a newborn & gently closes the eyes of a dying man. It is indeed a high blessing to be the first and last to witness the beginning and end of life. Nurses encompass autonomous and collaborative role of taking care of individuals of all ages, family, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nurses work in an environment that is constantly changing to provide the best possible care for patients. Technologies are getting advanced day by day, people are getting more aware of health issues, so being an integral part of the health care system, responsibilities of nurses are also getting increased and it has become mandatory for them to have knowledge about medico-legal aspects in nursing to provide best care to the client as well as to save themselves from any lawsuit

Objectives

1) To assess the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing among registered nurses.

2) To prepare and administer self instructional module regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing.
3) To assess the effectiveness of self instructional module on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing.
4) To identify the association of knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing with selected demographic variables of registered nurses of IGMC and Hospital, Shimla.

2. Methodology

In this study quantitative research approach and quasi experimental research design were used to collect the data from the sample size of 60 registered nurses who were willing to participate in the study. The study was conducted at I.G.M.C.H, Shimla, H.P.

Convenience sampling technique was used to select the study sample and self-administered structured knowledge questionnaire was used to collect the data from the registered nurses. The questionnaire comprised of two sections; section first had questions related to personal

variables (age, professional qualification, clinical work experience, previous source of knowledge and working area) while section two consisted of questions about knowledge regarding Medico-legal aspects in nursing.

Self instructional module on medico-legal aspects in nursing was prepared and administered to experimental group to assess its effectiveness. Self instructional module covered followings topics:
- Introduction
- Basic legal terminologies
- Law and its types
- Common sources of law
- Ethical practice in nursing
- Regulation of nursing practice
- Patient's rights
- Areas of potential liability in nursing
- Some important legal consideration/ acts
- Conclusion

To ensure the content validity of the tool (structured questionnaire and self instructional module), it was submitted to ten experts (eight nursing experts, one advocate and one law officer of IGMC). Reliability of the tool was computed by using Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient formula which was found to be 0.976 i.e. tool was reliable Ethical approval was taken from all concerned authorities. Written informed Consent was taken from the study sample regarding their willingness to participate in the research study and the purpose for carrying out research study was explained to the participants. Confidentiality of the information of the sample was maintained. Data was analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

3. Result

Frequency and percentage distribution of registered nurses according to their personal variables revealed that in both groups named experimental group and control group, most of the samples were in **age group of 21-33 years** i.e. 22 (73%) and 26(87%) respectively. Furthermore as per **professional qualification**, in experimental group majority of subjects i.e. 18(60%) were G.N.M and in control group also majority were G.N.M i.e. 12(40%).According to **Clinical work experience**, in experimental group majority of sample i.e. 20(67%) had experience in between 0-5 years and similarly in control group 24 (80%) had experience in between 0-5 years. As per **source of previous information**, in experimental group most of registered nurses i.e. 19(63%) studied medico-legal aspects in nursing in their curriculum and in control group also majority of registered nurses i.e. 13 (43%) got knowledge about medico-legal aspects in nursing in their curriculum. As per **working area**, in experimental group majority of registered nurses were working in ICU i.e. 8(27%) and in control group most of the nurses i.e. 8(27%) were from Medicine Ward.

Table 1: Frequency (n) and percentage (f%) distribution of subjects as per pre interventional level of knowledge Scores among experimental and control group, N= 60
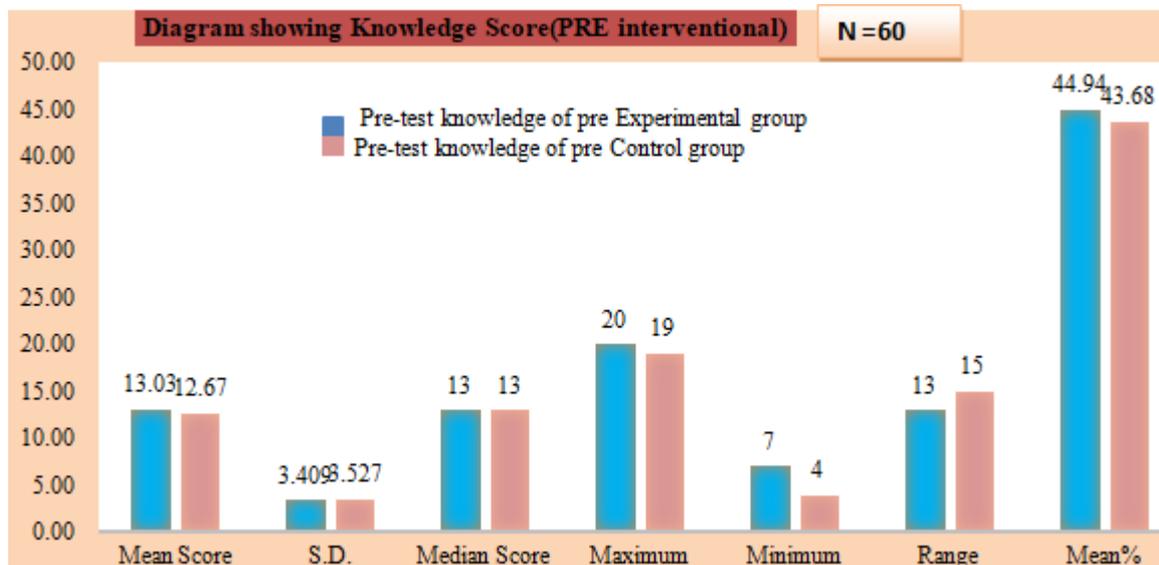
Knowledge Category Score	Post Experimental, (n_1=30)		Post Control, (n_2=30)	
	n_1	f_1%	n_2	f_2%
Good (20-29)	2	6.7%	0	0%
Average(10-19)	23	76.7%	26	86.7%
Below average (0-9)	5	16.7%	4	13.3%

Maximum knowledge score= 29
Minimum knowledge score = 0

Table 1 depicts that in **pre experimental group** majority of the subjects i.e. 23(76%) had average knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing, 2(6.7%) had good knowledge whereas 5 (16.7%) had below average knowledge. In **pre control group** no subject i.e. 0(0%) had good knowledge, 26(86.7) had average knowledge and 4(13.3%) had below average knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing.

Hence it was found that registered nurses of I.G.M.C.H, Shimla had some knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing yet it has to be enhanced as it is not sufficient to save them from indulging in any lawsuit.

Figure 1: Bar diagram showing descriptive statistics of pre interventional knowledge scores of pre experimental and pre control group

Figure 1 depicts that in **Pre Experimental group** mean knowledge score was 13.03(44.94%) with standard deviation of 3.409. Median and range were same i.e 13. Maximum score obtained in pre experimental group was 20 while minimum knowledge score was 7. In **pre control group** mean score was 12.67(43.68%) with standard deviation of 3.527.Median and range were 13 and 15 respectively. Maximum score obtained in this group was 19 and minimum score was 4.
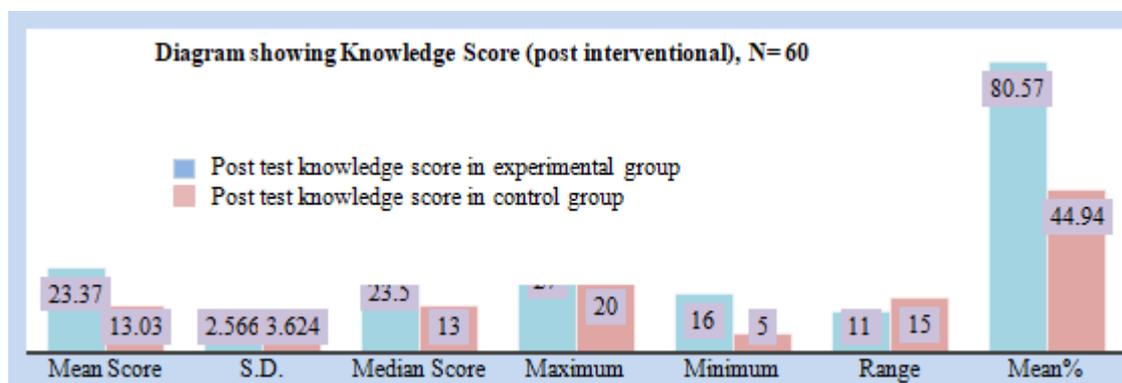
Table 2 showed that in post experimental group majority of the subjects i.e. 28(93.3%) had good knowledge while 2(6.7%) had average knowledge and no subject was in category knowledge score of below average. In post control group 1(3.3%) had good knowledge score, 25(83.3%) had average knowledge and 4(13.3%) were in knowledge score category of below average. Hence findings revealed that knowledge score was increased in experimental group after intervention of the self instructional module.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of subjects as per of post-interventional knowledge score among Experimental group and Control group, N= 60

Category Score	Post Experimental, (n_1=30)		Post Control, (n_2=30)	
	n_1	f_1%	n_2	f_2%
Good(20-29)	28	93.3%	1	3.3%
Average(10-19)	2	6.7%	25	83.3%
Below average(0-9)	0	0%	4	13.3%

Maximum knowledge score =29
Minimum knowledge score =0

Figure 2: Bar diagram showing descriptive statistics of post interventional knowledge score of experimental and control group

Figure 2 depicts that in Experimental group post interventional mean knowledge score was 23.37 with standard deviation of 2.566 whereas in control group mean score was 13.03 with standard deviation of 3.624. Maximum score obtained in experimental group was 27 and in control group was 20. Minimum knowledge score in experimental group was 16 and in control group, it was 5. In experimental group median score found to be 23.5, range was 11 and mean percentage was 80.57.In control group median score, range and mean percentage were 13, 15 and 44.94 respectively. Findings revealed that there was significant change in mean, median, range and standard deviation of experimental group after the intervention of self instructional module regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing.

Table 3: Comparison of pre interventional and post interventional knowledge scores within the Groups by using Paired t- test and between the groups by using Unpaired t- test

	Pre test		Post test			Paired t- test	
Group	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	df	t-value	Table value at 0.05
Exp. Group (n_1 =30)	13.03	3.409	23.37	2.566	29	13.541*	2.05
Control Group (n_2=30)	12.67	3.527	13.03	3.624	29	1.943	2.05
un-paired t- test	df	58	df	58			
	t-value	0.409	t-value	12.745*			
	table value at 0.05	2.00	table value at 0.05	2.00			

*Level of significance at p $\leqq$0.05

Table 3 revealed that by using paired t-test, it was found that there is significant change in post knowledge score of experimental group with increase in pretest mean score i.e. 13.03 to 23.37 in post test at table value (t value) 13.541 with degree of freedom (df) is 29. Standard deviation was 3.409 in pretest while in post test, it became 3.527. Paired t-

test is not significant for the pre and post test knowledge score in control group where p value is 0.0617.

Similarly by using unpaired t- test it was found that there was no significant difference between pre test knowledge scores of experimental and control group at t value 0.409

with df 58 and p value found to be 0.6837. Unpaired t test showed that there is very significant difference in post test knowledge scores between experimental and control group at t value 12.745 with df 58.

Hence findings revealed that there is significant effect of self instructional module in enhancing the knowledge of registered nurses regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing.

Table 4: Association of knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing with selected demographic variables of registered nurses of I.G.M.C.H., Shimla, H.P.

Demographic Variables	Level of pretest knowledge			Association between pre test knowledge score and demographic variables			
	Good	Average	Below Average	X^2	df	t-value	P value
Clinical Work Experience				14.707	6	12.59	0.023*
0-5 Year	1	17	2				
5-10 Year	1	1	0				
10-15 Year	0	2	3				
Above 15 Year	0	3	0				

Table 4 depicts that in the pretest of the study association was found between clinical work experience of registered nurses with the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing. Fresher nurses were found to be more knowledgeable

4. Conclusion

Nurses are expected to provide a care which is ethically and legally safer. But, our curriculum has very little focus on this aspect. The nursing curriculum does not cover many specific legal issues nurses face in the care of persons. It should be upgraded as much as possible. The registered nurses of Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital Shimla did not have 100% knowledge about the medico-legal aspects in nursing. They require further education & information because all of them need to enhance their knowledge. There was significant increase in the knowledge of the subjects of experimental group after the introduction of self instructional module. The Paired 't' test computed between mean pre- test knowledge score and mean posttest knowledge score within the groups, while unpaired t test computed mean pre and post test knowledge score between the groups which indicated a highly significant difference in the post test knowledge scores in experimental group. Thus it is concluded that the self instructional module on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in nursing is an effective as a teaching strategy. Hence regular in-service/ refresher course / Specialized Diploma courses related to medico-legal aspects in nursing should be implemented. Attending seminars, workshops, and conference would enhance their knowledge.

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