



Issues impacting advanced nursing practice: Awareness of nurses in a tertiary care hospital

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Abstract

Globally advanced nursing practice roles are developing, and opportunities for advanced nursing practice are expanding worldwide due to the need for expert nursing cared at an advanced level of practice. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted among nurses working at NMCH, Nellore with an aim to know the awareness regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice. 50 nurses were selected by using a convenience sampling technique. Data was obtained through a pretested self-administered questionnaire and was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Chi-square test was applied as a test of significance with fixing the p-value of 0.05 as significant. The study findings revealed that out of 50 nurses 37(74%) nurses have poor awareness, 9(18%) have moderate awareness and only 4 (8%) nurses are well aware about issues impacting advanced nursing practice. The study findings concludes that there is also a need for the collaborative, systematic and evidence-based process to provide data to support the need and goals for a clearly defined advanced nursing practice role. Also it is essential to organize orientation programme on advanced nursing practice, also to promote full utilization of all the role domains. This creates an environment that supports the role development and also provides the evaluation of these roles with the goals.

Keywords: awareness, staff nurse, issues in nursing practice, advanced nursing practice

Introduction

Advanced nursing practice describes the work, or what nurses 'do' in the role. There is no single definition, but agreement that advanced nursing practice extends the traditional scope of nursing, involves highly independent practice, amplifies the nursing knowledge, and contributes to the development of the profession (ANA 1995a, CNA 2000, RCNA 2000, Castledine 2002). The International Council of Nursing defines an advanced practice nurse as a registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which she is credentialed to practice (International Council of Nursing 2013). An inherent function of advanced nursing practice is that of change agent, involving collaboration and consultation with health care providers and decision-makers. Advanced nursing practice should not be confused with advanced clinical practice, which refers only to the clinical care of patients (Brown 1998). There is harmony in several models that clinical practice is the primary focus of advanced nursing practice (Calkin 1984, Ackerman *et al.* 1996, Dunphy & Winland-Brown 1998, Hamric 2000). Advanced nursing practice includes other role province broadly related to education, research, professional development and organizational leadership (CANO 2001). Manley (1997) identified four integrated sub roles related to direct and indirect expert practice, education, research, and consultation for the advanced nurse. The advanced nursing professionals are facing a number of issues which includes the domination by other health professional and care of autonomy. Advanced Practice Nurses are still unaware about their roles,

responsibilities, issues and the action to overcome the issues. Hence the researcher planned to conduct the study to identify the awareness of nurses about issues of Advanced Nursing Practice.

Objectives

- To assess the awareness of nurses regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice.
- To find out the association between awareness of nurses regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice with their selected Socio demographic variables.

Methodology

A Cross sectional descriptive study was conducted among nurses working in Narayana Medical College Hospital. 50 staff nurses were selected by using non probability convenience sampling technique. Staff nurses working in general ICU, Cardiac ICU, Cardio thoracic ICU, Neurology ICU and Neurosurgery ICU was selected to participate in the study. Nurse's who were willing to participate and who were available during the data collection was included in the study.

Description of the tool

The tool consists of 2 parts.

Part I: It deals with the socio demographic variables like age, educational qualification, designation, year of experience and source of information.

Part II: It deals with structured questionnaire consisting of 32 questions based on various issues of advanced nursing practice.

Score interpretation: Score of one and zero was awarded respectively to each correct and wrong answer.

Table 1

Level of awareness	Score	Percentage
Poor awareness	1-10	<50%
Moderate awareness	11-20	51-70%
Well awareness	21-32	>71%

Content validity was obtained from nursing academic researchers and the reliability of the tool was tested by using test and retest method. The reliability coefficients for all the tool was 0.8.

Data Collection Procedure

Formal permission was obtained from the Director, Medical Superintendent and Nursing superintendent in NMCH, Nellore. Informed consent was obtained from nurses. Nature and purpose of the study were explained, confidentiality of information was assured. The pretested structured questionnaire was administered to assess the awareness of nurses regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice. It took 30 minutes to collect the data from each sample.

Data Analysis

The data analyses were performed using IBM Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used. Socio Demographic variables are analyzed in terms of frequencies and percentages. Awareness score about the issues impacting the advance nursing practice was presented using, Mean and standard deviation. Chi square test used to determine the association between the socio demographic variables and level of awareness among the nurses.

Results

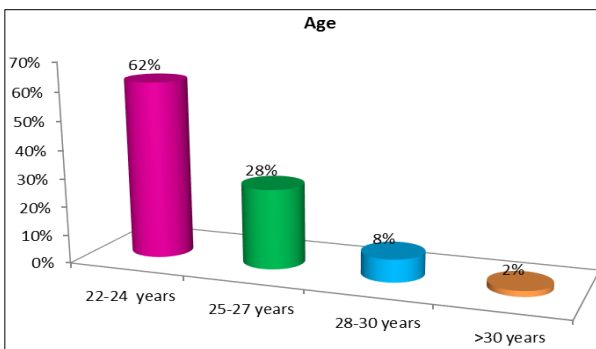


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of Nurses according to Age.

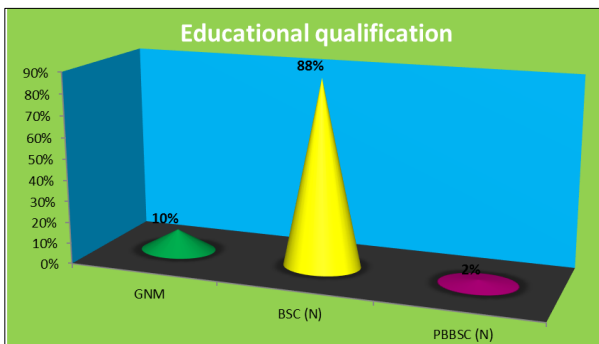


Fig 2: Percentage distribution of Nurses according to educational qualification

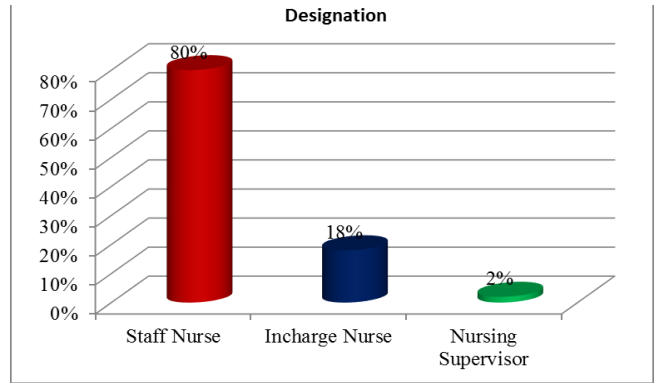


Fig 3: Percentage distribution of Nurses according to Designation

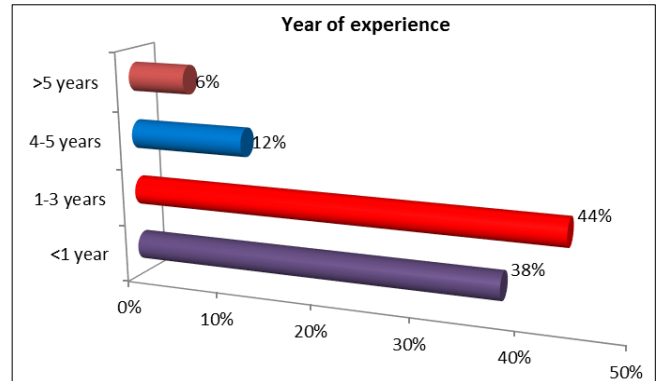


Fig 4: Percentage distribution of Nurses according to Designation

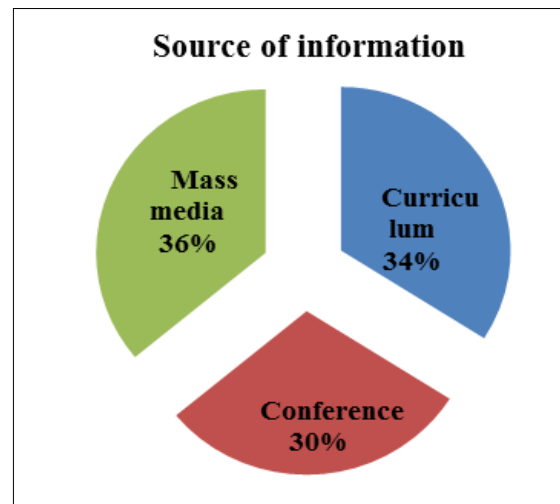


Fig 5: Percentage distribution of Nurses according to source of information

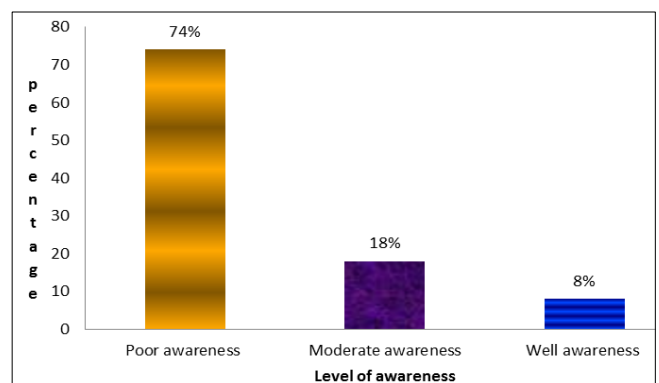


Fig 6: Percentage distribution on awareness of Nurses regarding issues impacts advanced nursing practice.

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of awareness of Nurses regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice.

Criteria	Mean	SD
Level of awareness	14.34	4.0372

Table 2: Association between the levels of awareness of Nurses regarding issues impacting advanced nursing practice with socio demographic variables.

Socio-Demographic variables	Level of Awareness						Chi-Square
	Inadequate awareness		Moderate awareness		Well awareness		
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Age							C=5.181,
a)22-24 years	20	40	8	16	3	6	T=12.59,
b)25-27 years	12	24	1	2	1	2	P<0.05
b)28-30 years	4	8	0	0	0	0	NS
d)>30 years	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Educational qualification							C=19.14,
a)GNM	4	8	1	2	0	0	T=18.47,
b)B.Sc (N)	32	64	8	16	4	8	P<0.001
c)PBBS (N)	1	2	0	0	0	0	S
Designation							C=4.481
a)Nursing staff	27	54	9	18	4	8	T=9.49
b)Nursing in charge	9	18	0	0	0	0	P<0.05
c) Nursing supervisor	1	2	0	0	0	0	NS
Year of experience							C=4.704
a) <1 year	12	24	5	10	2	4	T=12.59
b)1-3 years	18	36	2	4	2	4	P<0.05
c)4-5 years	4	8	2	4	0	0	NS
d)>5 years	3	6	0	0	0	0	
Source of information							C=13.65
a)Curriculum	12	24	5	10	0	0	T=13.28
b) Conference	11	22	2	4	2	4	P<0.01
c) Mass Media	14	28	2	4	2	4	S

Discussion

This study aimed to determine the awareness of advanced nursing practice among nurses working in NMCH at Nellore. With regard to level of awareness 37(74%) have poor awareness, 9(18%) have moderate awareness and very few nurses 4 (8%) are well aware of the issues impacting advanced nursing practice. The present study finding is consistent with the study conducted by Brigitte Fong Yeong Woo (2017) which concluded that the involvement of nurses in advanced nursing practice in emergency and critical care improves the length of stay, time to consultation/treatment, mortality, patient satisfaction, and cost savings this indirectly suggested that the awareness of issues regarding advanced nursing practice can enhance the quality of nursing care delivery in health care delivery system.

There is a significant association between the level of awareness and socio demographic variables like educational qualification, Source of information which is significant at $p < 0.001$. Socio demographic variables like age, education, year of experience, designation didn't show any significant association at $p < 0.05$.

The curriculum what the nurse's study provides with the clear demarcation of roles which may enhance the awareness and the various other sources could be conference, and workshop which would have enhanced the awareness about advanced nursing practice.

Conclusion

The study findings concludes that there is also a need for the collaborative, systematic and evidence-based process to provide data to support the need and goals for a clearly defined advanced nursing practice role. Also it is essential to organize orientation programme on advanced nursing practice, also to promote full utilization of all the role domains. This creates an environment that supports the role development and also provides the evaluation of these roles with the goals.

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