



STUDY TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EDUCATIONAL HANDBOOK ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS NURSING ETHICS CODE AMONG NURSING PERSONNEL IN SELECTED HOSPITALS OF SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH.

Monika Sharma, M.Sc. Nursing [Mental Health (Psychiatric) Nursing]

(Sister Nivedita Govt. Nursing College, Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Shimla)

ABSTRACT

Background: *The need for nursing is universal. Inherent in nursing is respect for human rights, including the right to life, dignity and to be treated with respect. Nursing care is unrestricted by considerations of age, color, creed, culture, disability or illness, gender, nationality, politics, race or social status.¹*

Aim: *A quasi-experimental study was conducted in selected Hospitals of Shimla, Himachal Pradesh with objective to evaluate the effectiveness of Educational Handbook on Knowledge and Attitude towards Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel.*

Methodology: *The study adopted quasi-experimental design. Convenience sampling technique was used to select 60 Nursing Personnel. The tools of the study were demographic variables, structured knowledge questionnaire and structured three-point Likert Scale.*

Result: *The findings of the study showed that in pre-test 73.3% study subject in experimental group and in control group 76.6% study subjects had average knowledge and in post-test 80% study subjects in experimental group had good knowledge and in control group 83.3% of study subjects were having average knowledge. Regarding attitude 66.75% study subjects in experimental group and in control group 70% study subjects had positive attitude and in post-test 86.7% study subjects in experimental group had positive attitude and in control group still 70% of study subjects had positive attitude towards nursing ethics code.*

Conclusion: *Since the study showed that educational handbook that is administered to experimental group was effective to increase the knowledge and attitude of nursing personnel.*

Keywords: *Knowledge, Attitude, Nursing Code, Nursing Ethics, Nursing Personnel.*

INTRODUCTION

The Code of Ethics is a dynamic document that is constantly changing. As the morals and values of society change there is also an International Code of Ethics for Nurses that closely parallels the premise of the ANA Code of Ethics.²



“The Code is both inspirational and regulatory. It is an inspirational document designed to inform everyone about the ethical values and subsequent responsibilities and endeavors of nurses.”³“Ethics are the principles, values and virtues that enable people to live a morally good life.”⁴An international code of ethics for nurses was first adopted by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 1953. It has been revised and reaffirmed at various times ¹.

Khandan M, et al. (2015) determined the effect of education on Nurses’ knowledge and attitude towards nursing Ethic Code and result revealed that educational program caused a significant increase in knowledge ($P < 0.001$) and attitude ($p < 0.001$). Study revealed that nursing managers and planners pay more attention to teaching the Ethic Code as one of the basic part of nursing education ⁵.

Hafez FE, et al. (2016) revealed that 63.3% of nurses had a satisfactory knowledge, and about three-quarters of them had an adequate practice regarding professional ethic. Their knowledge was inadequate, especially regarding dignity, patient’s rights, fidelity, confidentiality and privacy ⁶.

Code of ethics for nurses is a guide for action based on social values and needs. The code has served as the standard for nurses worldwide since it was first adopted in 1953. ⁷ The code serves as an action-based standard of conduct related to four key elements: nurses and people, nurses and practice, nurses and the profession, and nurses and co-workers. ⁸

OBJECTIVES

1. **To assess the Knowledge regarding Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals of Shimla (H.P.)**
2. To assess the Attitude towards Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals of Shimla (H.P.)
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of Education Handbook regarding Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals of Shimla (H.P.)
4. To find the correlation between Knowledge and Attitude regarding Nursing Code Ethics among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals Shimla (H.P.)
5. To find the association of level of Knowledge regarding Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals of Shimla (H.P.) with selected demographic variables.
6. To find the association of Attitude towards Nursing Ethics Code among Nursing Personnel in selected hospitals of Shimla (H.P.) with selected demographic variables.



METHODOLOGY

A quantitative research approach and quasi-experimental research design was used. The study was conducted at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla and Kamla Nehru Hospital, Shimla. The study population consists of all the nursing personnel working in these hospitals. 60 study subjects were selected by convenient sampling technique. 30 study subjects were selected in experimental group and 30 in control group from two different hospitals.

The data collection tool used for the study was demographic variables, structured knowledge questionnaire and structured three point Likert attitude scale. The demographic variable included 9 items such as age, professional qualification, nature/type of job, working area, professional designation, work experience, monthly income, locality and source of information. Structured knowledge questionnaire was prepared regarding nursing ethic code which consist of 25 multiple choice questionnaire. Structured three-point Likert attitude scale was prepared to assess the attitude regarding nursing ethics code which consists of 18 items out of which 13 items were positive and 5 items were negative.

Content validity of the tool was established by giving it to 13 experts in the field of nursing, psychology, psychiatrist and mathematics. The reliability of the knowledge questionnaire and attitude Likert scale was done by Karl Pearson method which was $r=0.87$ indicating tool was reliable.

The study was conducted after obtaining the formal permission from the authorities. The purpose of the study was explained and informed consent was obtained. Confidentiality was assured to all the samples. Pre-test and post -test was conducted to assess the effectiveness of educational handbook on knowledge and attitude towards nursing ethics code among nursing personnel.

Data was analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics i.e. frequency and percentage distribution, mean percentage, median, paired t-test, unpaired t-test and chi square to determine the association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

RESULT

The collected data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics and the study findings are organized under following sections.

Section 1: Findings related to sample characteristics.

Experimental group out of 30 participants (50%) were in the age group of < 35 years. Majority of the participants (50%) were G.N.M. Most of the participants (67%) were regular. According to working area (20%) were working in the CTVS, ICU. Regarding professional designation (60%) were Staff Nurses. Out of 30 participants (57%) were having more than 10 years of experience.



With regard to monthly income (33%) were having monthly income between 13,000- 34,001. Majority of the participants (87%) belongs to Urban Locality. With regard to source of knowledge majority of (30%) were having In- Service Programme/Continuing Education and also (30%) were having Workshops as source of information.

In Control Group out of 30 respondents (57%) were in the age group of < 35 years. Majority of the participants (53%) had done G.N.M. Most of participants (63%) were. According to the working area (27%) were working in the Labor room. With regard to Professional Designation majority of the participants (80%) were Staff Nurses. Regarding work experience (63%) were having work experience > 10 years. With regard to monthly income (37%) were having salary between 13,000- 34,000, also (37%) were having salary between 34,001- 56,000. Majority of the participants (97%) were belongs to Urban Locality. According to source of information (47%) were having Mass Media as source of information as source of information regarding Nursing Ethics Code.

Section 2: - Findings related to the knowledge assessment regarding nursing ethics code among nursing personnel in experimental and control group.

Table 1

Frequency and Percentage distribution of Nursing Personnel according to the Pre/Post-test Knowledge score regarding Nursing Ethics Code in Experimental and Control Group.

N= 60

Level of knowledge	of Score	Pre-Test				Post-Test			
		Experimental group		Control group		Experimental group		Control group	
		(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Good	18-25	1	3.3	-	-	24	80	-	-
Average	9-17	22	73.3	23	76.7	6	20	25	83.3
Poor	0-8	7	23.3	7	23.3	-	-	5	16.7

Maximum Score=25

Minimum Score =0

Table 1 depicts that in Pre-test of Experimental Group 73% Nursing Personnel had average knowledge, 23.3% had poor knowledge and least of 3.3% had good knowledge, whereas in Post-test of Experimental Group 80% Nursing Personnel had good knowledge, 20% had average knowledge and none of the participants in Experimental Group fall under poor knowledge.

Whereas in Pre-test of Control Group 77% Nursing Personnel had average knowledge, 23.3% had poor knowledge and none of the participant in Control Group falls under good knowledge,



whereas in Post-test of Control Group 83.3% had average knowledge, 16.7% had poor knowledge and none of the participants of control group fall under good knowledge.

Section 3: - Findings related to the attitude assessment towards nursing ethics code among nursing personnel in experimental and control group.

Table 2 Frequency and Percentage distribution of Nursing Personnel according to the Pre/Post-test Attitude score towards Nursing Ethics Code in Experimental and Control group.

N= 60

Attitude	Score	<u>Pre-Test</u>				<u>Post-Test</u>			
		Experimental group		Control group		Experimental group		Control group	
		(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)	(f)	(%)
Positive	43-54	20	66.7	21	70	26	86.7	21	70
Neutral	31-42	10	33.3	9	30	4	13.3	9	30
Negative	18-30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Maximum Score= 54

Minimum Score =18

Table 2 reveals that in Pre-test of Experimental Group 67% Nursing Personnel had positive attitude, 33.3% had neutral attitude and none of the participants fall under negative attitude, whereas in Post-test of Experimental Group 87% Nursing Personnel had positive attitude 13.3% had neutral attitude and none of the participant fall under negative attitude.

Whereas in Pre-test of Control Group 70% Nursing Personnel had positive attitude, 30% had neutral attitude and none of the participant fall under negative attitude, whereas in Post-test of Control Group 70% Nursing Personnel had positive attitude, 30% had neutral attitude and none of the participant fall under negative attitude.



Section 4: findings relate to the effectiveness of educational handbook on knowledge and attitude towards nursing ethics code among nursing personnel.

Table 3.1 Comparison of Knowledge score of Nursing Personnel regarding Nursing Ethics Code within and between the group with paired and unpaired ‘t’ test. **N=60**

Group	N	<u>KNOWLEDGE SCORE</u>				Paired t Test		
		Pretest Mean Result	SD	Posttest Mean	SD	df	t	
Experimental Group	30	10.83	2.76	19.87	2.145	29	27.63	Significant
Control Group	30	10.667	2.52	11.03	2.735	29	1.829	Non-Significant
Unpaired t Test	Df	58		58				
	T	0.244		13.918				
	Result	Non-Significant		Significant				

Maximum Score=25

Minimum Score =0

Level of significance $p \leq 0.05$

Table 3.1 depicts comparison within the group with paired ‘t’ test. Degree of freedom for both the group was 29. In Experimental Group value of Pre-test mean was 10.83 and standard deviation was 2.755, whereas value of Post-test mean was 19.87, standard deviation was 2.145 and value of ‘t’ test was 27.634 which was significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.

In Control Group value of Pre-Test mean was 10.667, standard deviation was 2.523, whereas value of Post-Test mean was 11.03, standard deviation was 2.735 and value of ‘t’ test was 1.829 which was non-significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.

With regard to comparison between the groups with unpaired ‘t’ test. Degree of freedom for both the group was 58. Value of unpaired ‘t’ test for Pre-Test was 0.244 which was non-significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance and value of ‘t’ test for Post-Test was 13.918 which was significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.



Table 3.2 Comparison of Knowledge score of Nursing Personnel regarding Nursing Ethics Code within and between the group with paired and unpaired ‘t’ test. N=60

Group	N	<u>ATTITUDE SCORE</u>		Posttest Mean	SD	Paired t Test		df	t
		Pretest Mean	SD			SD	Result		
Experimental Group	30	44.73	4.705	47.00	3.373	29	4.931	Significant	
Control Group	30	44.600	3.359	44.83	3.108	29	1.564	Non-Significant	
Unpaired t Test	df	58		58					
	T	0.126		2.587					
	Result	Non-Significant		Significant					

Maximum Score= 54

Minimum Score =18

Level of significance $p \leq 0.05$

Table 3.2 shows comparison within the group with paired ‘t’ test. Degree of freedom for both the group was 29. In Experimental Group value of Pre-test mean was 44.73 and standard deviation was 4.705, whereas value of Post-test mean was 47.00, standard deviation was 3.373 and value of ‘t’ test was 4.931 which was significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.

In Control Group value of pre-test mean was 44.600, standard deviation was 3.359, whereas value of Post-test mean was 44.83, standard deviation was 3.108 and value of ‘t’ test was 1.564 which was non-significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.

With regard to comparison between the groups with unpaired ‘t’ test degree of freedom for both the group was 58. Value of ‘t’ test for Pre-test was 0.126 which was non-significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance and value of ‘t’ test for Post-test was 2.587 which was significant at $p \leq 0.05$ level of significance.



Section 5: Findings related to the correlation between knowledge and attitude towards nursing ethics code among nursing personnel.

Table 4: Table showing correlation between Knowledge and Attitude of Control group

Pair1	vs.	Pair1	r value	p value	Result
PRE KNOWLEDGE	vs.	PRE ATTITUDE	.476**	0.008	Significant
POST KNOWLEDGE	vs.	POST ATTITUDE	.581**	0.001	Significant

** Correlation is significant at the level 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 4 depicts that in Pre-test there was significant co-relation between Pre-Knowledge vs. Pre Attitude ($r=.476^{**}$ at p value 0.008). Whereas in Post-test there was also significant co-relation between Post Knowledge vs. Post Attitude ($r=.581$ at p value 0.001).

Section 6: findings related to the association of level of knowledge and attitude towards nursing ethics code among nursing personnel with selected demographic variables.

Using Chi square test it was found that there was significant association between Pre Test Knowledge of Nursing Personnel of Experimental Group with Nature/type of job and working experience and also significant association of Post Test Knowledge of Experimental group with work experience, locality and source of information.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of total mean score findings reveals that in Experimental and Control group the knowledge of Nursing Personnel was average and attitude of Nursing Personnel was positive towards Nursing Ethics Code in Pre-Test. Knowledge of Nursing Personnel regarding Nursing Ethics Code increased significantly after giving informational booklet to Experimental group and Attitude of Nursing Personnel become more positive after giving informational booklet to Experimental group. Whereas in Control group knowledge remains average and attitude also remains positive in Control group. The level of knowledge was significantly associated with nature/type of job and work experience in Pre-Test and with work experience, locality and source of information in Post-Test in Experimental group. There was significant correlation between Pre knowledge vs. post knowledge, pre knowledge vs. pre attitude and pre attitude vs. post attitude in experimental group. Whereas in control group pre/post knowledge vs. pre/post attitude were significantly correlated with each other.



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