

**A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF SECOND YEAR UNDERGRADUATE
AND DIPLOMA NURSING STUDENTS TOWARDS PALLIATIVE CARE AT SELECTED
NURSING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN MANGALORE**

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ABSTRACT

Palliative care is the care focused on symptomatic treatment rather than to enhance the quality of life of a person with severe chronic illness. Palliative care aims at helping the person to live his life happily and satisfactorily even with the disease and helps to enjoy his life until he lives. In order to provide the best palliative care, knowledge of palliative care should be essential and it makes a great difference. To assess the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding palliative care. To assess the attitude of nursing students towards palliative care to find the association between nursing students knowledge regarding palliative care with selected demographic variables. the study design was non experimental, Purposive sampling technique was found appropriate and all 100 students who are studying second year diploma and B'sc nursing in a selected nursing educational institution in Mangalore. Date was collected administering semi structured questionnaire was prepared for data collection. Performa for collecting demographic data. Knowledge questionnaire to assess Knowledge of nursing students regarding palliative care. Attitude scale to assess the attitude of nursing students regarding palliative care. The present study revealed that out of 100 samples, most of them (93%) belonged to then age group of 17-20 years, (97%) of them were females,85% were studying basic science in nursing and rest 15%were studying diploma in nursing.72% were Christians, 75% living in rural area,16% were from practical, 93% belongs to nuclear family. 68% nursing students had 'Average' knowledge regarding palliative care, 59% nursing students had 'Average' attitude regarding palliative care. the findings of the study proved that the nursing students need to have education to increase the knowledge and to develop positive attitude towards palliative care.

INTRODUCTION

The integration of palliative care into the health care system has undergone a dynamic development. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of a serious illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family and it aimed at providing comfort, satisfaction and requirement of all needs of person to maintain possible

quality of life for as long as life remains. All people with a life-limiting illness have a right to health care that's appropriate to their needs. Immediate palliative care is indicated for patients with any serious illness and who have physical, psychological, social or spiritual distress as a result of the seeking or receiving. Palliative care is symptomatic and depends on the knowledge and attitude of nursing personnel. The central concern for nurses in care of individuals in the palliative care phase of an illness are the improvement of quality of life, the promotion of comfort and the preservation of dignity and choice.¹

At the end stage of life, since nurses are the primary and complete care takers of patient who may be able to provide a client enjoy good quality of care. Being knowledgeable about palliative care assessment and management can help nurses and other health care providers overcome way of the barriers to successful pain control and palliative care.

Material methods:

To assess the level of knowledge of nursing students regarding palliative care. To assess the attitude of nursing students towards palliative care. To find the association between nursing students knowledge regarding palliative care with selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis:

H1: There will be a significant association between nursing student's knowledge regarding palliative care with selected demographic variables.

Research design:

The term research design refers to the researches overall planned for obtaining answer to the research question for testing the research hypothesis. In this study quantitative non experimental design will be used.

Setting of the study:

The study will be conducted in a selected nursing educational institution in Mangalore.

Sample: The sample will be 100 student nurses, who are studying second year diploma and B.sc nursing.

Ethical clearance: ethical clearance has been obtained from ethical committee

Data collection:

A semi structured questionnaire was prepared for data collection. The tool has 3 parts:-Part 1: Performa for collecting demographic data. Part 2: Knowledge questionnaire to assess Knowledge of nursing students regarding palliative care. Part 3: Attitude scale to assess the attitude of nursing students regarding palliative care.

Data analysis:

Data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Assessment of knowledge and attitude regarding palliative care was made. Knowledge and attitude of palliative care was expressed in percentage and frequency. Association between knowledge and demographic variables were made using chi-square test.

Results:

The present study revealed that out of 100 samples, most of them (93%) belonged to then age group of 17-20 years, (97%) of them were females,85% were studying basic science in nursing and rest 15%were studying diploma in nursing.72% were Christians, 75% living in rural area,16% were from practical, 93% belongs to nuclear family. 68% nursing students had ‘Average’ knowledge regarding palliative care, 59% nursing students had ‘Average’ attitude regarding palliative care.

Table 1:Description according to demographical

Demographical variable		%
Age in year	17-20	93
	21-22	7
Gender	Male	15
	Female	85
Religion	Christian	72
	Hindu	19
	Muslim	2
Area of residence	Rural	75
	Urban	25
Information received	Class room	75
	Practical	16
	Field	10
Types of family	Nuclear family	93
	Joint family	7

Table 2: Description knowledge regarding palliative care among nursing students.

Knowledge score	percentage
Poor	28%
Average	68%
Good	4%

Table 3: Description attitude regarding palliative care among nursing students.

Attitude score	percentage
Poor	41%
Average	59%

Discussion

In the present study, 68% nursing students had 'Average' knowledge regarding palliative care, 28% had 'Poor' knowledge and 4% of nursing students had 'Good' knowledge regarding palliative care. A quantitative research was conducted in 2013 at Jordan about to evaluate Jordan nursing student's knowledge about palliative care. The sample consisted of 220 students from five nursing schools in Jordan. Palliative care quiz for nursing was used to measure student's knowledge. The result showed that integrating palliative care education is required as the main study to improve student's knowledge and therefore practice.¹⁰

In the present study, Majority 59% nursing students had 'Average' attitude regarding palliative care 41% had 'Poor' attitude and none of the nursing students had 'Good' attitude regarding palliative care. On contrary to this study, A qualitative study on core attitudes of professionals in palliative care was conducted by the Face to face in-depth interviews were done with experts in palliative care in Germany. The result was core attitude in palliative care can be best described with the following three domains 1) personal characteristics. 2) Experience of care 3) competence in care. The experts emphasized the universality of the core attitude in the care of ill people. They stressed the importance and relevance of core attitude in palliative care education.⁷

In the present study 93% of the nursing students ranges from 17 – 20 years, 97% of them were females. Out of the respondents 85% were studying basic science in nursing and 72% were Christians. 75% living in rural area. In contrary to this study A correlative survey was carried out among 83, 3rd year nursing students by using cluster sampling method from selected nursing school of Udupi district. The result of this study shows that, 51% of them were in the age group of 21 years and 92% of them were females. Only 43.4% of them were

aware of the term palliative care and it was during their training period. The data showed that 79.5% students had poor knowledge on palliative care and 92.8% of them had favourable attitude towards palliative care.⁸

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