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Research Paper

Perceived Competence on Evidence Based Nursing Practice Among Final Year Nursing Students of Selected College of Udupi Taluk

Nursing

KEYWORDS : Perceived competence, evidence based nursing practice, nursing student.

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ABSTRACT

Background : *Nurses are the frontline members in the health care team. They need to be knowledgeable and skillful in handling patient conditions which may be critical and life threatening. Nurses must keep themselves updated with the rapidly changing clinical scenario. They must strive to be self-reliant and must go in track with evidence based methods of clinical decision making.*

Objectives of the study : *were to assess the perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice among the final year nursing students and to find the association between the perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice and age, academic performance.*

Methods : *Cross sectional survey design with convenient sampling technique was used to collect data from75 fourth year B.Sc.Nursing Students of selected nursing college of Udupi Taluk.*

Results : *The result showed that there was no one with low perceived competence and majority 56(74.7%) was having high perceived competence. Also majority 73(97.3%) had previous exposure to knowledge on evidence based nursing practice.*

Conclusion: The present study finding indicates that the students need to be motivated towards the need for application of evidences in nursing practice which is the best approach for providing quality care.

Introduction

Healthcare is filled with confusions such as which treatment is appropriate to produce the most suitable patient results?. , What will be the outcome of a condition if it is not treated?.. and so on. However, practice based on evidence can decrease the confusions that patients and health care professionals experience. Evidence based practice helps the nurses to provide the top quality of care in meeting the versatile needs of the patient and families.(Melnyk 2005)

Evidence based practice involves using the best evidence in taking decisions about patient care and such evidence arrives from studies conducted by nurses and other healthcare professionals. Evidence based practice within nursing is achieved by evolving and supporting patient-centered approaches to care using the most recent evidence.(Emanuel V, Day K, et al 2012)

Sole dependence on textbook and expert teachers' knowledge doesn't improve the critical thinking skills. Students must go in track with evidence-based methods of clinical decision making. Evidence based practice includes the ability for using and applying knowledge from the recent search findings and literature of to day to day clinical issues. It allows nursing students to enrich the education in clinicals. (Kessenich CR, 1997)

Methods

Fourth year B.Sc.Nursing Students(N=75) of selected nursing college of Udupi Taluk were surveyed using convenient sampling technique with the objectives of assessing the perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice among the final year nursing students and finding the association between the perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice and age,academic performance.In this study perceived competence relates strongly to satisfaction of the student nurses in their ability to provide quality nursing care based on evidence based practice.

Data were collected using Demographic proforma and a Rating scale on 'perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice.The level of agreement or disagreement was measured as and scored as Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Neither agree Nor disagree (3), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1). The tool had 30 items and was prepared by the researchers (r=0.761). The perceived competence level was arbitrarily categorized as Low competence(30-70), Average competence(>70-110) and High competence(>110-150).The ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethical Committee (IEC) before proceeding for data collection.

Results

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that out of 75 fourth year B.Sc. Nursing students surveyed, majority 72(96%) were females, 66(88%) were between the age group of 21-22, about 47 (62.7%) were having the academic performance grade of first class in their third year B.Sc..nursing University exam. Majority 73(97.3%) had previous knowledge on evidence based nursing practice and among those 59(78.7%) received the knowledge from their teachers. The data presented in Table 2 show that majority 56(74.7%) had high perceived competence and there were no one with the low perceived competence. From the data presented in Table 3 it was inferred that there was no significant association between the perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice and age (χ^2=33.824, p=0.758),academic performance (χ^2=67.914, p=0.358).

Conclusion

In the present study, there were no one with low perceived competence and majority 56(74.7%) were having high perceived competence. Also majority 73(97.3%) had previous exposure to knowledge on evidence based nursing practice. This indicates that the students need to be motivated towards the need for application of evidences in nursing practice which is the best approach for providing quality care.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of sample in frequency and percentage

(n=75)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Age in years		
19-20	9	12
21-22	66	88
Gender		
Male	3	4
Female	72	96

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Percentage of marks in the previous university exam		
Distinction (>=75%)	15	20
First class (65-74%)	47	62.66
Second class (50-64%)	13	17.33
Failed (<50%)	0	0
Exposure to knowledge		
Yes	73	97.3
No	2	2.7
Source of information		
Teachers	59	78.7
Friends	1	1.3
Clinical	4	5.3
Journals	11	14.7

Table 2: Perceived competence on evidence based nursing practice among nursing students

(n=75)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
High Competence (>110-150)	56	74.7
Average Competence (>70-110)	19	25.3
Low competence (30-70)	0	0

Table 3: Chi Square values computed between perceived competence and variables

(n=75)

Variables	High compe-tence (>110-150)	Average compete-nce (>70-110)	Low compet -ence (30-70)	df	χ^2	p-value
Age in years						
19-20	6	3	0	1	0.34	0.556
21-22	50	16	0			
Percentage of marks in the previous university exam						
Distinction (≥75%)	11	4	0	2	0.05	0.975
First class (65-74%)	35	12	0			
Second class (50-64%)	10	3	0			
Failed (<50%)	0	0	0			

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