A STUDY TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON LEGAL AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG STAFF NURSES IN THE FIELD OF MENTAL HEALTH NURSING AT CHETTINAD HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KELAMBAKKAM, TAMILNADU.

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Nurses are bound by both ethical and legal guidelines that are part of the Nurse Practice Act, a set of laws designed to protect the public from harm and to protect the integrity of the nursing profession, the code of ethics articulates the ethical principles and values and guide all members of the psychiatry nursing profession. It sets out the framework for professional responsibility and accountability while promoting high ethical standards in practice and providing a benchmark for registered psychiatry nurses to use for self-evaluation. Therefore a descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing at Chettinad Hospital and Research Institute, Kelambakkam, Tamilnadu, India. Was undertaken with the objectives: 1. To assess the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing.2. To associate the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing with selected demographic variable.A non-experimental, descriptive study was conducted. The study sample consisted of total 30 staff nurses. Data was analyzed by inferential statistics and presented through tables and figures. Findings revealed that Variables like, age of staff nurse, educational qualification, years of experience, area of experience, family monthly income and area of residence were found to be non significant. The number of staff nurses having high knowledge were 13(43.33%), moderate knowledge was 8(26.66%) and low knowledge was 9(30%). Mean value(17.23), and standard deviation (SD) (7.9020%).

INTRODUCTION

Mental health nursing, as a distinct profession, provides service to individual, families and communities. The practice of psychiatric nursing occurs within the domains of direct practice, education, administration and research. Nurses are bound by both ethical and legal guidelines that are part of the Nurse Practice Act, a set of laws designed to protect the public from harm and to protect the integrity of the nursing profession. The Nurse Practice Act varies from state to state. The Nurse Practice Act defines the ethical and legal obligations of nurses to provide high quality health care and to be upstanding members of the community. Today, legal rights of those with mental disorders and ethical health care practices of mental health providers are ongoing concerns for psychiatric- mental health nurses. People with psychiatric problems are vulnerable to mistreatment and abuse; consequently, laws have been passed that guarantee them legal protection.

Nurse must learn to value, respect, and seek out knowledge about laws, legislation and the legal processes that regulate, impede and facilitate professional nursing practice. By being aware of such standards, staying informed about new changing legislation that affects clinical practice and understanding proposed and past legislation affecting mental health care, psychiatric mental-health nurses can provide quality of care that safeguards the rights and safety of clients. Furthermore, such behavior can only improve the influence of nurses as peers within the interdisciplinary health care team.

Judicial, legislative, political and economic decisions profoundly influence mental health practice. Many factors bring about changes in the understanding and practice of mental health intervention. The changes in the psychiatric nurse to examine central issues such as the definition of mental health, decision making, clients and society rights, liability and accountability.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To assess the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing.
2. To associate the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing with selected demographic variable.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Non experimental quantitative descriptive design was used. The study was conducted in Chettinad Hospital and Research Institute, kelambakkam, Tamilnadu. Probability purposive sampling technique was used. The sample size was 30. Structured self knowledge questionnaire is used to assess the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in the field of mental health nursing.

STUDYFINDINGS

Maximum staff nurse were in the age group of 21-31years(90%). More than half of nurses educational qualification were BSc Nursing (53.33%), majority of nurses with the years of experience upto10years (86.66%), significant of nurses area of experience ICU (43.33%), majority of nurses belongs to urban area (70%),ma jority of family incoming is upto20,000(73.33%). Signifi cant nurses had 43.33% of the sample had a high level of knowledge, 26.66% of the sample had a moderate level of knowledge,30% of the sample had a low level of knowledge.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of staff nurse according to their knowledge level on legal and ethical responsibilities in the field of mental health nursing. N=30

S. No	Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	High	13	43.33%
2.	Moderate	8	26.66%
3.	Low	9	30%

CONCLUSION

The investigator conducted this study to assess the level of knowledge on legal and ethical responsibilities among staff nurses in Chettinad Hospital and Research Institute, Kelambakkam, Tamilnadu, India. A sample of 30 staff nurses was selected by using non probability purposive sampling technique. Findings revealed that Variables like, age, educational qualification, years of experience, area of experience, area of residence, monthly family income of staff nurses were found to be non significant. The number of staff nurses having high knowledge were 13(43.33%), moderate was 8(26.66%) and low was 9(30%). Mean value (17.23), and standard deviation (SD) (7.9020%) .

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