



PREPAREDNESS OF NURSING GRADUATES IN TERM OF KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE IN CLINICAL SETTING AMID COVID-19 IN SELECTED NURSING COLLEGE OF GURUGRAM

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. **Aim:** A study was conducted with an aim to explore the Preparedness of nursing graduates in term of knowledge to practice in clinical setting amid COVID-19 in selected Nursing College of Gurugram, Haryana. **Methodology:** An exploratory descriptive survey design was adopted in the present study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 30 Nursing Graduates of Amity College of Nursing, Amity University Gurugram, Haryana. The data was collected through structured knowledge questionnaire and structured perception survey form. **Result:** The findings of the study showed that majority (80%) of sample fell into the Average category, suggesting a moderate level of knowledge regarding preparedness in terms of knowledge to practice in clinical setting during COVID 19 pandemic, some of participants (20%) had poor knowledge while None of the respondents lied in "Good" category. There was significance association between the levels of knowledge score and source of information about COVID 19 at the 0.05 level of significance calculated by Chi square. **Conclusion:** The present study showed that sample had lack of good amount of knowledge regarding preparedness to practice in clinical setting for COVID-19 patients therefore the health care professionals have a great opportunity to make the students aware about COVID-19, etiology, preventive measures and treatment.

KEYWORDS

Preparedness, Nursing Graduates, COVID-19, Pandemic

INTRODUCTION

In December 2019, first case of pneumonia of unknown cause originated in Wuhan, capital city of Province Hubei, China, and on 31 December 2019, with emergence of more such cases, Wuhan gained attention by World Health Organization (WHO)¹. The pathogen identified was named as novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), currently called as severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus-2 (SARS-CoV-2)².

Even before being declared a pandemic by WHO on 11.3.2020, this disease has been knocking the public health systems, eliciting unparalleled first time processes and actions by leaderships across the world, including lock-downs for putting a ceiling on movement and shelter-in-place directives³.

India, with its limitations in health-care infrastructure and human resources for health, would have easily become the worst affected nation had it not been for the timely, well thought out measures implemented to address the pandemic³. These include suspension of all international flights, nationwide lockdown for over 70 days, shutting down of malls and other public places, closing down of schools and universities, and suspension of religious places.

Nurses and other health-care workers were at the frontline and stage a crucial role in winning the battle against COVID-19. Nurses had lead full-scale public health operations with their involvement in each and every step of management of the pandemic from caring of the affected patients to protecting the public at large.⁴

Concerns regarding the adequacy of one's knowledge, making mistakes, not being able to keep up, and claiming one's role on the health care team as a professional nurse can spark difficult emotions and endangering the patient's life as a result⁵.

Becoming a registered midwife means making the transition from being a nurse student to being a professional nurse and a member of a multidisciplinary health team. Nowadays, several questions are raised regarding the preparedness and readiness of the new graduate nurses, accompanied by claims from healthcare workplaces that graduates do not receive adequate educational preparation before they enter the workplace⁶. Therefore This study aims to explore the preparedness of nursing graduates in term of knowledge to practice in clinical setting amid COVID-19.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the preparedness of nursing graduates in terms of their knowledge to practice in clinical setting amid COVID-19 as assessed by the knowledge questionnaire.
- To determine the association of the knowledge scores of nursing graduates with their selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESIS

H_1 : There will be a significant association of knowledge scores of nursing graduates with their selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: Non experimental Quantitative Approach
Research Design: Exploratory descriptive survey design

Target Population: The target population were the final year students of B Sc Nursing programme of Selected Nursing college of Gurugram, Haryana.

Setting: Amity College of Nursing, Amity University Gurugram, Haryana.

Sample: The sample were final year students of B Sc Nursing programme of Amity College of Nursing, Amity University Gurugram, Haryana.

Sampling Technique: Non-probability purposive sampling technique was used to select students who met the inclusion criteria after obtaining informed consent.

Sample size: 30 Nursing Graduates
Data Collection Tool & Technique

A self-reported questionnaire consisting of following parts:

SECTION A: Sociodemographic and Clinical Experience of the Participants such as age, sex, marital status, level of entry into the bachelor's program, have you worked during the education period, and the students' commitment in the attendance of lectures and clinical training.

SECTION B: It included Structured knowledge questionnaire having Multiple Choice Questions. This tool was used to assess the clinical knowledge of the nursing graduates and hence helped them to explore

their preparedness to care for the patients during COVID-19 Pandemic.

SECTION C: It consisted of Structured perception survey form. This questionnaire was in the form of 5 point perception scale used to identify the nursing graduates perceptions towards their preparedness to care for the patients during COVID-19 Pandemic. The scale had 5 options for rating i.e. Strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree.

Technique of data collection: A self-reported questionnaire using a paper-pencil and online mode through google form were developed by the researcher.

Ethical Clearance:

- Formal and administrative permissions were obtained from:
 1. Institutional Ethical Committee.
 2. Principals of Amity College of Nursing, Amity University Gurugram Haryana.
 3. Participants (informed consent)

RESULTS

In the demographic profile of the nursing graduates, the data indicated that the surveyed population was exclusively composed of individuals aged 21-25 years, indicating a focused demographic group. The gender distribution showed a majority (70%) of sample were females compared to males (30%). All individuals (100%) belonged to private colleges, with no representation from government institutions. The data further showed that every participant (100%) had attended clinical postings, suggesting a high level of practical exposure in a healthcare setting. The entire surveyed group (100%) had been vaccinated against COVID-19, reflecting a high level of awareness and participation in vaccination efforts.

Most (97%) of the sample had reliance on both professional sources information about COVID-19 and a combination of family/peer groups, mass media, formal education, and healthcare providers while for few (3%) sample, the primary sources were only Healthcare Providers. The study also shows that a significant portion (57%) of the sample had attended in-service education programs related to COVID-19, indicating an active interest in continuous learning and professional development while some (43%) had not attended any in-service education regarding COVID 19.

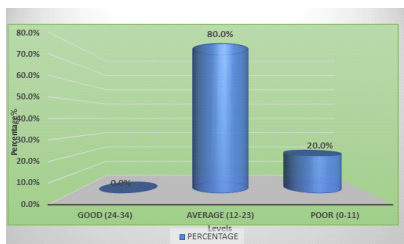


Figure no.1: Bar Diagram showing the percentage distribution of knowledge Scores of Nursing Graduates to practice in Clinical setting during COVID 19 pandemic.

The data in the figure 1 indicates that the majority (80%) of sample fell into the Average category, suggesting a moderate level of knowledge regarding preparedness in terms of knowledge to practice in clinical setting during COVID 19 pandemic, some of participants (20%) had poor knowledge indicating a lower level of understanding or awareness while None of the respondents falls within the "Good" category, indicating that no participant achieved the highest knowledge scores.

TABLE 1 Mean, Median, Standard deviation and Mean Percentage of Knowledge Scores of Nursing Graduates to practice in Clinical setting during COVID 19 Pandemic. N=30

	Mean	SD	Median	Maximum	Minimum	Range	Mean %
KNOWLEDGE SCORE	14.33	4.05	14.00	21	3	18	42.2

Maximum=34 Minimum=0

The data in the Table 1 represents the descriptive statistics of

knowledge Scores. It is found that the mean value is 14.3, median score is 14, standard deviation is 4.05 and mean percentage is 42.2 %.

Association Between Selected Demographic Variables of Nursing Graduates with their Knowledge Score

Chi-square was calculated to find the association between the levels of knowledge score of Nursing graduates with their selected demographic variables. The data shows that there is significance association between the levels of knowledge score and source of information about COVID 19 at the 0.05 level of significance. There is no significant association between the levels of knowledge score and gender, in service education status of Nursing graduates at the 0.05 level of significance.

CONCLUSION

The present study indicated the lack of adequate knowledge to practice in clinical setting amid COVID-19 and hence raised concerns regarding the adequacy of nursing graduates' preparedness to practice in clinical setting which can spark difficult emotions and endangering the patient's life as a result. Therefore nursing graduates must receive extensive educational preparation on COVID 19 before beginning their careers.

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