

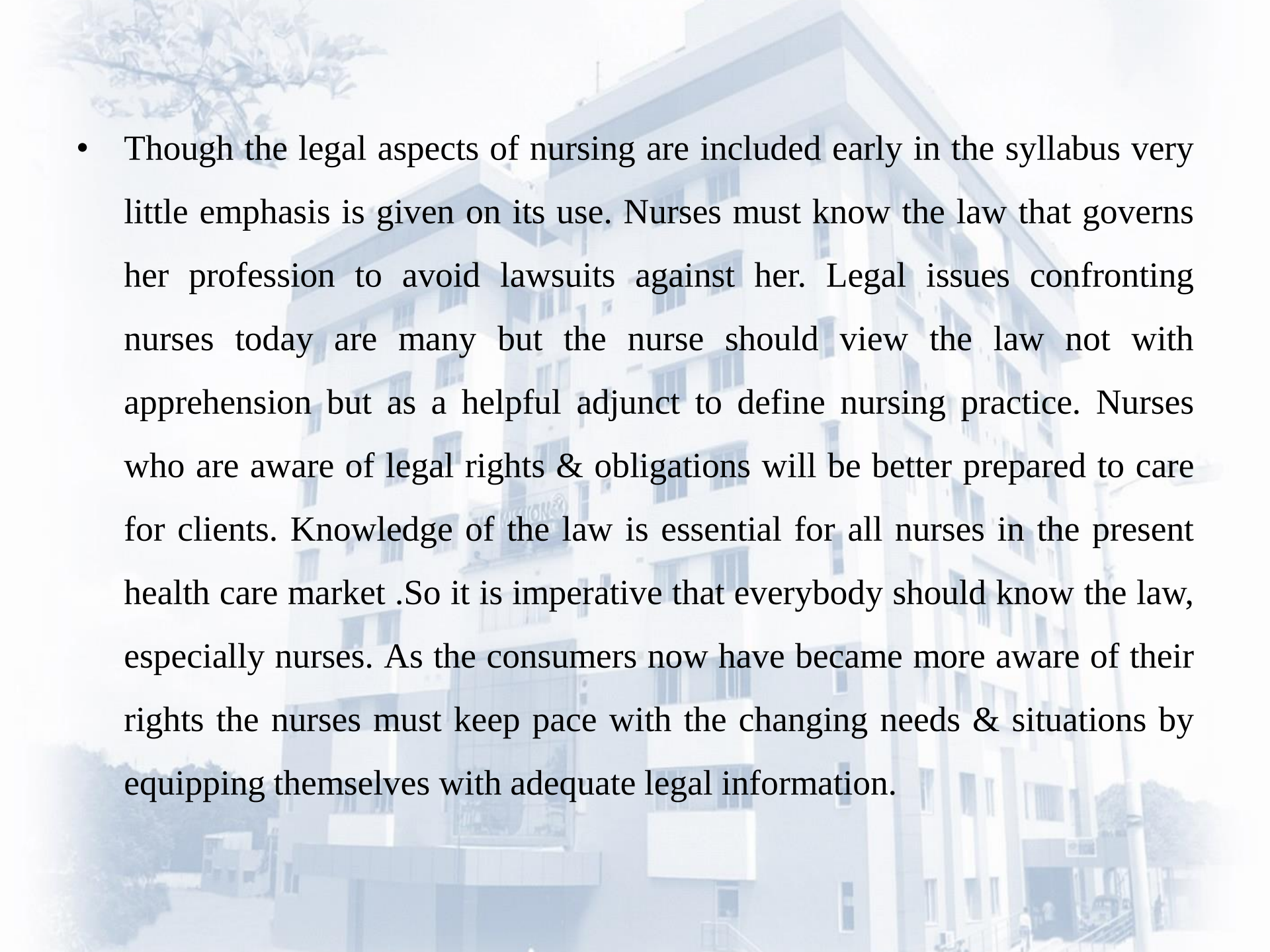
**A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE
AND ATTITUDE REGARDING MEDICO-LEGAL
RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG STAFF NURSES IN THE
MISSION HOSPITAL ,DURGAPUR**



PRESENTED BY
SHARMISTHA
SINGHA ROY
0664
MBA HM 22

INTRODUCTION

- “Any case of Injury or ailment where some criminality is involved is called a Medico-Legal Case (MLC). The nurses in India are generally basking under the impression that the onus of all omissions and commissions rests with the doctor and the hospital administration, and that they are not accountable for anything. The enactment of various legal provisions like Consumer Protection Act, India, 1986(CPA), Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI) and standardization of procedures and practices has brought nursing care under the legal ambit and focus, more than ever before. Needless to say, the level of legal awareness amidst nursing staff in India is abnormally low. Even in developed countries like USA, the number of adverse actions reported to NPDB, related to nurses in 2011, was nearly double of that which was seen in 2002.

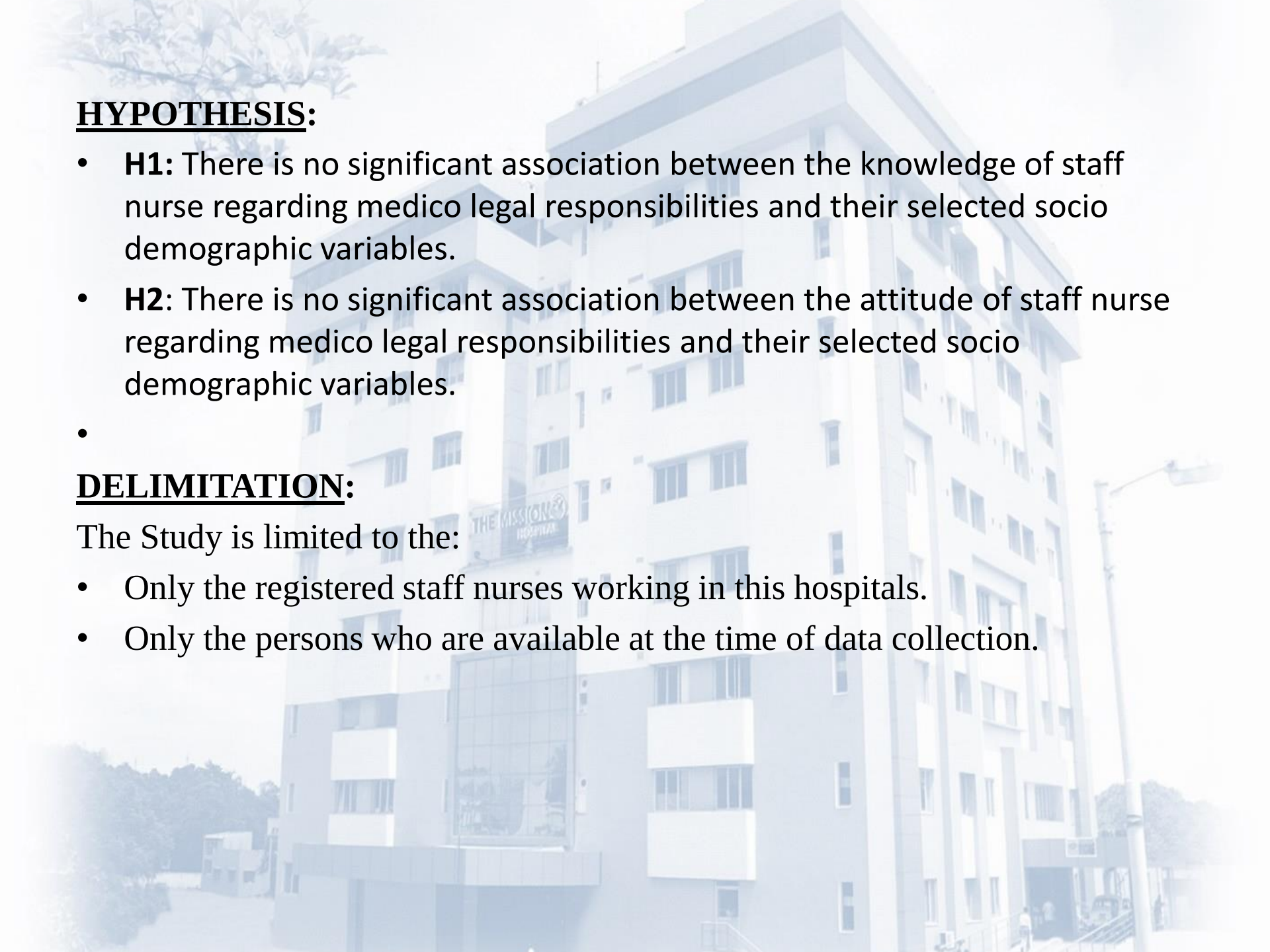
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- Though the legal aspects of nursing are included early in the syllabus very little emphasis is given on its use. Nurses must know the law that governs her profession to avoid lawsuits against her. Legal issues confronting nurses today are many but the nurse should view the law not with apprehension but as a helpful adjunct to define nursing practice. Nurses who are aware of legal rights & obligations will be better prepared to care for clients. Knowledge of the law is essential for all nurses in the present health care market .So it is imperative that everybody should know the law, especially nurses. As the consumers now have become more aware of their rights the nurses must keep pace with the changing needs & situations by equipping themselves with adequate legal information.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:-

- **“A descriptive study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding medico--legal responsibilities among staff nurses in The Mission Hospital, Durgapur.”**

OBJECTIVES

- To Assess the knowledge of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities.
- To Assess the attitude of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities.
- To find out the Association the knowledge of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities with their selected socio demographic variables.
- To Determine the association attitude of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities with their selected socio demographic variables.



HYPOTHESIS:

- **H1:** There is no significant association between the knowledge of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities and their selected socio demographic variables.
- **H2:** There is no significant association between the attitude of staff nurse regarding medico legal responsibilities and their selected socio demographic variables.
-

DELIMITATION:

The Study is limited to the:

- Only the registered staff nurses working in this hospitals.
- Only the persons who are available at the time of data collection.

- **VARIABLES**

- The concepts that can take on different quantitative values are called variables .The variables for the present study are as follows:

- **Research variables**

- Knowledge and attitude

- **Extraneous Variables**

- Gender, Education, Type of family, Religion, Service Experience and Have you ever taken any training regarding medico legal responsibilities

- **Population**

- The target population for this study was staff nurses working in The Mission Hospital, Durgapur.

- **SETTING OF THE STUDY**

Setting refers to the area where the study is conducted. This study was conducted in The Mission Hospital, Durgapur.

- **SAMPLE**

Care takers of patients who fulfilled the inclusion criteria in The Mission Hospital, Durgapur.

- **SAMPLE SIZE**

A total number of 300 staff nurses who met in the inclusion criteria.

- **SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

Purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample. Staff Nurses were selected who were available /allocated during morning and evening shift between (9 am to 6 pm).

SAMPLING CRITERIA

- **Inclusion Criteria**
- In this study, the following staff nurses were included, who are
- Present during the period of data collection.
- The staff nurse who are working at The Mission Hospital, Durgapur.
- **Exclusion criteria**
- The study excludes staff nurses, who are
- Not willing to participate in the study.

STUDY DESIGN: Non Experimental Correlational Design

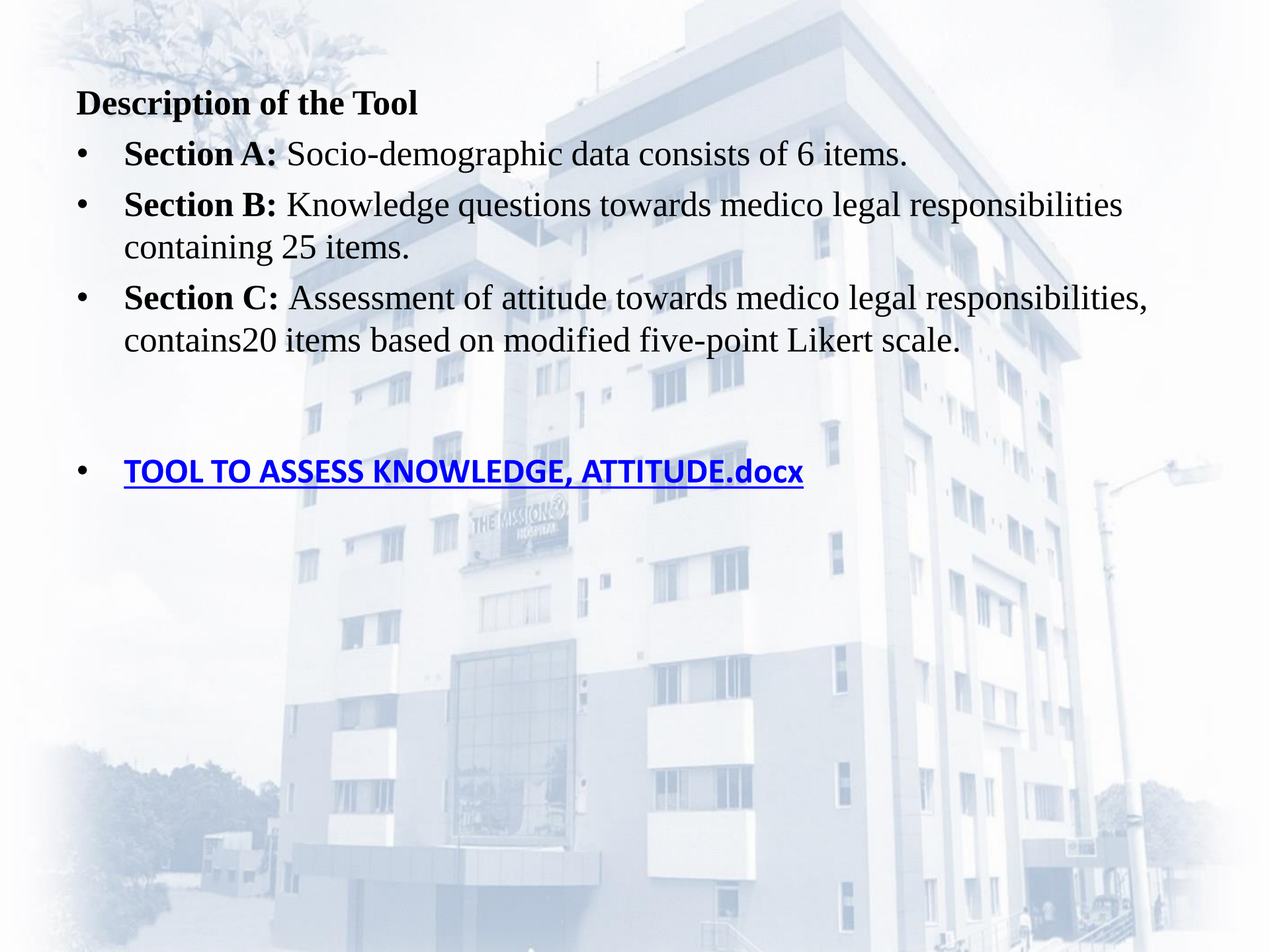
DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

Development of the Tool

- The tool was constructed based on the research objectives, review of related literature, suggestions and guidance of the experts in the field of medical surgical nursing, general physician, and social workers. This structured interview schedule consists of three sections. They are:

Description of the Tool

- **Section A:** Socio-demographic data consists of 6 items.
- **Section B:** Knowledge questions towards medico legal responsibilities containing 25 items.
- **Section C:** Assessment of attitude towards medico legal responsibilities, contains 20 items based on modified five-point Likert scale.
- [TOOL TO ASSESS KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE.docx](#)



- **SCORING AND INTERPRETATION**

- The questions were phrased in a multiple choice form with 3 options as distracters and 1 correct response. The correct response is given a score of one mark and the wrong response is given a score of zero.
- The resulting knowledge score ranged as
 - * Adequate knowledge :- (76% to 100%)
 - * Moderate knowledge :- (51% to 75%)
 - * In adequate knowledge :- ($\leq 50\%$)
- In attitude five point scale with strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree and strongly disagree criteria. Statements will be rated as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1. The total attitude score subjected for classification as unfavourable (below 50%), favorable (50-75%) and (more than 75%) most favourable attitude.

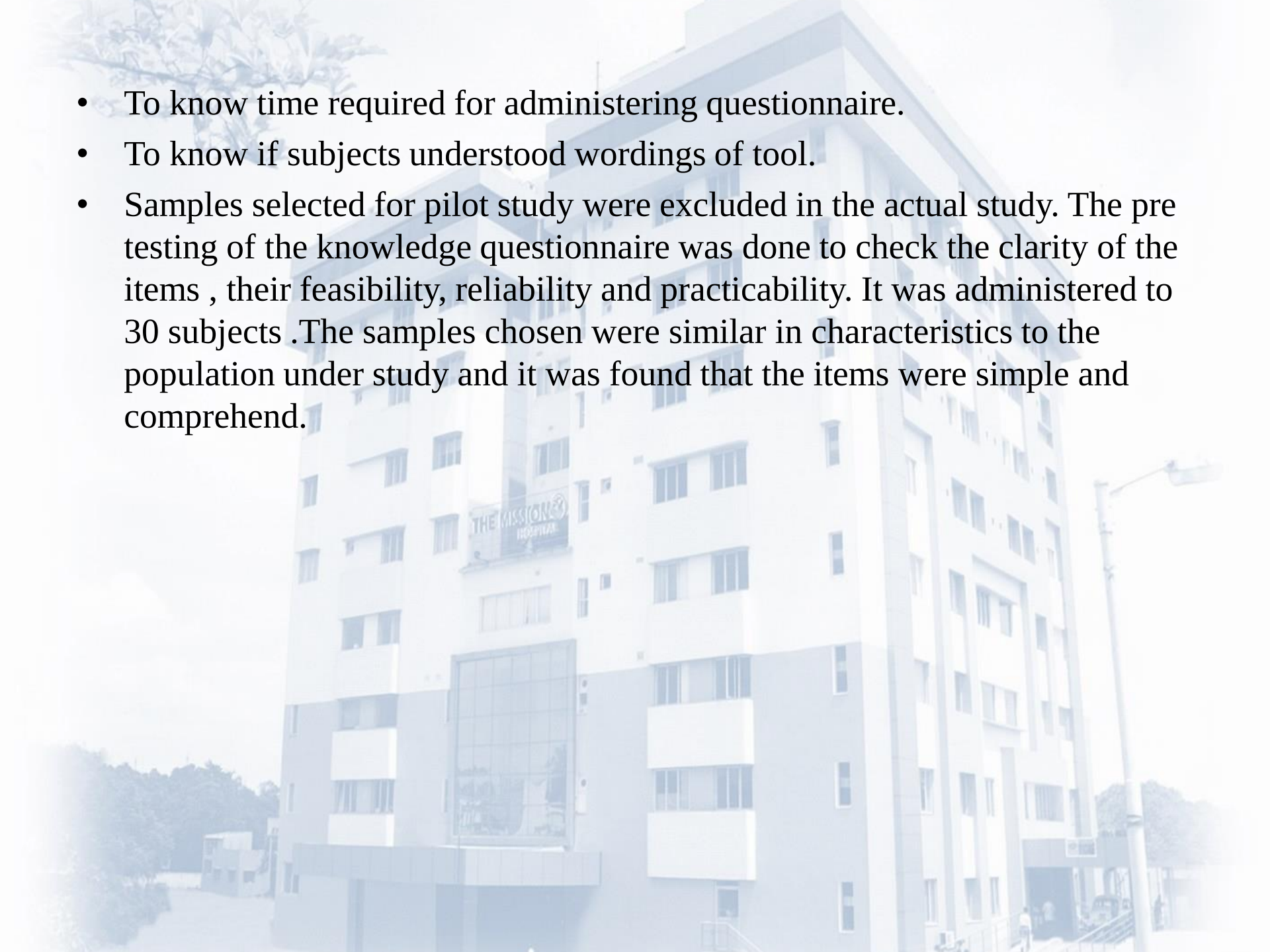
Content Validity

- The first draft of knowledge questionnaire along with the criteria check list was given to 4 experts (Annexure) comprising of Chief Medical Superintendent ,Assistant Medical Superintendent , Nursing Superintendent and Assistant Nursing Superintendent. The experts were requested to validate questionnaire based on the criteria check list(Annexure). The suggestions and opinions of experts were considered and the questionnaire was accordingly modified under the guidance of the guide and co -guide.

PILOT STUDY

- After having obtained formal administrative approval a pilot study testing with 30 samples was done on 14 th of March to 18 th March 2019. The purpose of the pilot study was to:
- Find out the feasibility of conducting the final study.
- Determine the method of statistical analysis.
- To refine the instruments.

- To know time required for administering questionnaire.
- To know if subjects understood wordings of tool.
- Samples selected for pilot study were excluded in the actual study. The pre testing of the knowledge questionnaire was done to check the clarity of the items , their feasibility, reliability and practicability. It was administered to 30 subjects .The samples chosen were similar in characteristics to the population under study and it was found that the items were simple and comprehend.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a tall, modern multi-story building with a light-colored facade and many windows. The building is slightly out of focus. Overlaid on this image is the text 'DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS' in a large, bold, red serif font. The text is arranged in four lines: 'DATA' on the first line, 'ANALYSIS' on the second, 'AND' on the third, and 'FINDINGS' on the fourth. The text is centered horizontally and vertically on the slide.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

ORGANIZATIONS OF STUDY FINDINGS

- Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. Analysis is organized under the following headings

Section A: Description of socio demographic variables of staff nurses.

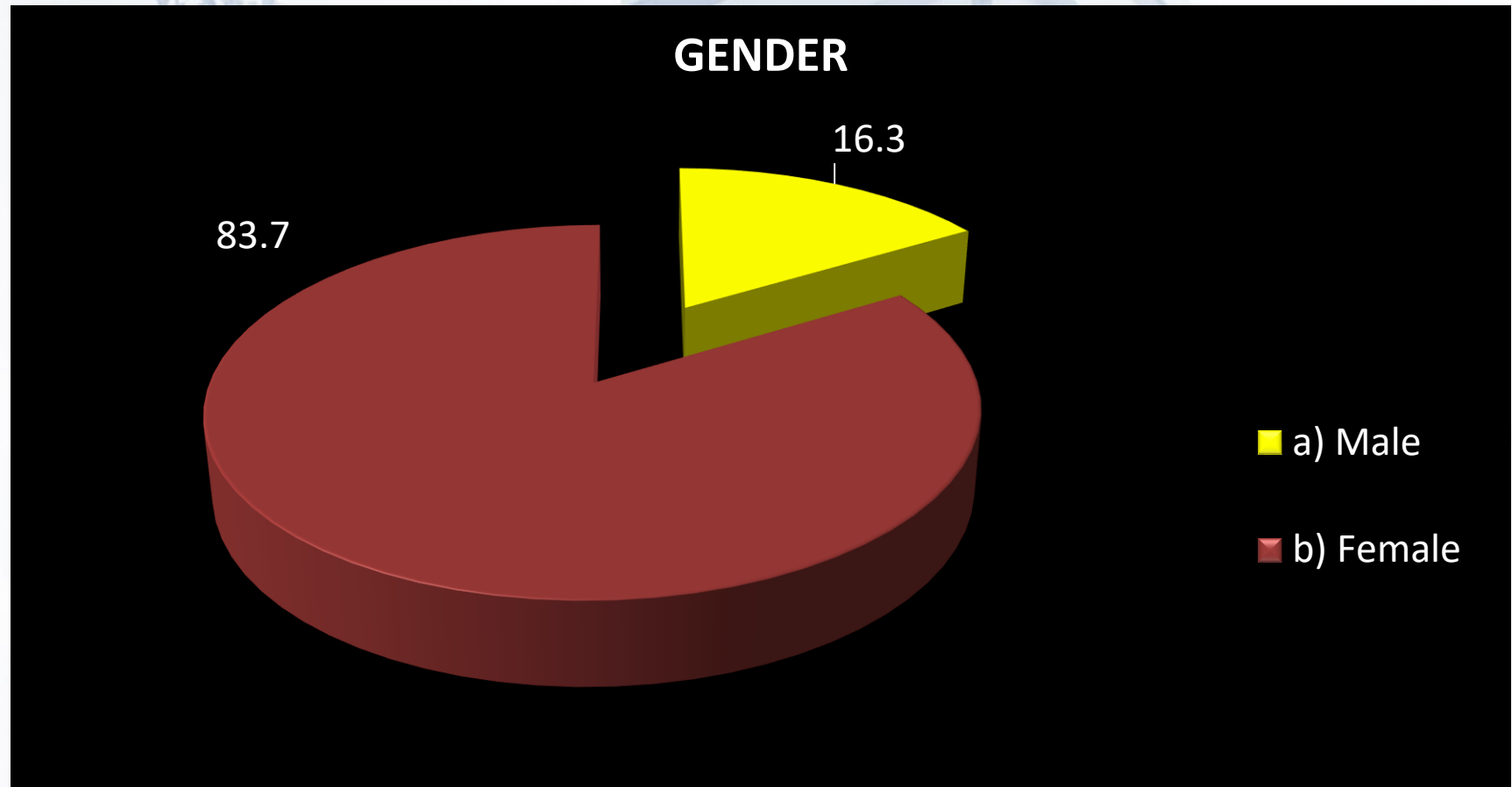
Section B: Assessment of knowledge and attitude of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities.

- Phase I: Assess the knowledge level of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities.
- Phase II: Assess the attitude of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities.

Section C: Association of demographic variables with level of knowledge and attitude of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities.

Section D: Association of demographic variables with level of attitude of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities.

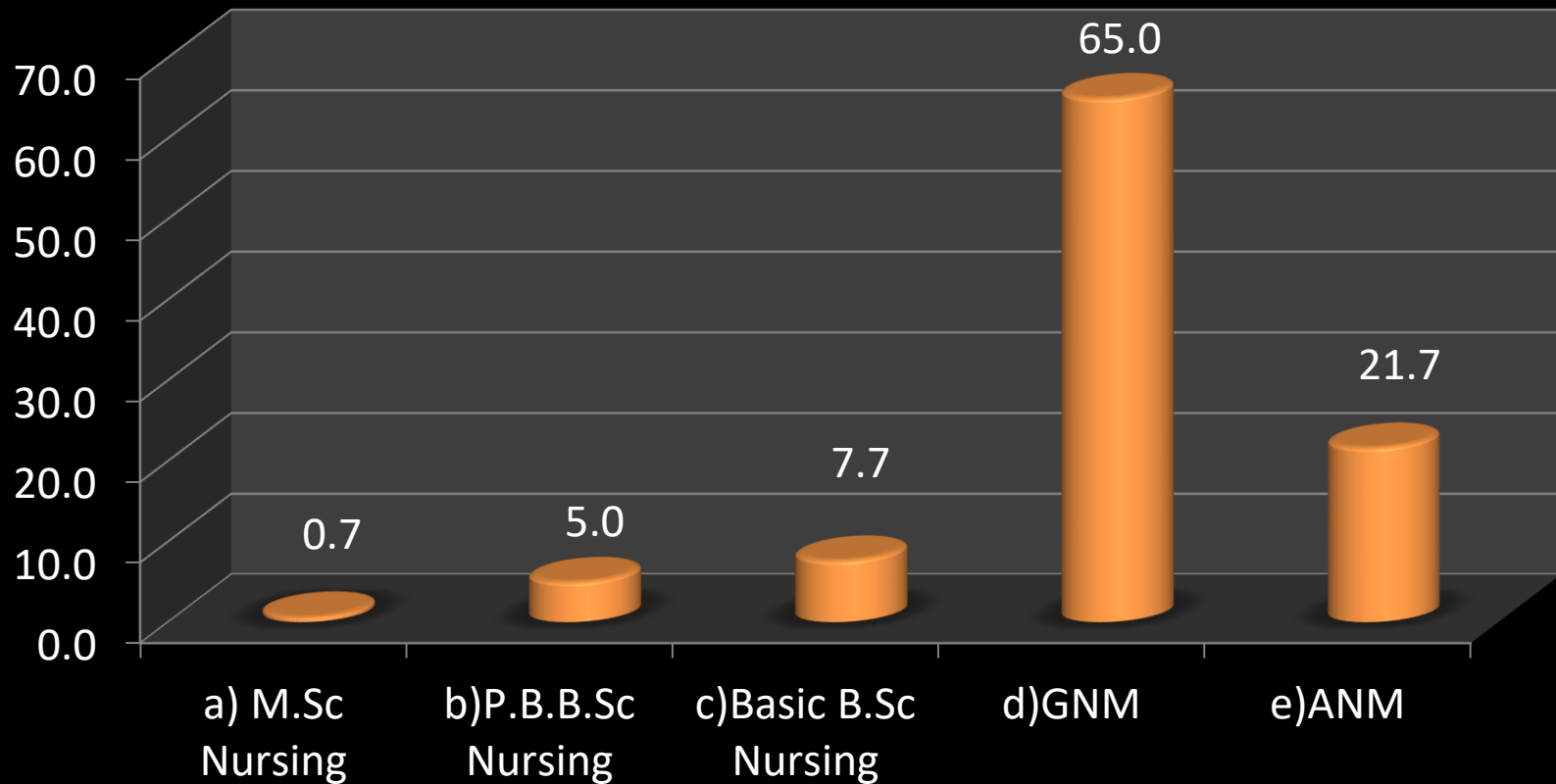
SECTION-A: DESCRIPTION OF SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF STAFF NURSES.



Distribution of staff nurses according Gender

The above graph depicts distribution of staff nurses according Gender. Obviously, just over 16.3% of the staff nurses in the hospital were men. The remaining 83.7 % of them were females.

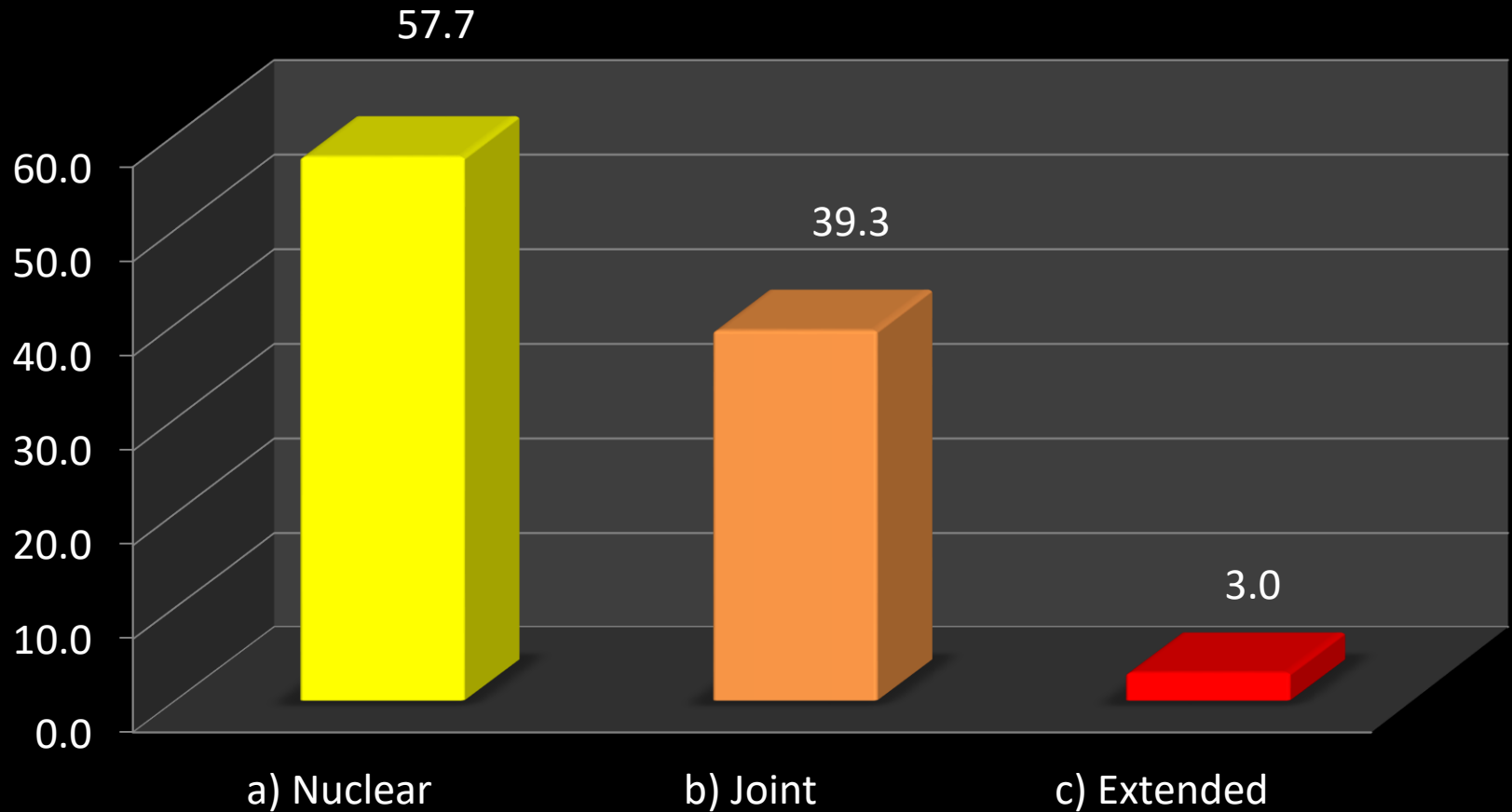
EDUCATIONAL STATUS



Distribution of staff nurses according to Educational status

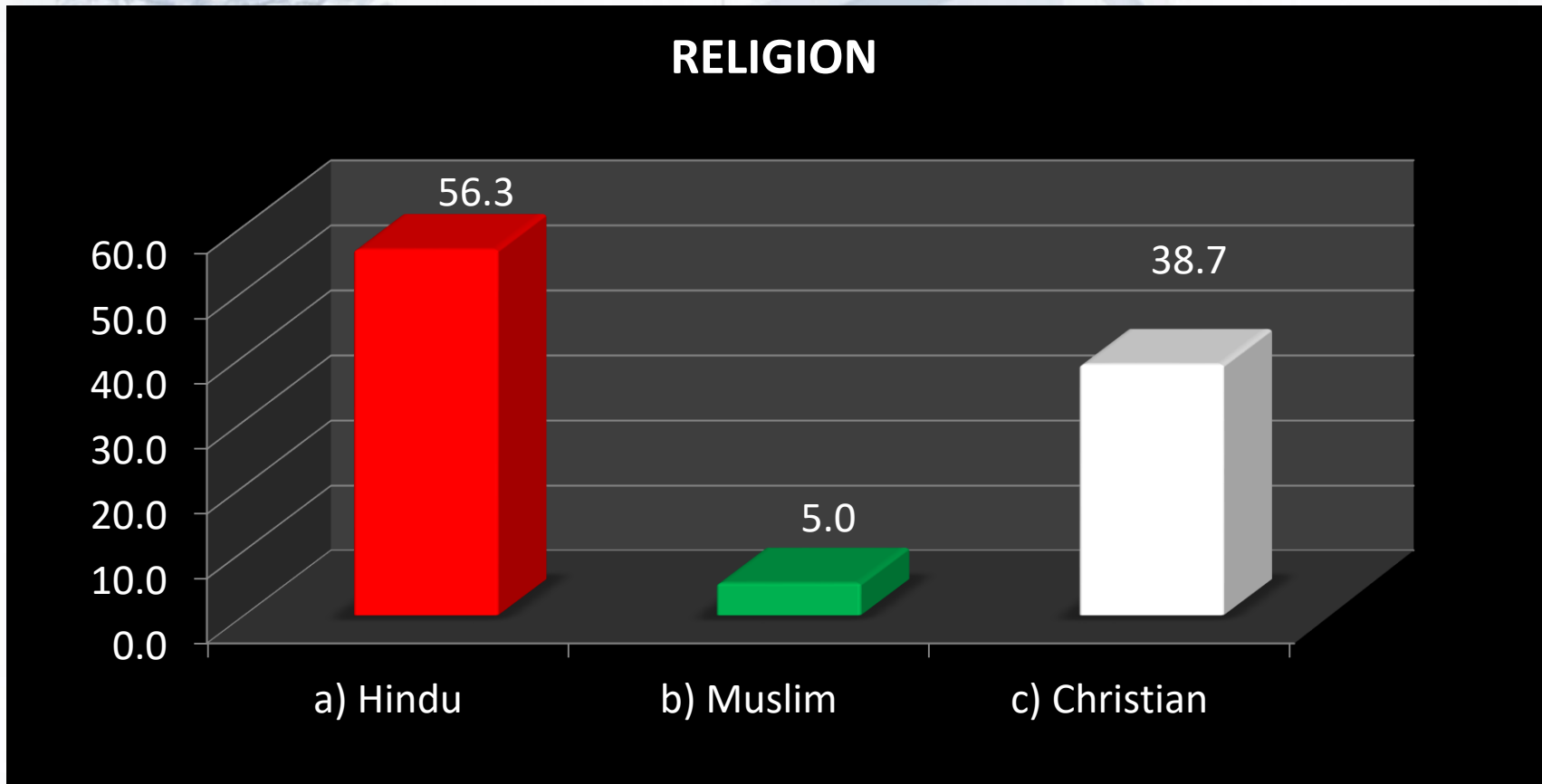
As is shown in the diagram, nearly about 7.7 % have achieved Basic B.Sc Nursing. Further, 5.0 % of the participants had only P.B.B.Sc Nursing. Though a notable 65.0 % have attained GNM and 0.7% had M.Sc Nursing.

TYPE OF FAMILY



Distribution of staff nurses according to Type of family

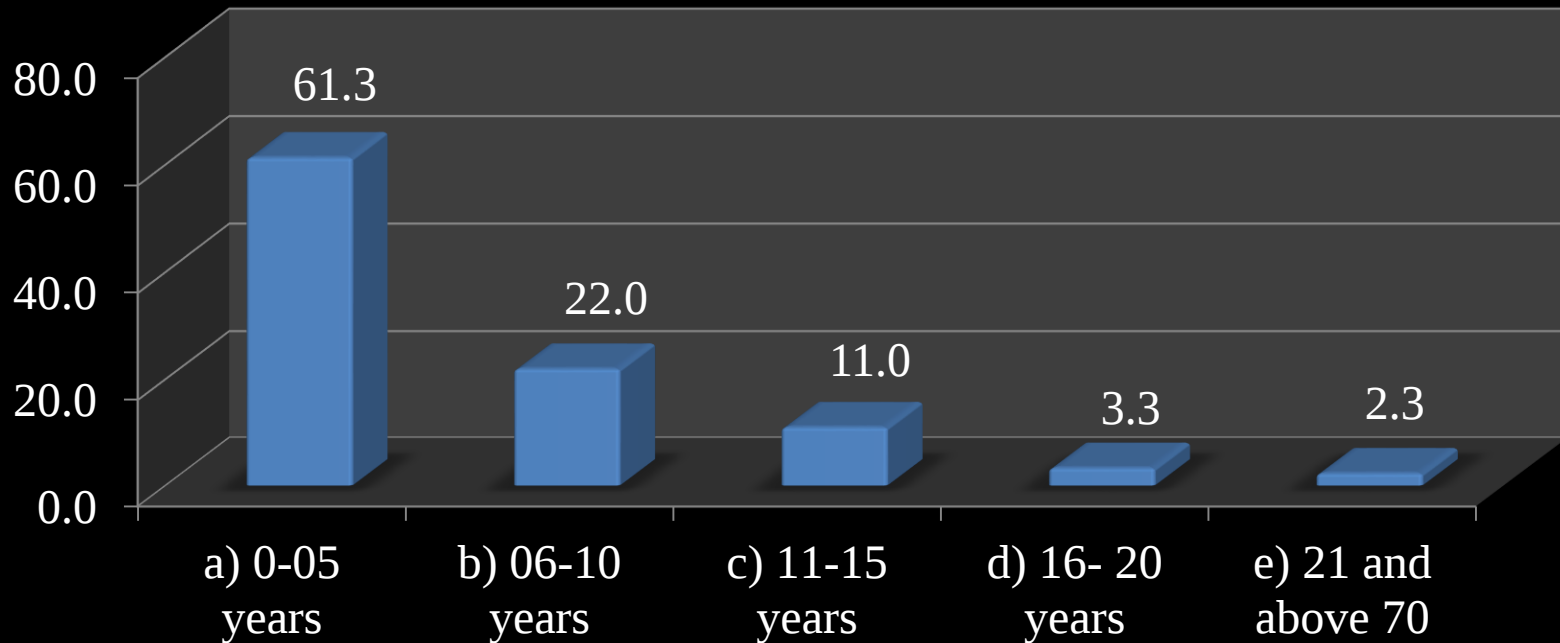
As the graph illustrates, the highest per cent of the subjects belong from Nuclear Family. They constituted 57.7 % of the total number of subjects. In addition, just around 39.3 % of the subjects belonged to Joint family and the remaining only 3.0 % belongs to Extended family.



Distribution of staff nurses according to Religion.

As the graph illustrates, the highest percent of the subjects were Hindu. They constituted 56.3 % of the total number of subjects. In addition, just around 38.7 % of the subjects belonged to Christian community and the remaining 5 % only belongs to Muslim religion.

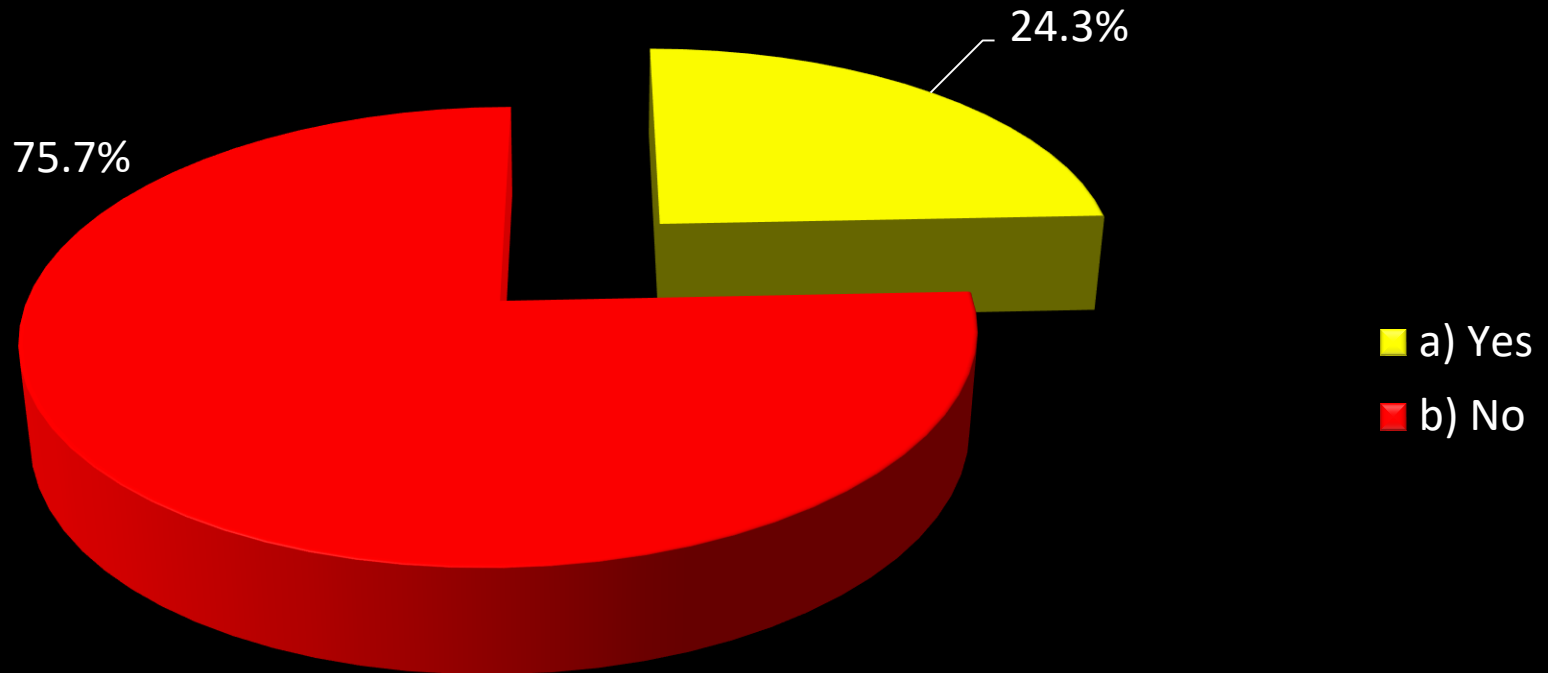
NO. OF YEAR OF SERVICE EXPERIENCE



Distribution of staff nurses according to their service Experience.

A look at distribution of staff nurses according to their service experience showed that 61.3 % of the staff nurses were having 0-5 years of service. Moreover, just around 22 % of the staff nurses were having 06-10 years of experience and 11 % were having 11-15 years of experience. Nearly only 3.3% are having 16- 20 years of experience and around 2.3 % were having experience of 21 years and above.

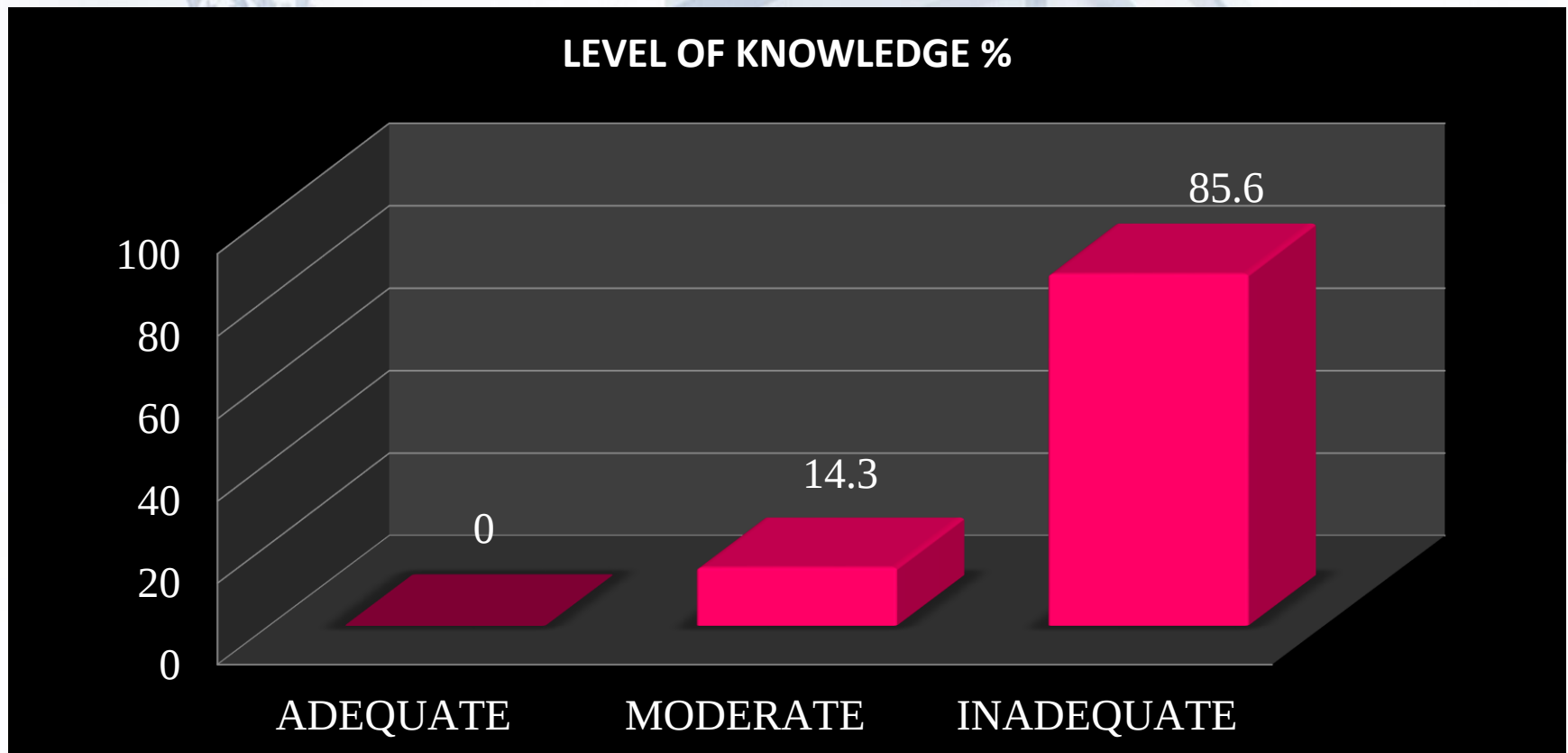
PREVIOUS TRAINING



Distribution of staff nurses according to Previous Training.

The above graph shows the percentage of subjects who have previous training related to Medico-legal responsibilities. Only 24.3 % of the subjects got previous training. Others said “no” when asked if they have any type of training.

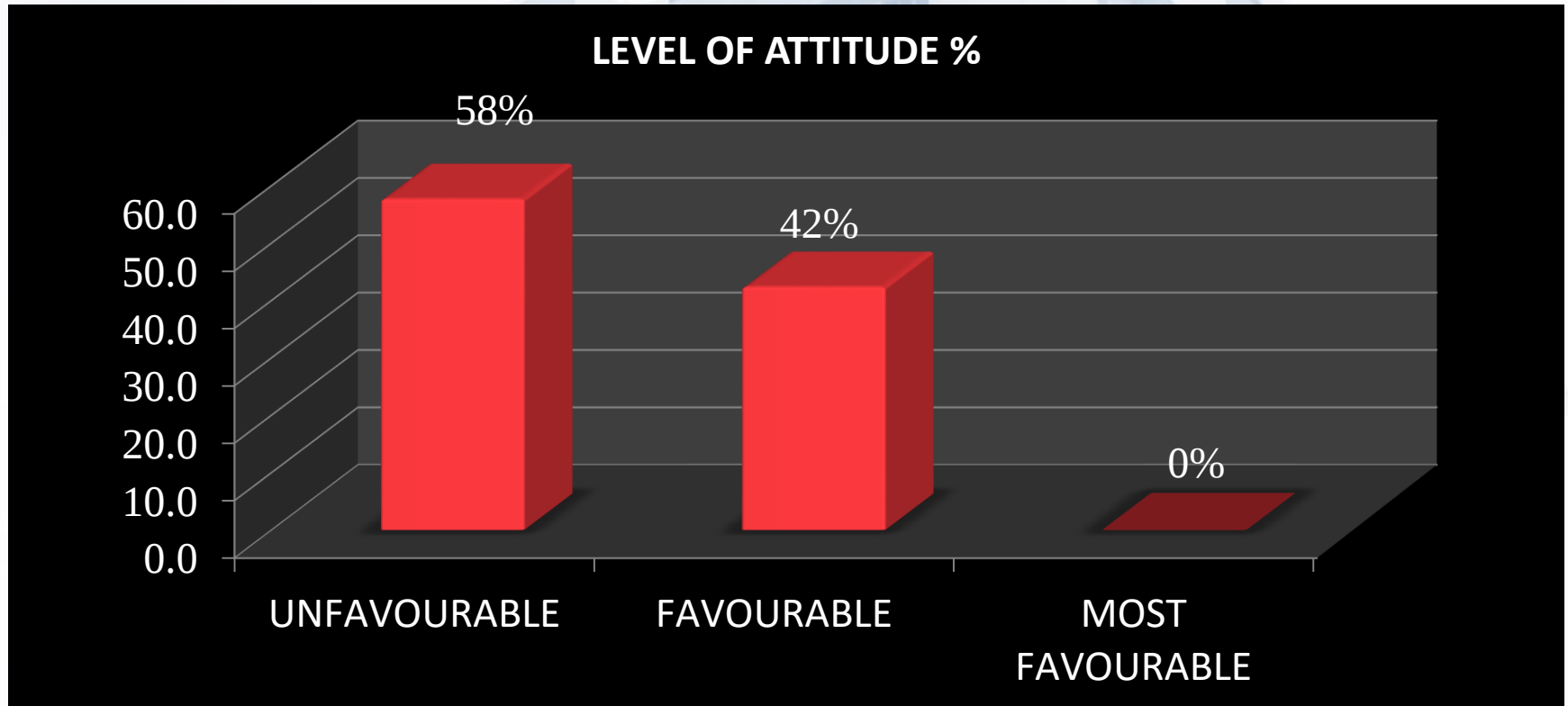
SECTION B: ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF STAFF NURSES REGARDING MEDICO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES.



Distribution of Staff nurses by their Level of knowledge

The knowledge level of staff nurses regarding medico legal responsibilities was assessed. It is clear from the graph that only 14.3 % of the subjects hold moderate level of knowledge. Further, 85.6 % of the subjects were holding inadequate level of knowledge.

SECTION B: ASSESS THE ATTITUDE OF STAFF NURSES REGARDING MEDICO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES.



Distribution of staff nurses by their Level of attitude.

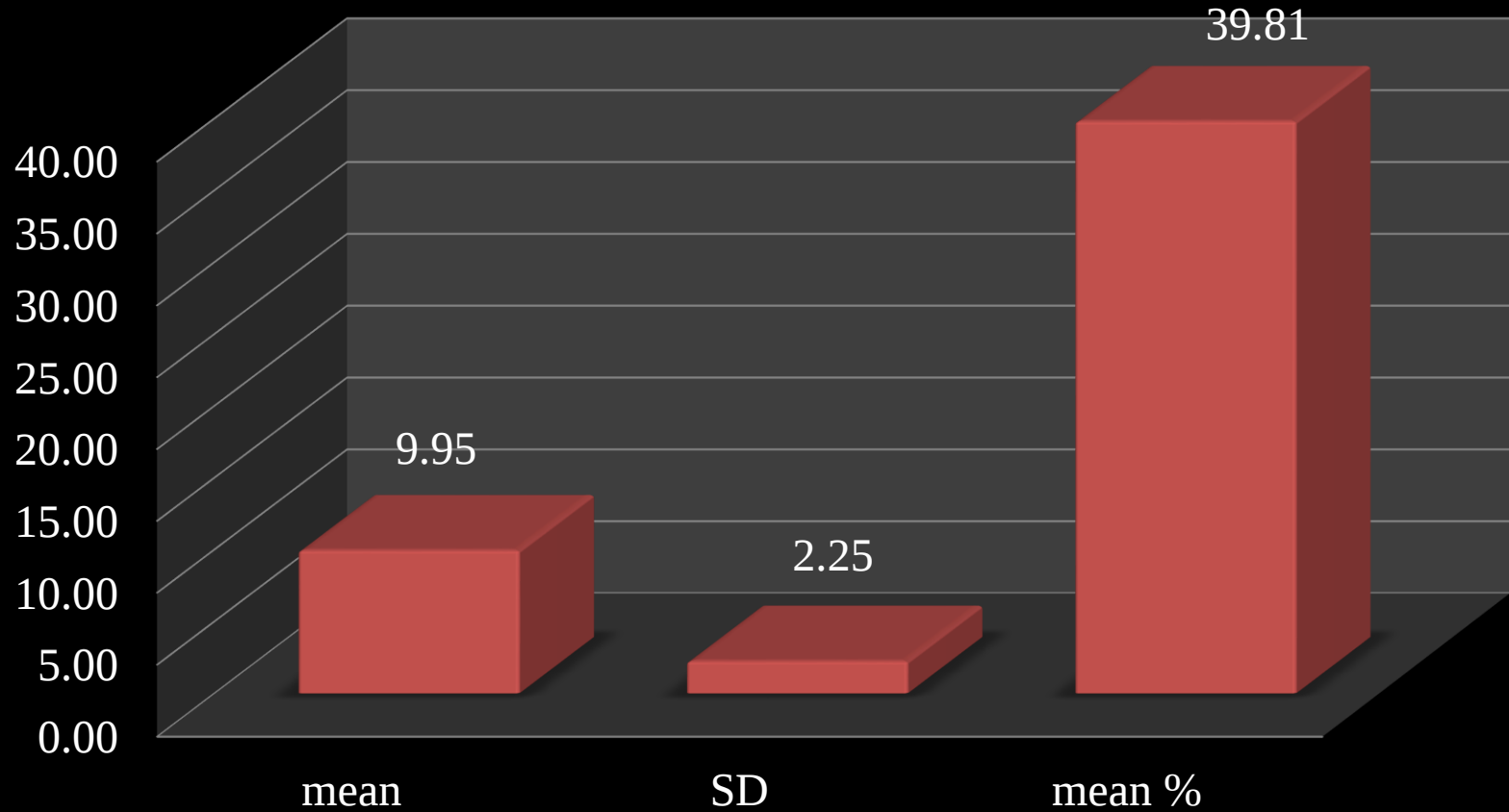
The above graph illustrates the attitude of the subjects. It is obvious from the graph that only 0% of the subjects found with most favorable attitude. In addition, 42% of the subjects showed favorable attitude. However, a surprising 58% of the subjects found with unfavorable attitude.

**SECTION C: ASSOCIATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES WITH
LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF STAFF NURSES
REGARDING MEDICO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**

**Table : Mean, SD and Mean% of the knowledge level of staff nurses
regarding medico legal responsibilities in selected hospital**

DOMAIN	MAX. STATEMENT	MAX. SCORE	RANGE		MEAN	SD	MEAN %
KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF MEDICO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES	25	25	5	17	9.95	2.25	39.81

Mean,SD,Mean % of Level of Knowledge



DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES ASSOCIATION WITH LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE					
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES	NO.	%	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE		CHI-SQUARE
			INADEQUATE	MODERATE	
1) Gender					
a) Male	49	16.333333	43	6	0.983578995 NS
b) Female	251	83.66667	220	31	
2) Educational status					
a) M.Sc Nursing	2	0.666667	2	0	0.51477331 NS
b)P.B.B.Sc Nursing	15	5	15	0	
c)Basic B.Sc Nursing	23	7.666667	19	4	
d)GNM	195	65	169	26	
e)ANM	65	21.66667	58	7	
3) Religion					
a) Hindu	169	56.333333	148	21	0.617449447 NS
b) Muslim	15	5	12	3	
c) Christian	116	38.66667	103	13	
4) Type of family					
a) Nuclear	173	57.66667	148	25	0.287278452 NS
b) Joint	118	39.333333	106	12	
c) Extended	9	3	9	0	
5) Service Experience					
a) 0-05 years	184	61.333333	159	25	0.757366499
b) 06-10 years	66	22	59	7	
c) 11-15 years	33	11	29	4	
d) 16- 20 years	10	3.333333	10	0	NS
e) 21 and above 70	7	2.333333	6	1	
6) Have you ever taken any training regarding medico legal responsibilities					
a) Yes	73	24.333333	66	7	0.017186849 *S
b) No	227	75.66667	198	30	

**SECTION D: ASSOCIATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES WITH
LEVEL OF ATTITUDE OF STAFF NURSES REGARDING MEDICO
LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**

DOMAIN	MAX. STATEMENT	MAX. SCORE	RANGE		MEAN	SD	MEAN %
ATTITUDE LEVEL OF MEDICO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES	20	100	20	100	47.53	8.84	47.53

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES ASSOCIATION WITH LEVEL OF ATTITUDE					
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES	NO.	%	LEVEL OF ATTITUDE		CHI-SQUARE
			UNFAVOURABLE	FAVOURABLE	
1) Gender					
a) Male	49	16.3333	34	15	0.336308286
b) Female	251	83.6667	156	95	NS
2) Educational status					
a) M.Sc Nursing	2	0.66667	1	1	0.070792506
b)P.B.B.Sc Nursing	15	5	13	2	
c)Basic B.Sc Nursing	23	7.66667	13	10	
d)GNM	195	65	119	76	
e)ANM	65	21.6667	44	21	
3) Religion					
a) Hindu	169	56.3333	109	60	0.434184707
b) Muslim	15	5	9	8	
c) Christian	116	38.6667	62	42	NS
4) Type of family					
a) Nuclear	173	57.6667	112	61	0.782126669
b) Joint	118	39.3333	73	45	
c) Extended	9	3	5	4	NS
5) Service Experience					
a) 0-05 years	184	61.3333	114	70	0.573896494
b) 06-10 years	66	22	45	21	
c) 11-15 years	33	11	19	14	
d) 16- 20 years	10	3.33333	8	2	NS
e) 21 and above 70	7	2.33333	8	3	
any training regarding medico legal responsibilities					
a) Yes	73	24.3333	48	25	0.528059452
b) No	227	75.6667	142	85	NS

SUGGESTIONS

- **The findings of the study suggests,**
- The nurse educators should improve knowledge of staff nurses through education programs.
- Adequate knowledge regarding medico legal responsibilities will help staff nurses to develop a positive attitude.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- On the basis of finding of the study, the following recommendations are being made.
- Manual, information booklet and self- instruction module may be developed in areas of medico legal responsibilities.
- A study can be carried out to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of various teaching strategies like SIM, pamphlet, leaflets and computer- assisted instruction on medico legal responsibilities.
- Training and proper classes should be conducted and these topic should be included in the Continuous Nursing Education.
- Medico Legal Certification course as a part of on job training can also be included.

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A tall, modern, multi-story building with a glass entrance and a sign that reads "THE MISSION HOSPITAL". The building is light-colored with many windows. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in large, red, stylized letters across the center of the image.

THANK YOU