



A study to assess the level of paralegal awareness among nursing personnel at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya District Hospital, Varanasi.

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Introduction

- Medicine is a noble profession but there is also growing anxiety both within the medical profession and in the community regarding increasing trends of complaints and lawsuits against doctors. Knowledge about medical ethics is as fundamental to the practice of medicine as clinical skills.
- Nurses deal with the most fundamental human events like birth, death and suffering. They encounter many legal issues surrounding these sensitive areas. Accountability is an essential concept of professional practice. Nursing practice is surrounded by many legal aspects because nurses are accountable for their professional judgments and action.

Review of Literature

- Marsha (1998) says, nurses frequently face legal issues regarding patient care in life saving measures, continuing treatment of terminally ill patients and regarding patient's right to refuse treatment. According to a data bank, among the 253 complaints registered from 1995-2001 were due to negligence and 60% of them were from acute care settings, 18% from long term care facilities, 9% from advanced practices nurses, 8% from psychiatric facilities, 2% each from physicians and home health agencies.

Need for the study

- Nursing professionals of today need to be competent in all dimensions.
- They form the backbone of hospitals hence it is mandatory for every nurse to have sound knowledge on legal aspects of health care and practice nursing safely, effectively and efficiently.
- With this knowledge in mind this study was undertaken to assess the awareness level of nurses. The results so furnished would be employed to train the nurses for protection from medico legal cases.

Methodology

Research question:

What is the level of paralegal awareness among nursing personnel at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya District Hospital, Varanasi?

Objectives

1. To assess the level of knowledge and awareness among nurses on paralegal issues related to the hospitals.
2. To suggest suitable interventions to improve the level of paralegal awareness.

Research Design

- Descriptive study type
- It is a cross sectional study conducted for a period of three months from February to April, 2016.
- The study was set in Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Distict Hospital in Varanasi and study area was different wards of the hospital.
- The target population for the study was newly appointed Nursing Staff in different wards of the hospital.

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- Newly appointed Nursing Staff who fulfill the inclusion criteria was considered ,thus a total of 75 nurses were taken up for the study.
 - The study excludes consultants, old nursing staff, pharmacists, and technicians.

Tools and Techniques

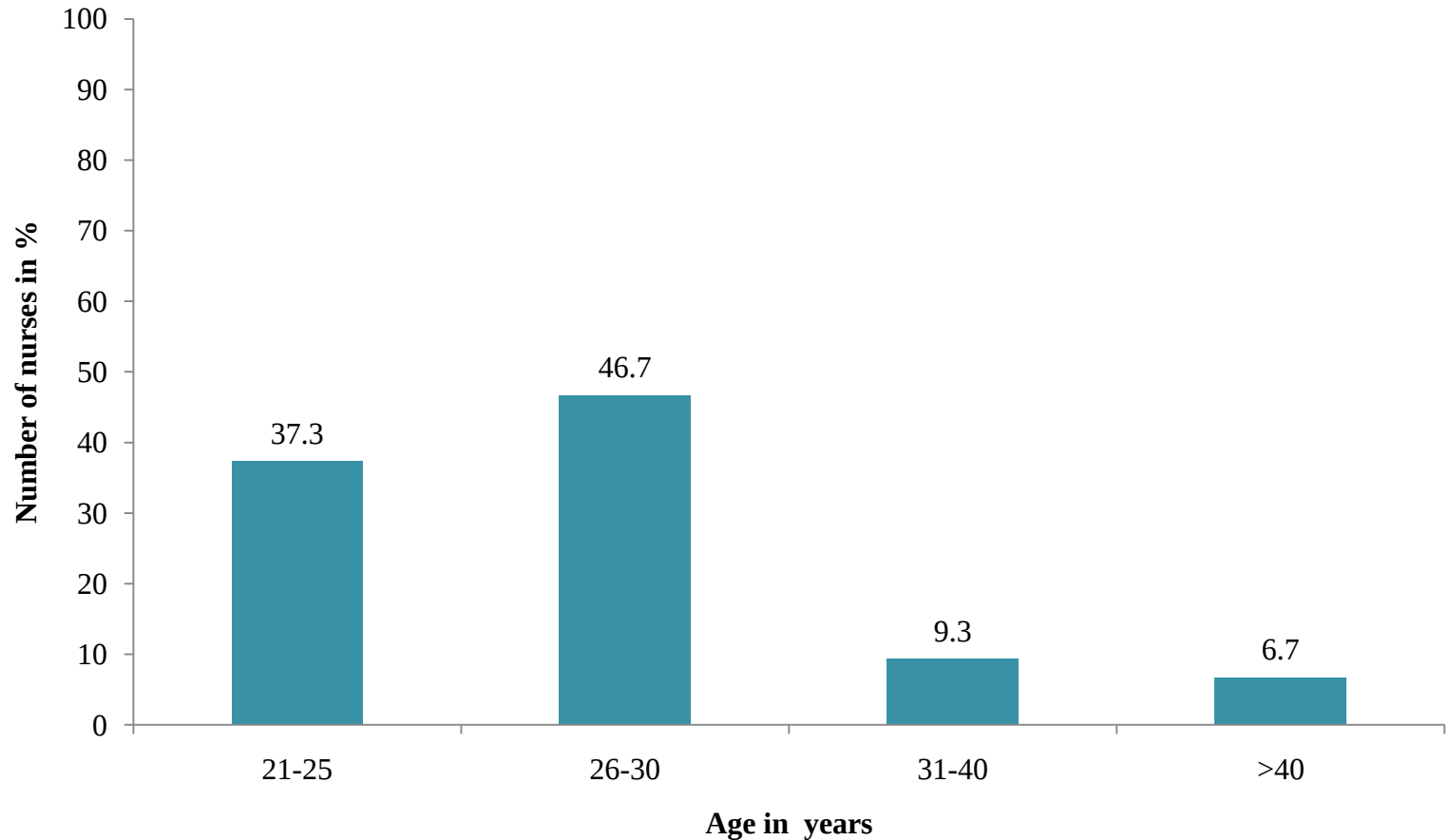
- The tool employed was a structured questionnaire which was framed in two sections after reviewing literature and text material.
- It is a self designed questionnaire developed in English consisting of 35 questions on paralegal aspect of healthcare. Close ended questions were used to assess awareness levels.

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- **Section A:** The initial part of the questionnaire consisted of demographic variable such as age, gender and professional qualifications.
 - **Section B:** The second part of the questionnaire comprised of 35 questions and it is divided in to 6 parts . The structured questionnaire was to assess the knowledge about MTP Act, THOA Act, BMW Act, Malpractice, Medical Negligence, PCPNDT Act, Ethics & RTI and Informed Consent among selected Newly Nursing Staff.

Results

Demographic profile

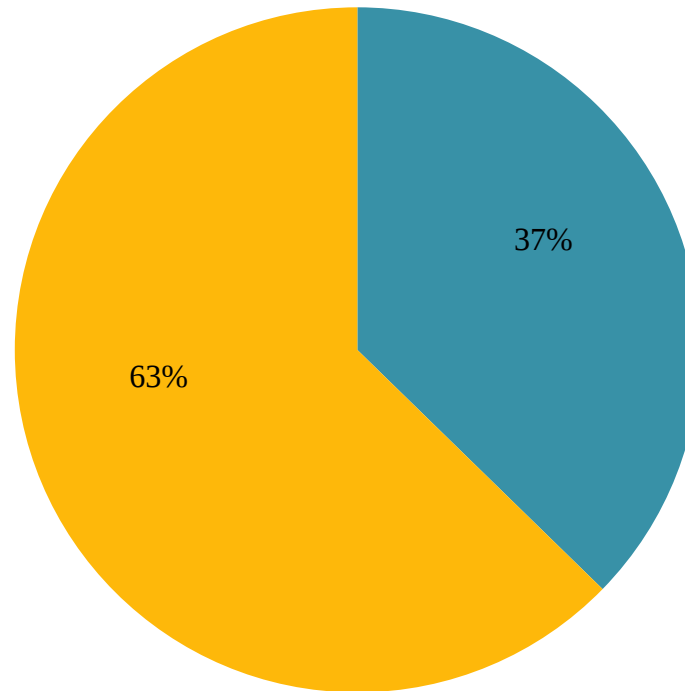
1.Age Distribution of Nurses



Around fifty percent of the nursing personnel lie in the age bracket of 26-30 years.

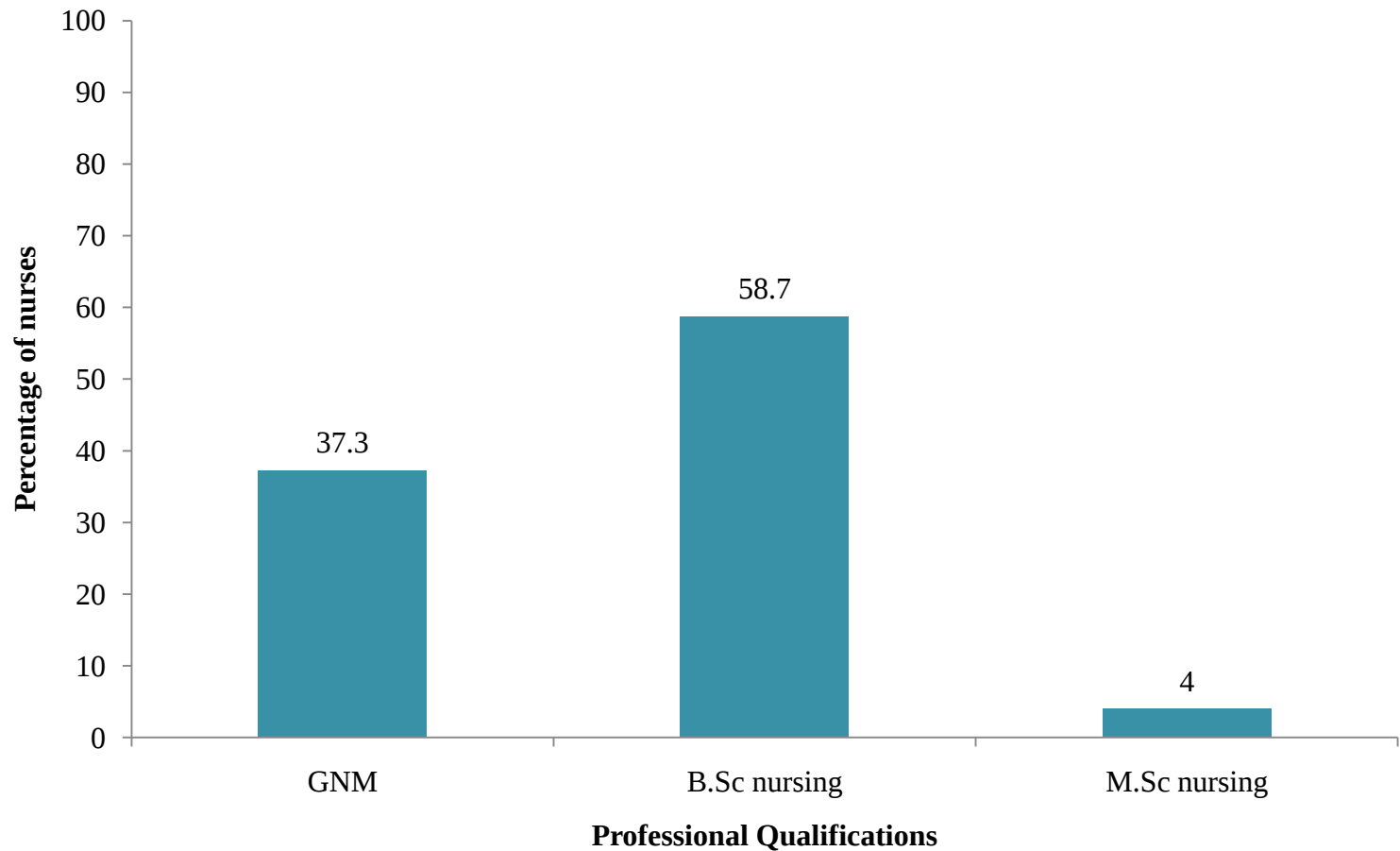
2. Gender Distribution of Nurses

■ male ■ female



Among the newly recruited nurses sixty three percent were females.

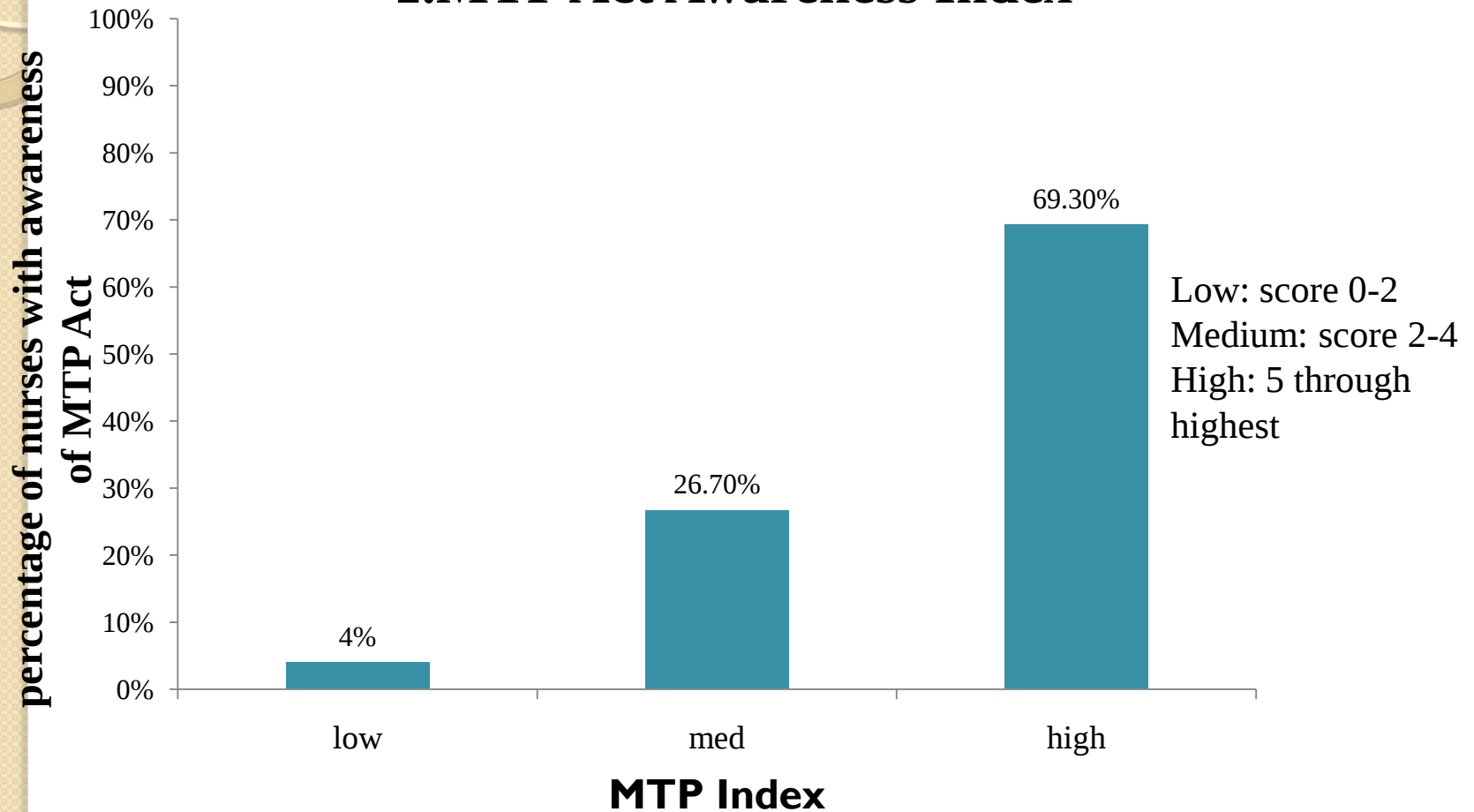
3.Distribution according to Professional Qualifications



Around sixty percent of newly recruited nurses had degree in B.Sc Nursing

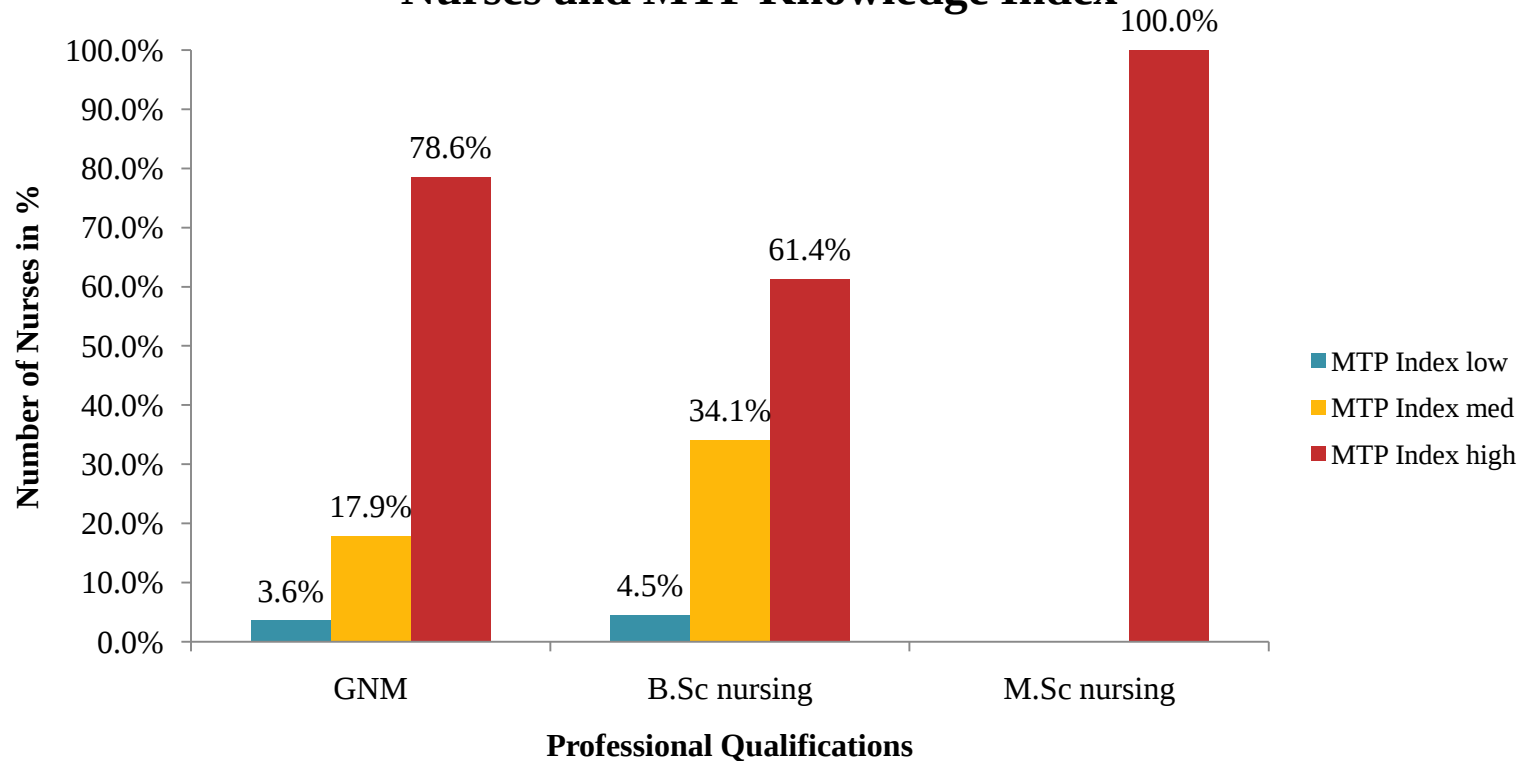
Paralegal awareness among nurses

1.MTP Act Awareness Index



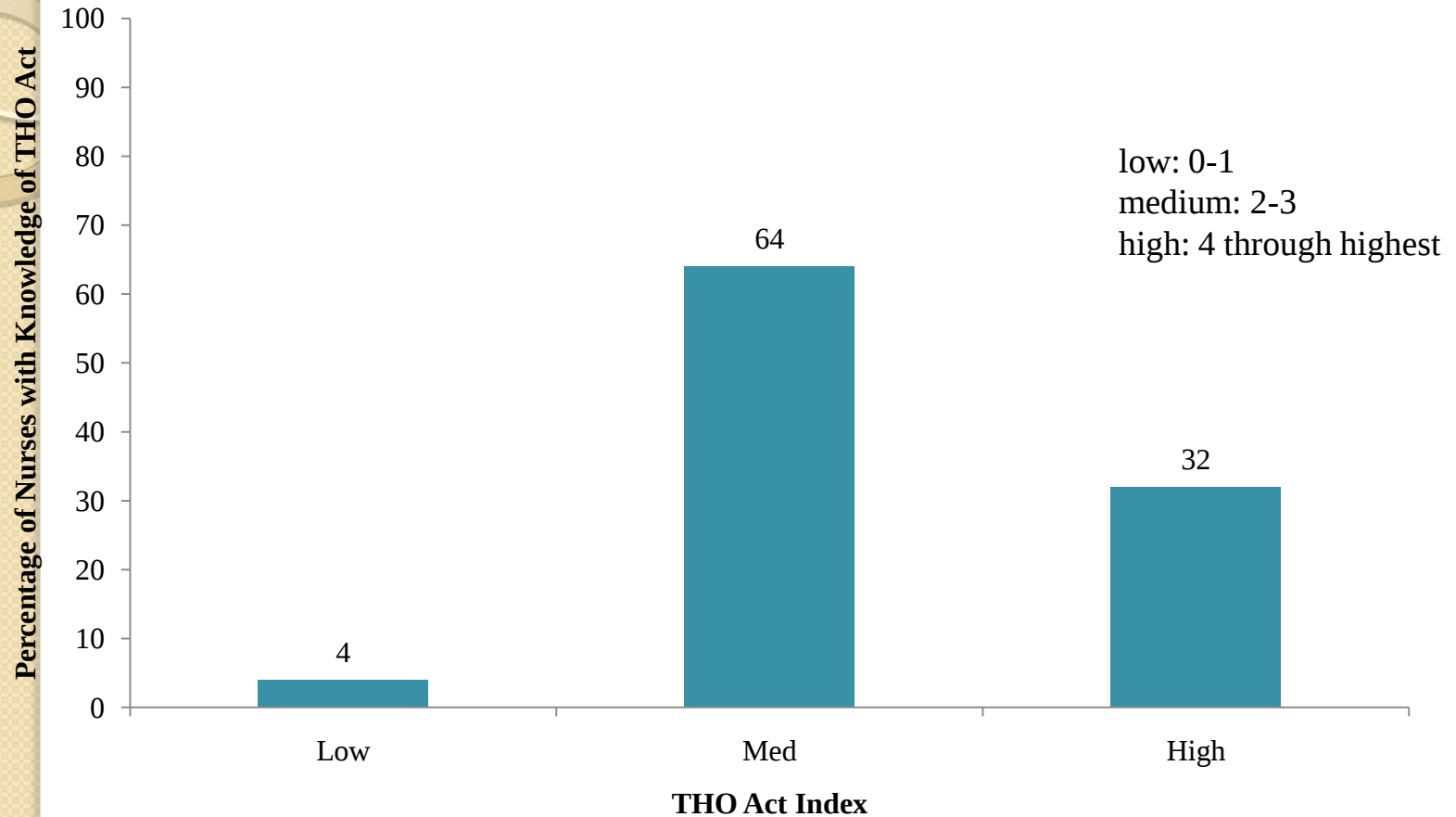
The knowledge level of nurses regarding MTP Act was found to be high.(69.3 percent)

1.1 Relationship between Professional Qualifications of Nurses and MTP Knowledge Index



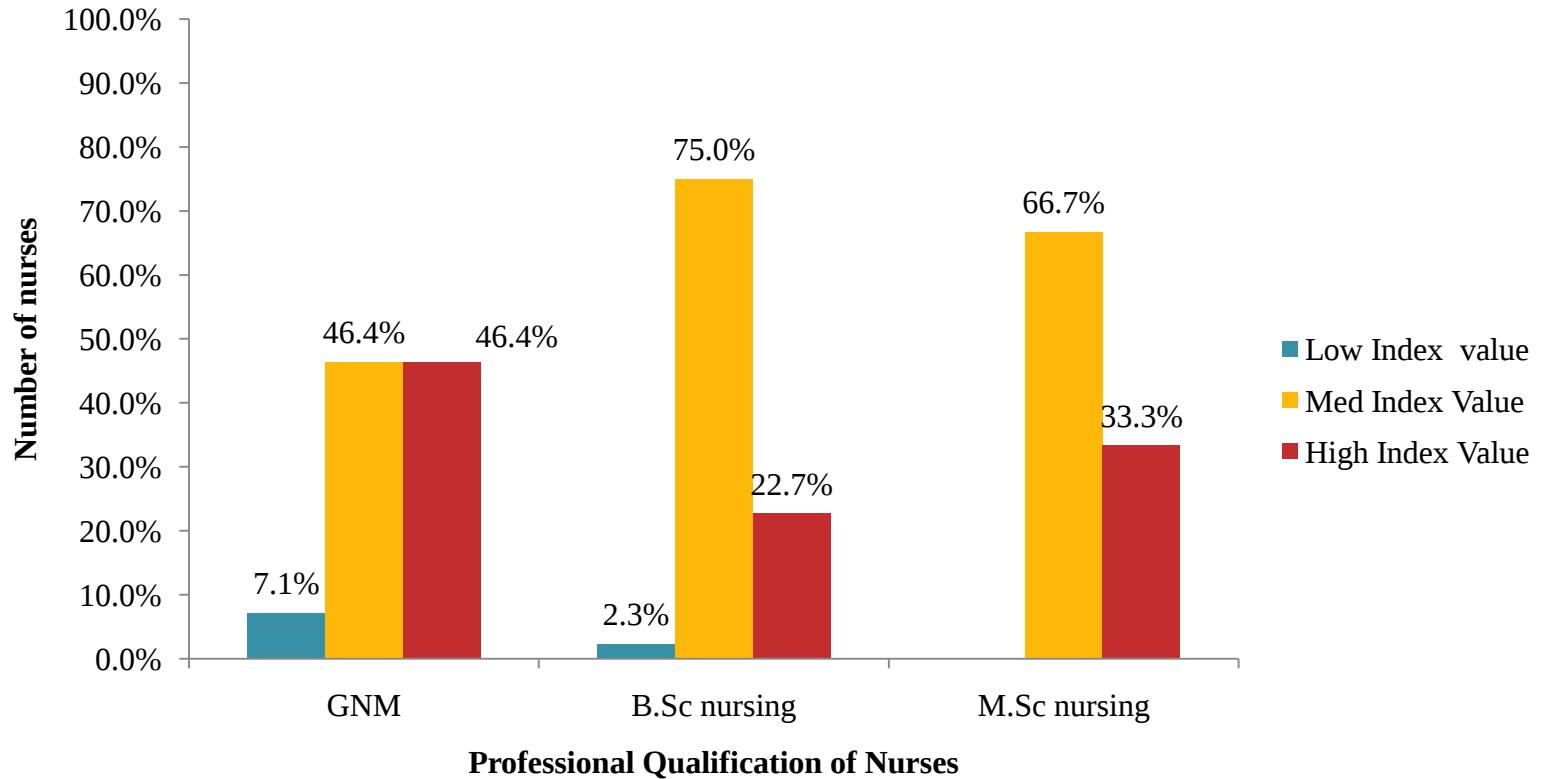
Knowledge level of nurses with M.Sc nursing was highest(100%), followed by GNM(78.6%) and B.Sc nursing(61.4%) respectively.

2.TH0 Act Knowledge Index



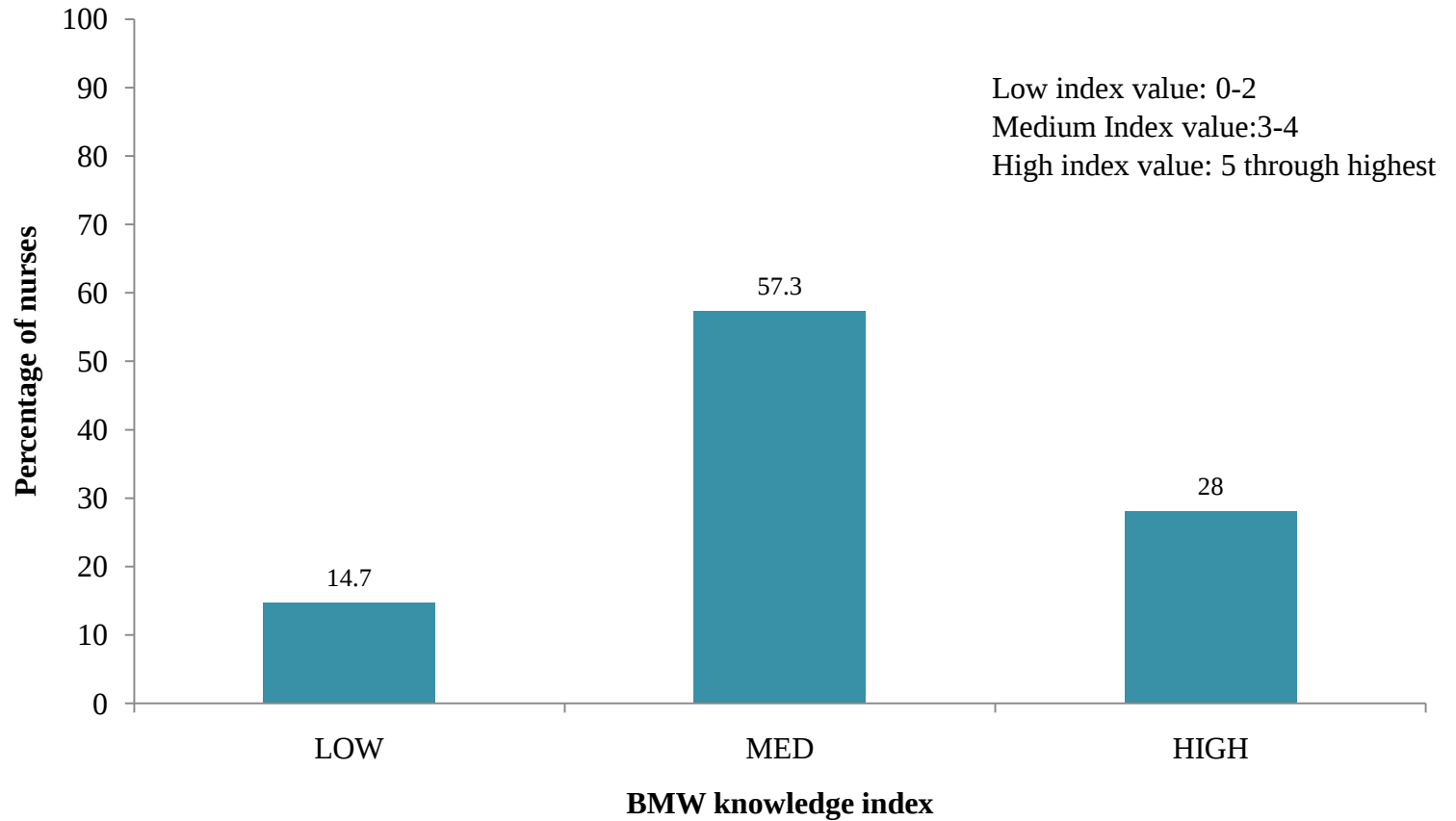
The knowledge level of nurses for Transplantation of human organ act was found be of medium level based on the scoring criteria

2.1 Relationship between Professional Qualification and THO Act Index



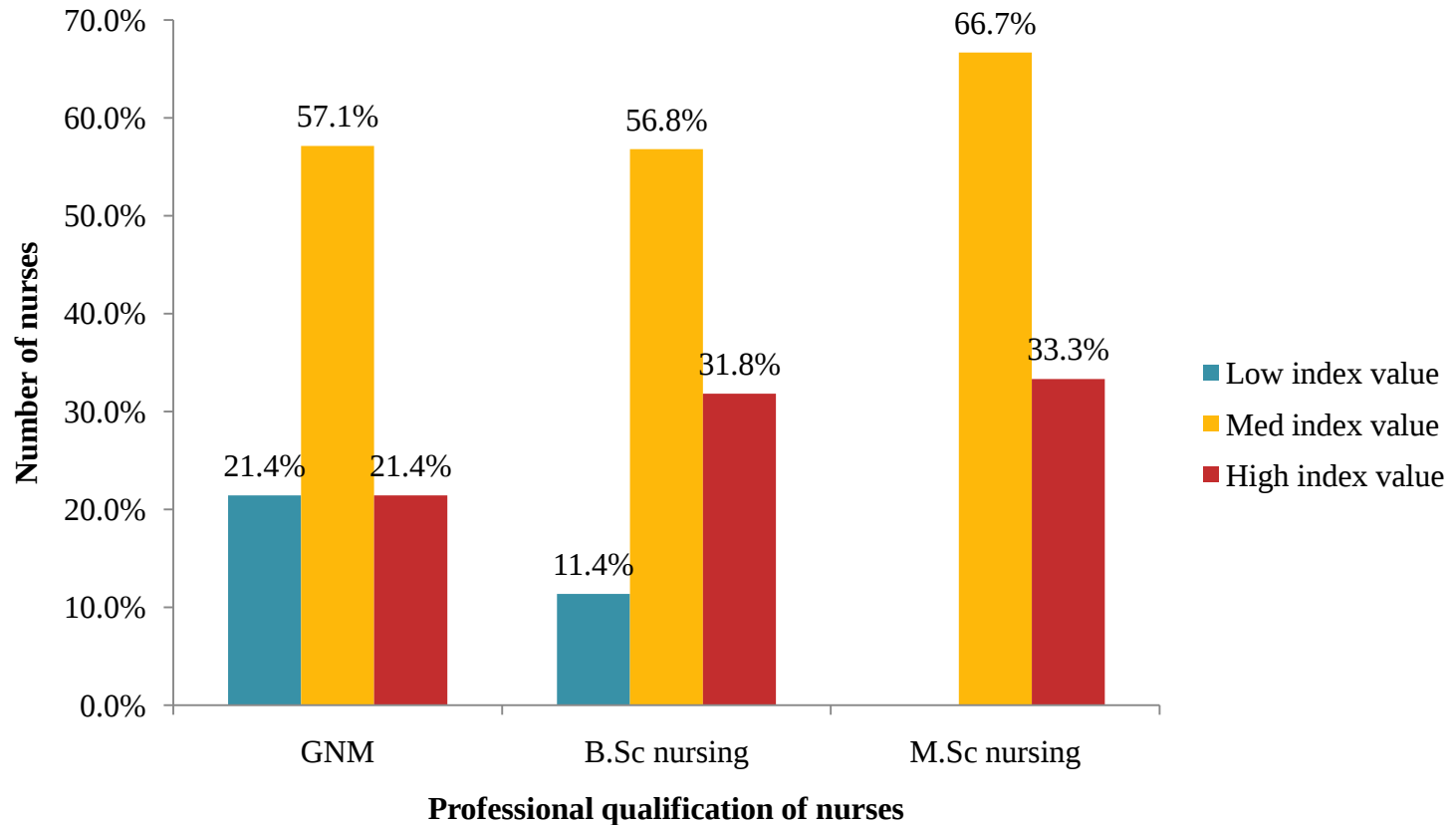
Knowledge level of nurses with B.Sc nursing was highest(75%), followed by M.Sc nursing(66.7%) and GNM nursing(46.4%) respectively.

3.BMW Knowledge Index



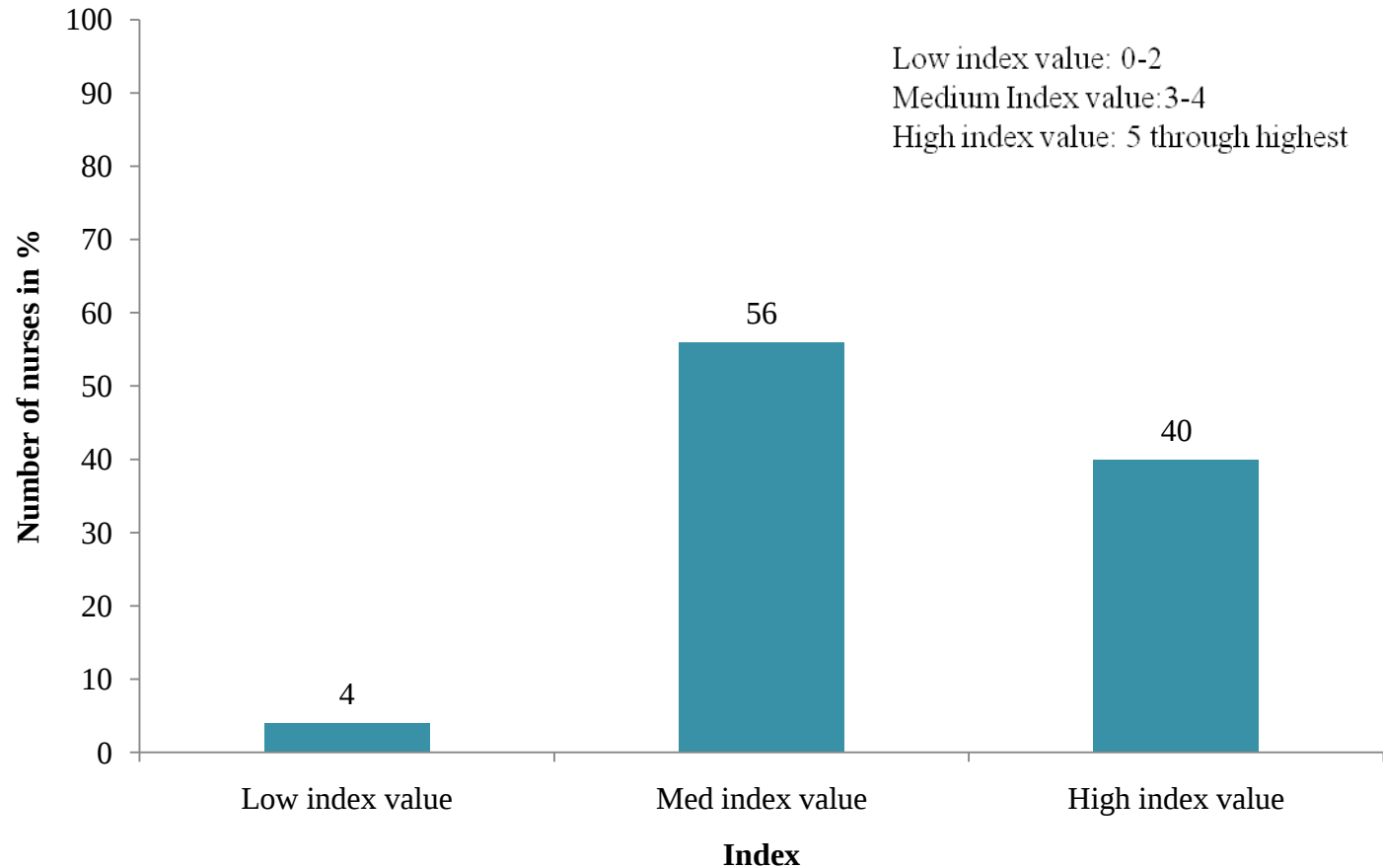
The knowledge level of nurses for bio medical waste management was found to be of medium level based on the scoring criteria

3.1 Relationship between Professional qualification of nurses and BMW knowledge index



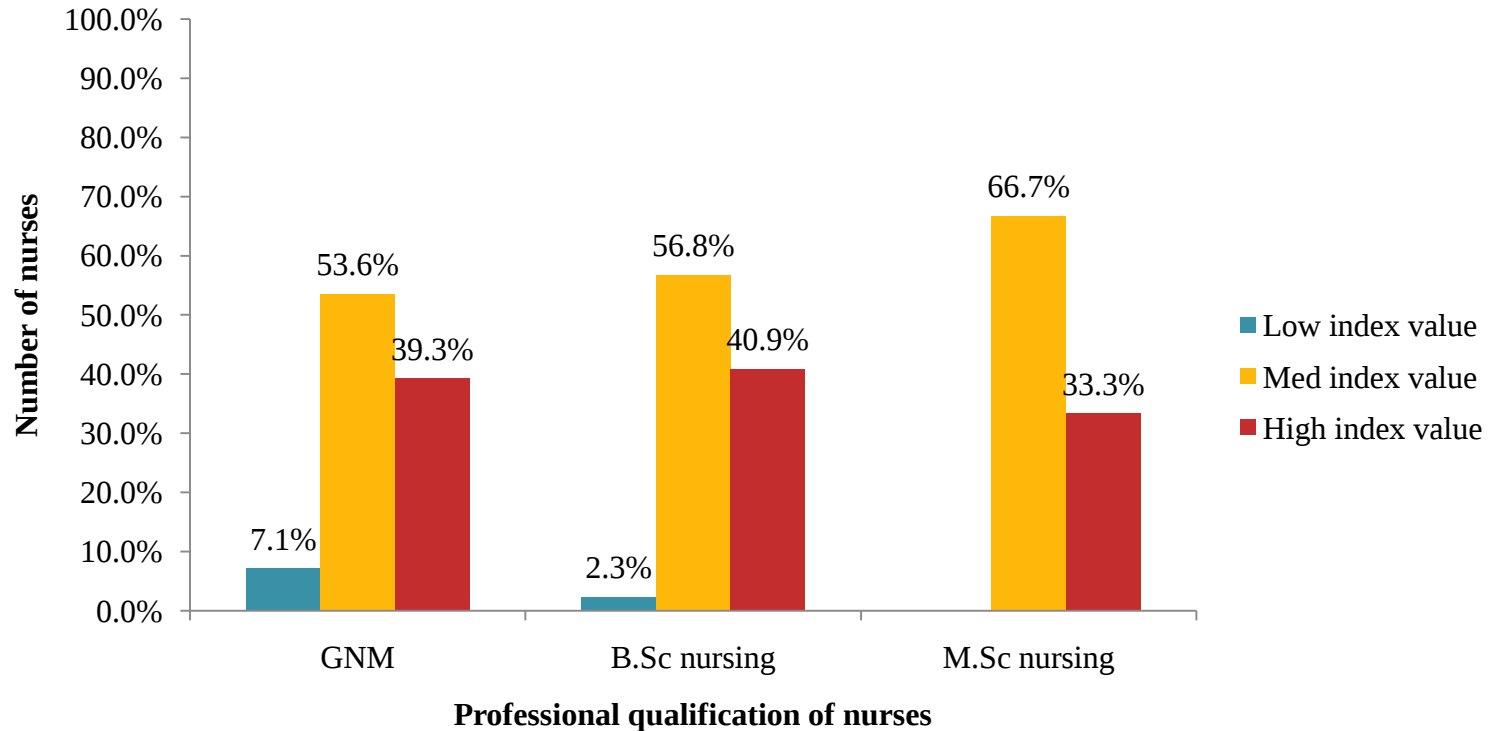
Knowledge level of nurses with M.Sc nursing was highest(66.7%), followed by GNM nursing(57.1%) and B.Sc nursing(56.8%) respectively.

4. Medical negligence knowledge index



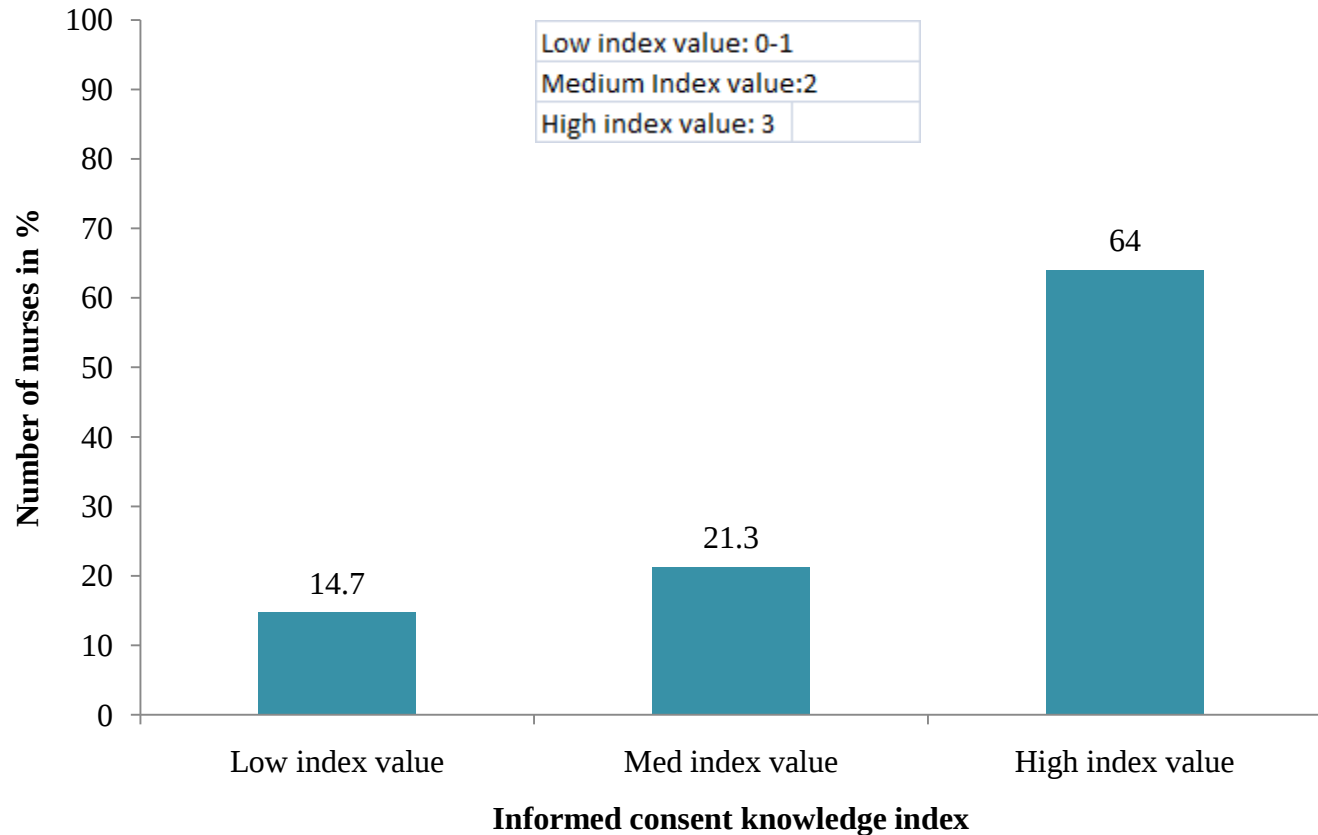
The knowledge level of nurses for medical negligence was found to be of medium level based on the scoring criteria

4.1 Relationship between professional qualification of nurses and medical negligence knowledge index



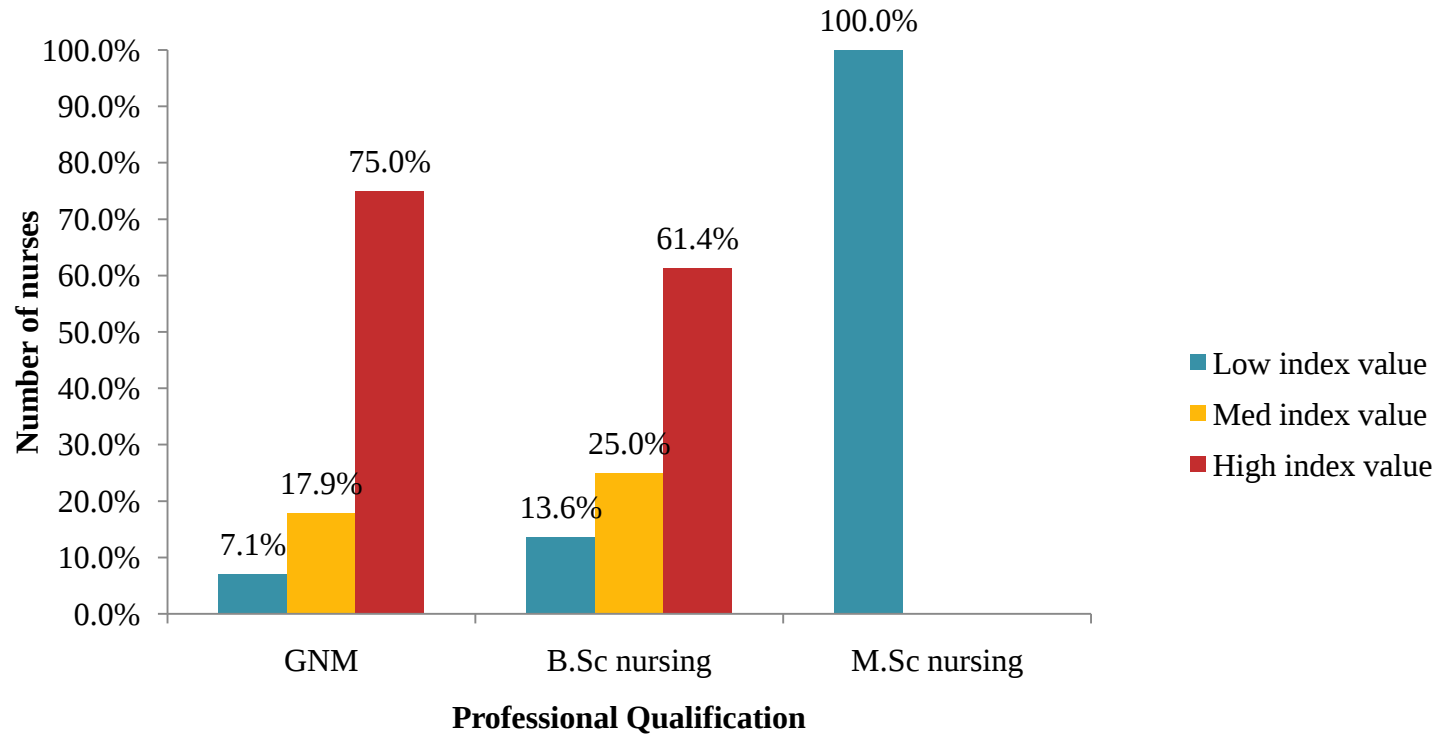
Knowledge level of nurses with M.Sc nursing was highest(66.7%), followed by B.Sc nursing (56.8%) and GNM nursing (53.6%) respectively.

5. Informed consent knowledge index



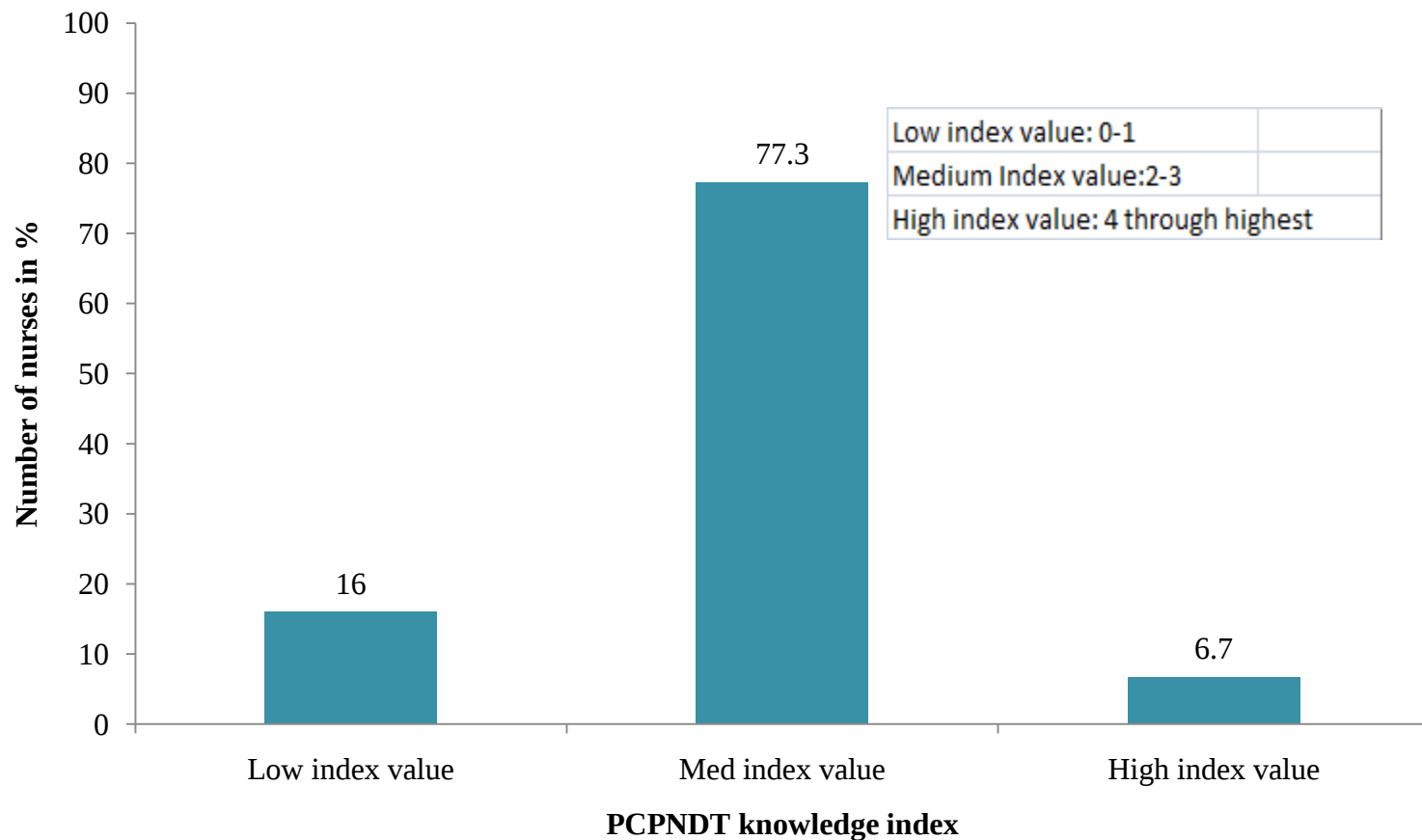
The knowledge level of nurses for informed consent was found to be of high level based on the scoring criteria

5.1 Relationship between professional qualification of nurses and informed consent knowledge index



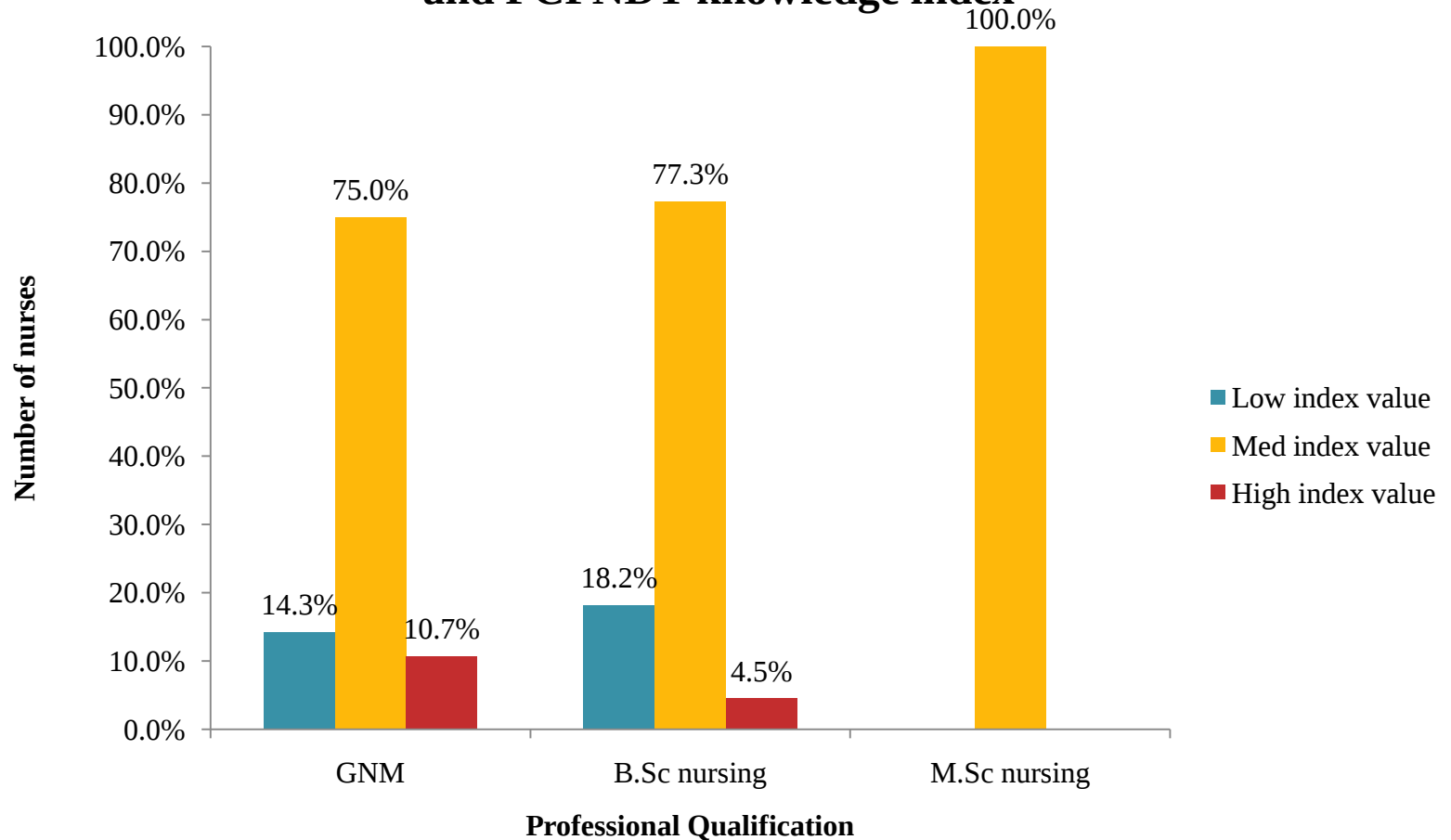
Knowledge level of nurses with B.Sc nursing was highest(75%), followed by B.Sc nursing (61.4%).

6.PCPNDT Knowledge index



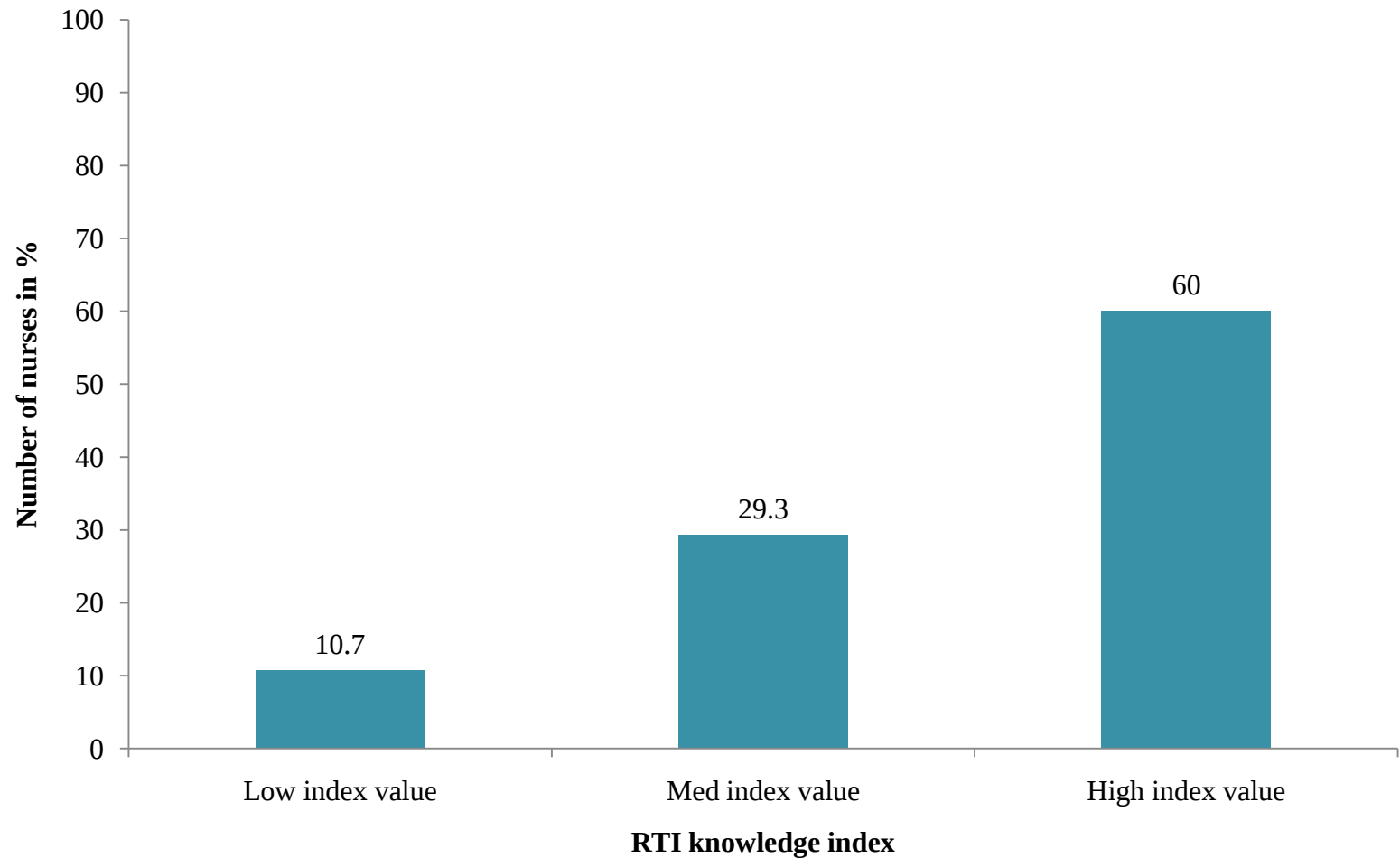
The knowledge level of nurses for informed consent was found to be of medium level based on the scoring criteria

6.1 Relationship between professional qualification of nurses and PCPNDT knowledge index



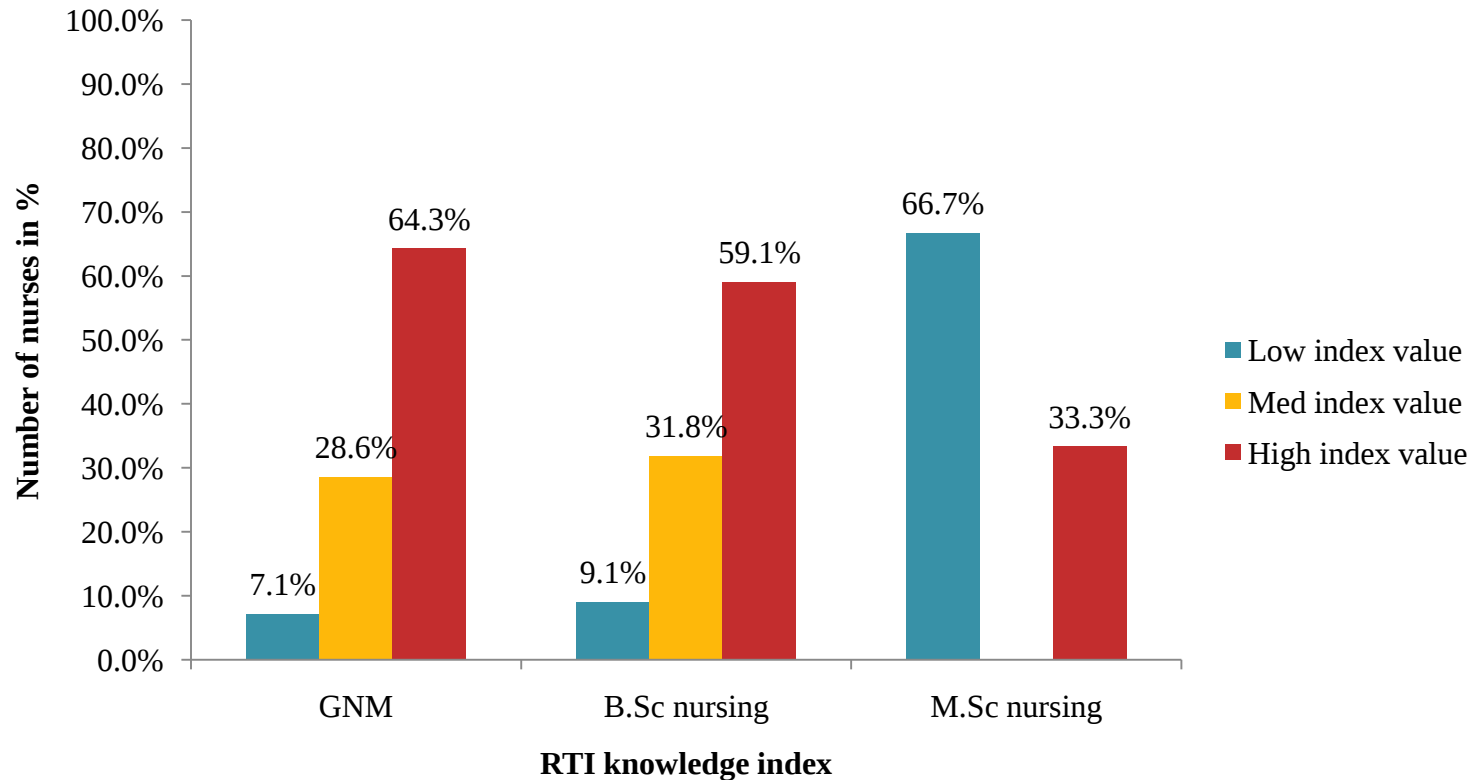
Knowledge level of nurses with M.Sc nursing was highest(100%), followed by B.Sc nursing (77.3%) and GNM (75%) respectively.

7.RTI knowledge index



The knowledge level of nurses for RTI was found be of high level based on the scoring criteria

7.1 Relationship between professional qualifications and RTI knowledge index



Knowledge level of nurses with M.Sc nursing was highest(66.7%), followed by GNM(64.3%) and B.Sc nursing(59.1%) respectively.

Conclusion

- The overall awareness of the medico legal acts was found to be of medium level .
- In case of BMW act, informed consent and PCPNDT substantial number of nurses had low level of awareness which included maximum M.Sc nurses, which needs to be addressed.
- Even though B.Sc is higher degree when compared to GNM ,the level of awareness in these two cadres was found to be almost same .
- Most M.Sc qualified nurses had low level of awareness in PCPNDT Act and informed consent, even though M.Sc is supposed to be highest form of qualification.

Recommendations

- There should be training modules during induction session of nurses since they lack knowledge of these basic acts.
- Continued training should be conducted periodically.

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Thank You