

STUDY ON THE EVALUATION OF NURSES' AWARENESS ABOUT THEIR MEDICO-LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN KIMS HOSPITALS, SECUNDERABAD

By:

Sucharita Roy Dakua

MBA 2nd Year

Roll No. 1418

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(Under the guidance of Dr. Anupam Mehrotra)



Making Quality Healthcare
Accessible & Affordable.



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

- ❖ At Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, cutting-edge technology and medical advancement is the only priority.
- ❖ Through the network of 12 hospitals, it has grown to become the greatest private health organization in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Committed to making sure that the patients can afford the facilities and services and this is possible because of its:
 - Standardized operational and medical protocols guaranteeing the best use of resources;
 - Centralized and streamlined supply chain operations and vendor management delivering higher cost-effectiveness and economies of scale;
 - Ensuring an ideal staff-to-bed ratio, low project costs, efficient capital allocation, and access to full-time physicians and consultants.



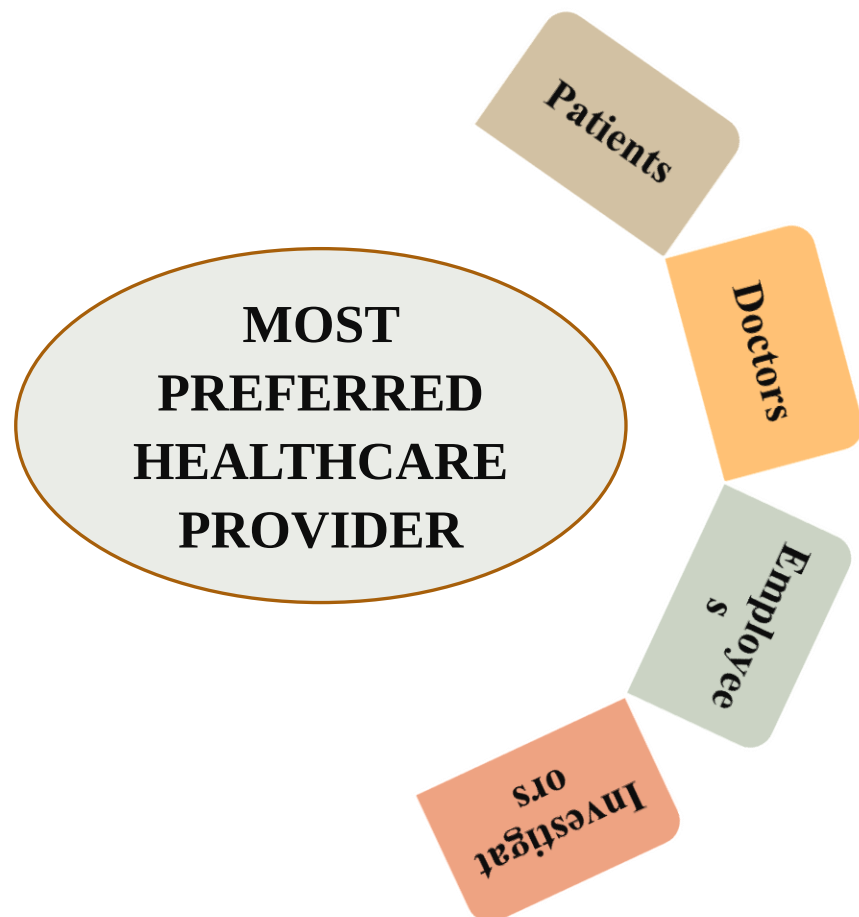


OUR MISSION: Providing affordable quality care to our patients with patient-centric systems and processes. Enable clinical outcome-driven excellence by engaging modern medical technology.



Provide a strong impetus for doctors to pursue academics and medical research.

OUR VISION: To be the most preferred healthcare services brand by providing affordable care and the best clinical outcomes to patients. And to be the best place to work for doctors and employees.



- Affordable quality care
- Best-In-Class facilities
- Patient Centric Systems and processes.

- Clinical outcome-driven excellence
- Latest Medical Technology
- Strong Academics

- Enriching Atmosphere
- Collaborative Culture
- Growth Driven Career Approach.

- Transparent Governance
- Strong Operational Performance
- Consistent Growth



INTRODUCTION:

- ✓ This study evaluates nurses' awareness of their medico-legal obligations. MLC is defined as “any case of injury or ailment where, after obtaining a medical history and conducting a clinical examination, the health worker considers the investigation warranted to ascertain circumstances and fix responsibility regarding the said injury in accordance with the law”.
- ✓ International trends in medico-legal concerns are progressively attracting the public's notice and receiving accusations against nurses seem to be rising in emerging countries. This led to the requirement for a high perception of professionalism by the nursing staff. This practice is largely dependent on the breadth of understanding and practical application of medical ethics.

Common mistakes which lead to MLC :

Misdiagnosis or Delayed Diagnosis

Medication Errors

Childbirth Injuries

Surgery Error

Anesthesia Errors



RESEARCH QUESTION:

Are the nurses of KIMS hospitals aware of Medico-Legal Obligations in their work process?

AIM:

This project aims to assess awareness and knowledge of medico-legal issues among nursing staff in KIMS Hospitals.

OBJECTIVES :

- To assess perspectives and familiarities of nurses with medico-legal issues and describe how their knowledge of legal and ethical implications will impact the hospital.
- To promote medical ethics knowledge, attitude, and other responsible elements necessary to uphold all of these.
- To identify factors that influence the KAP of nursing staff on the Medico-Legal Aspect of their work.

NEED OF THE RESEARCH:

Cases of medical liability are rising and being the medical personnel there is a need to check whether the nurses are aware of the legal compliance. In this generation of educated society, it is important for any hospital to maintain its reputation. Any negligence due to any staff may impact the brand image. This study is basically to evaluate their knowledge of compliance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

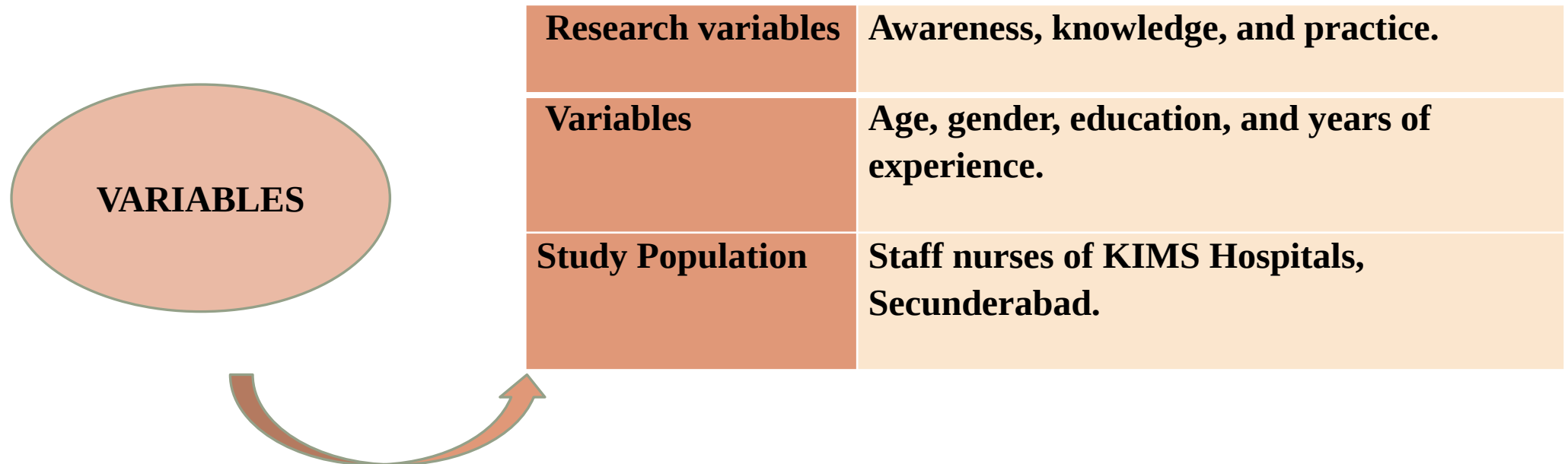
S.NO.	AUTHOR NAME & YEAR	TITLE	OBJECTIVE	METHODOLOGY	RESULT
1.	<u>Bernard Asamoah Barnie</u> et al. (2015)	Knowledge and Perceptions of Health Workers' Training on Ethics, Confidentiality, and Medico-Legal Issues	To increase training efficacy based on the outcomes.	A cross-sectional survey was carried out using questionnaires. And SPSS was used to evaluate the data that had been gathered.	This poll covered 103 employees, and 74% of them were having sufficient knowledge about medical ethics and the remaining respondents had an insufficient understanding.
2.	<u>A. W. I. P. Ranasinghe</u> et al. (2020)	Medical Ethics: knowledge, attitude, and Practice among Doctors in three teaching hospitals in Sri Lanka	To improve knowledge, attitude, and practice of medical ethics as well as accountable aspects to maintain all these.	A self-administered questionnaire was employed in the cross-sectional study design. The relationship between knowledge level and causative factors was evaluated using the Chi-Square and ANOVA tests.	Even though the doctors in the three institutions had varying levels of expertise, it was obvious that they were open to receiving training to deepen their grasp of medical ethics.
3.	<u>Anamika Nath</u> et al. (2022)	Cross-sectional study on knowledge of registered medical practitioners, regarding management of medico-legal cases in Meghalaya.	To assess the knowledge of medico-legal cases among Meghalaya's certified medical practitioners.	Assessment was done based on title and years of experience, using a questionnaire as a tool.	The findings revealed that among registered medical practitioners, there was no correlation between designation and years of experience with their knowledge of medico-legal matters.

S.NO.	AUTHOR NAME & YEAR	TITLE	OBJECTIVE	METHODOLOGY	RESULT
4	<u>Ahmed Ibrahim Alyahya</u> et al. (2018)	Experience, education, and training impact medicolegal knowledge, attitude, and practice	To examine medical professionals' understanding, attitude, and practice of medicolegal issues, as well as the effects that experience and training have had on these issues.	In the province of Riyadh, 69 doctors and 16 nurses from various institutions were invited to complete a questionnaire based on their demographics and level of medical-legal training.	Regarding KAP, statistical variations between experience years were found. The findings showed that the detrimental effects are caused by a gap between medical legal case education and training, and that this training gap needs to be closed.
5.	<u>E R Walrond</u> et al. (2006)	Knowledge, attitudes, and practice of medical students at the Cave Hill Campus in relation to ethics and law in healthcare	Medical students' knowledge, attitudes, and actions regarding ethics and the law in the healthcare industry are being evaluated to change the academic program.	Students and other staff members at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados were given a questionnaire based on medical legal regulations and ethics. Later, SPSS was used to examine the data that had been gathered.	The findings indicated that although the students felt a need for medical and legal knowledge, they were unable to handle such scenarios in practice. The study emphasizes the significance of identifying students with less ethical understanding.
6.	Hemant Kumar et al. (2013)	Legal Awareness and Responsibilities of Nursing Staff in Administration of Patient Care in A Trust Hospital	To evaluate the nursing staff's understanding of legal awareness and fundamental nursing practices in a trust hospital.	A cross-sectional, randomized study was planned to ascertain the level of legal understanding and learning on basic nursing procedures carried out, among the nursing personnel. An open-ended questionnaire was created and validated..	All groups of nurses under consideration were determined to have poor knowledge . Nurses with GNM credentials performed better than those with ANM credentials. The results also displayed that those with more than 10 years of experience had the best knowledge of various legal regulations, earning an average score of 28.75.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION:

A self-made questionnaire was made available. After receiving approval from the selected authorized person, data was collected through Google Forms. Two hundred staff nurses from the KIMS hospitals in Secunderabad filled up the questionnaire. For guaranteed anonymity regarding the data and outcomes, the questionnaire was filled out with anonymous responses.



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graph TD; SD([SAMPLING DESIGN]) --> S[SAMPLE]; SD --> SS[SAMPLE SIZE]; SD --> SC[SAMPLING CRITERIA]; SD --> ST[SETTING OF THE STUDY]; SD --> ST2[SAMPLING TECHNIQUE];
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SAMPLING DESIGN

SAMPLE

Staff nurses working in KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad.

SAMPLE SIZE

A total number of 200 staff nurses

SAMPLING CRITERIA

Inclusion Criteria:

Nurses who filled out the questionnaire and were currently working in KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad are included in this study.

Exclusion Criteria:

The study excludes those participants who didn't willingly filled the questionnaire.

SETTING OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out in KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

Staff Nurses were chosen using the nonprobability convenience sampling technique after receiving ethical clearance. Data is gathered from a sample using the questionnaire.



ABOUT THE STUDY TOOL

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOOL:

The instrument was developed in accordance with the research objectives, literature review, and expert advice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL:

Section A: Itemized sociodemographic information which includes:

- Age
- Gender
- Education
- Years of experience

Section B: Medical and legal awareness related 10 questions.

SCORING & INTERPRETATION:

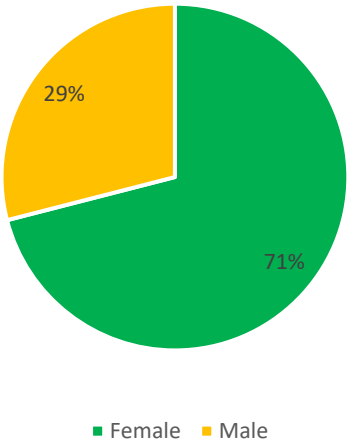
The questions were worded as multiple-choice questions, with 3 distracting possibilities and 1 correct answer. One mark is awarded for the right answer, while zero is awarded for the incorrect one.

The obtained knowledge score varied from:

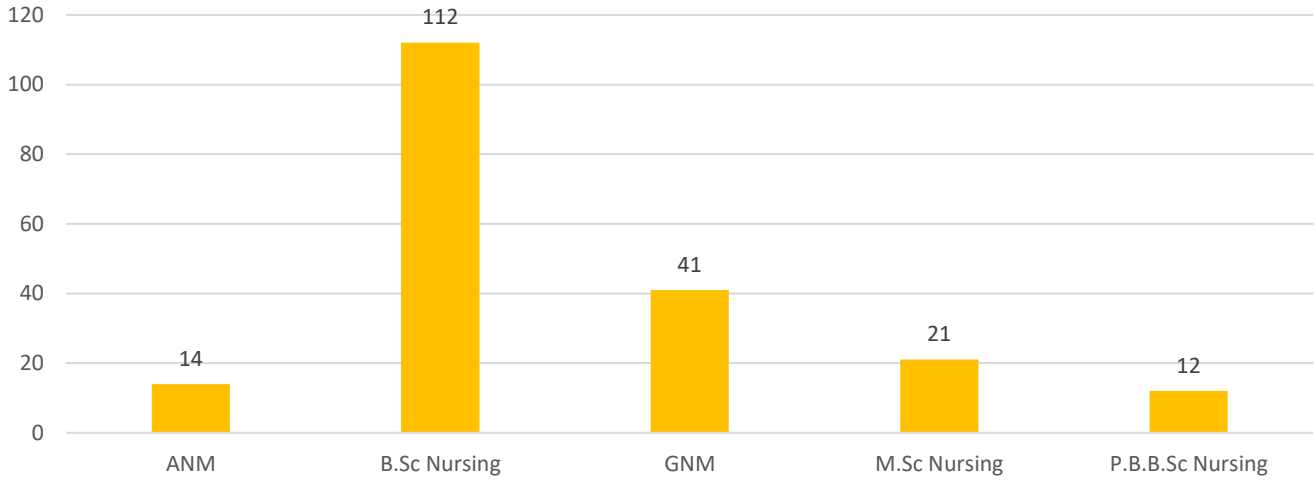
- Adequate Awareness: (66% to 100%).
- Moderately adequate (26% to 65%).
- Suboptimal Awareness: (<=25%).

RESULTS

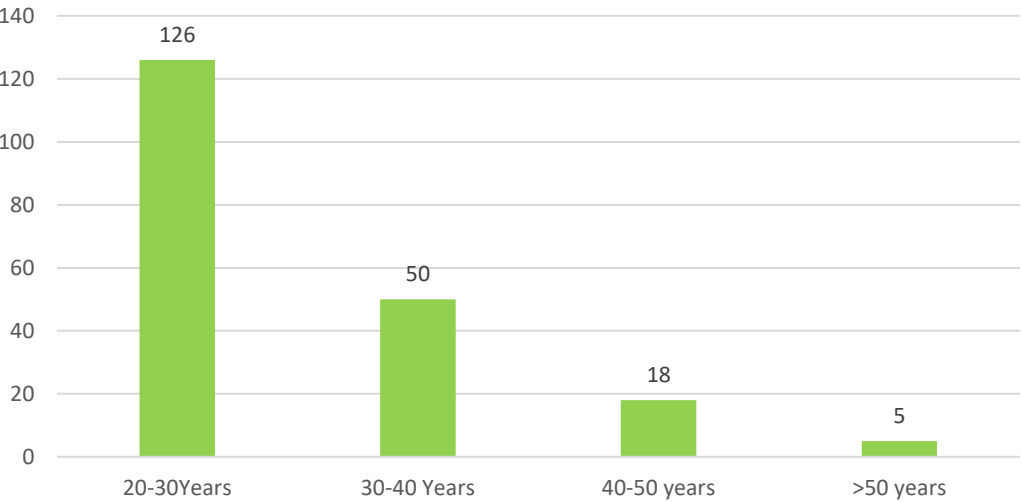
COMPARISON OF MALE & FEMALE NURSES



EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE NURSES



AGE GROUP OF THE NURSES



WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE NURSES

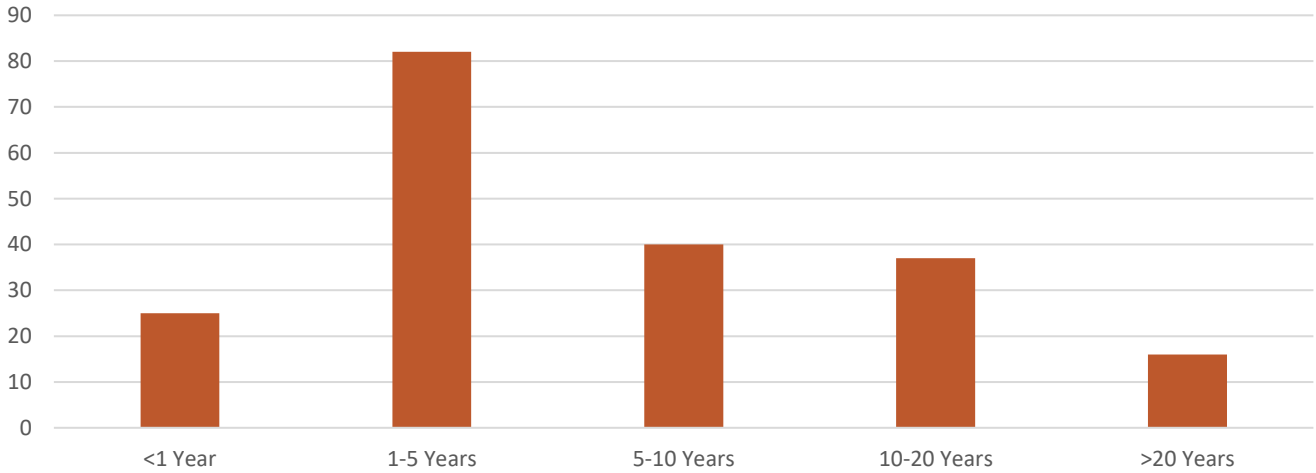


Table 1: Scores based on Educational Qualification.

Educational Qualification	Adequate Awareness	Moderately Adequate Awareness	Suboptimal Awareness	Total
ANM	7	6	1	14
B.Sc Nursing	46	60	6	112
GNM	25	15	1	41
M.Sc Nursing	17	4	0	21
P.B.B.Sc Nursing	9	3	0	12
Total	104	88	8	200
Pearson Chi2 = 17.06 Prob = 0.0295				

Table 2: Scores based on Gender.

Gender	Adequate Awareness	Moderately Adequate Awareness	Suboptimal Awareness	Total
Female	81	54	7	142
Male	23	34	1	58
Total	104	88	8	200
Pearson Chi2 = 7.42 Prob = 0.0245				

Table 3: Mean, Standard Deviation, Min, and Max of Variables.

Variab le	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Age	200	29.5	7.845	21	56
Month s of Experi ence	200	80.63	84.258	6	372

Table 4: Scores based on the Age of the respondents.

Age	Adequate Awarenes s	Moderate ly Adequate Awarenes s	Suboptim al Awarenes s	Total
20 to 30 Years	41	77	8	126
30 to 40 Years	39	11	0	50
40 to 50 years	18	0	0	18
More than 50 years	5	0	0	5
Total	103	88	8	199
Pearson Chi2 = 54.50 Prob = 0.0000				

Table 5: Scores based on Work Experience (In Years).

Work Experience	Adequate Awareness	Moderately Adequate Awareness	Suboptimal Awareness	Total
Less Than One year	7	16	2	25
One to Five Years	23	54	5	82
Five to Ten years	22	17	1	40
Ten to Twenty Years	36	1	0	37
More than Twenty Years	16	0	0	16
Total	104	88	8	200
Pearson Chi2 = 70.40 Prob = 0.0000				

ANALYSIS

- In this survey, 200 nurses had participated which was 25% of the total Nursing Staffs in this hospital. Out of these 200 respondents, 71% of them were found to be female nurses and rest of them were male and majority of the respondents have done B.Sc. Nursing.
- It is evident from the survey that most of the nurses who have participated belong to the category who have one to five years of work experience. It was also observed that the nurses in the category of 20 to 30 years of age had mostly filled the questionnaire. The Mean out of the 200 nurses was 29.5 while the Minimum age was 21years and Maximum age of the respondents were found to be 56years.
- When we applied chi-square for comparison between scores of male and female nurses, it was found that there was a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$). difference among the score of males and females . A statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between the score of nurses who have pursued ANM, B.Sc. Nursing, GNM, M. Nursing and P.B.B.Sc. Nursing was also observed in this study.
- It was also found that the nurses with higher degree of education like M.Sc nursing has adequate level of awareness as compared to that of lower educational qualifications.
- It was also observed that there is a shift in the level of awareness from suboptimal to adequate awareness along with years of experience. Also, when we applied chi-square for the comparison between the age group of nurses and score, it was found to that there was a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) difference between the score of nurses in the age group 20 to 30 Years, 30 to 40 Years, 40 to 50 years, and more than 50 years. The results indicates that along with age, the nurses have become more sensitized towards such issues.

DISCUSSIONS

- Hemant Kumar et al. have done a similar kind of study and it was found that compared to ANM nurses, GNM nurses performed better in terms of having legal awareness and responsibilities. Similarly, it was observed after conducting this study that Nursing staffs with a background of Masters in nursing have more adequate knowledge as compared to that of B.Sc Nursing.
- It can also be inferred those years of experience plays a crucial role in shifting the level of awareness from suboptimal to adequate awareness.
- Though in this study, the overall responses of the nurses were good in terms of their level of awareness but, regular training to update the knowledge of the nurses who have lesser work experience and lower educational qualification is necessary to ensure continuous improvement in providing quality healthcare

CONCLUSION

- Nurses are the primary individuals in charge of providing complete patient care and they require more current understanding to handle medico-legal problems.
- From this study, it can be concluded that an individual's learnings, years of experience, and age group plays a crucial role in building sensitization towards medico-legal issues.
- The study would act as a reference for the organization to have an idea of their nursing staff's awareness and it also emphasizes the necessity of identifying the nurses who struggle with medico-legal awareness and developing strategies for addressing and improving any shortcomings.
- Though these 200 respondents (25% of the total nurses of this hospital) filled up the questionnaire, but depending on these responses, the results and analysis cannot be generalised to the rest 75% of the remaining nurses.

SUGGESTIONS:



The organization should conduct workshops and training to guide the nurses regarding their medico-legal obligations.

After hiring any nurse, during the orientation programs the organization should provide either a soft copy or hard copy of a module related to this.

During the nursing courses, the faculties should use various teaching aids like pamphlets, posters, ppts, etc. to provide better understanding.

Is important to review the nursing course curriculum and Medico-legal case studies should be included in the curriculum in KIMS.

For newly joined nurses, the organization should conduct viva or written MCQ exams, to keep a check on their Medico-legal knowledge.

The senior nurses should share their knowledge with the junior nurses and should conduct some classes to have a discussion on such topics.

Key activities undertaken other than dissertation:

Designing surgical packages.

OPD Process Flow Observations.

FC – 5th floor ICU patients (Use of FC Module).

I Porter Transport Services (the reasons behind cancellations).

Discharge Process Follow-up for corporate patients.

Discharge Process Tracking (Reasons behind delay).

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THANK YOU

