



## Effectiveness of structured teaching program regarding knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing among staff nurses working in selected hospitals at Bangalore

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### Abstract

The present study was undertaken to evaluate the Effectiveness of structured teaching program regarding knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing among staff nurses in selected hospitals at Bangalore. Pre-experimental, one group pre- test, post-test design was used. Convenient sampling method was used to select the samples. Information was collected from 50 staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing by using the structured knowledge questionnaire. STP was implemented and post-test was conducted after 7 days to find the effectiveness. Study findings showed that pre-test knowledge scores were found to be 43.05% and after STP the posttest knowledge scores of staff nurses was found to be 77.45% which is enhanced by 34.4%. With the t-test value 25.96\* and chi square value 80.18\* which is significant at 5% level. Hence the result has proved that STP was effective in improving the knowledge of staff nurses on ethical and legal issues in nursing.

**Keywords:** staff nurses, knowledge, ethics, legal issues

### Introduction

Nurses work in a fast-paced, technical environment. They must make quick decisions about patient care and effectively communicate with other healthcare personnel. After graduation, professional development is an important component of a successful nursing career. The legal definition of the standard of care for nurses is defined as that of what a reasonable and prudent nurse would do when caring for a same or similar patient in the same or similar circumstances. The reason for having such a general definition is to allow for changes in the manner in which nursing is practiced. The consumers are patients with complex needs. With increased awareness of health care, health care facilities and consumer protection act. All patients are getting awareness about their rights. Nurses also have now the expanded role. Nursing ethics is a branch of applied ethics that concerns itself with activities in the field of nursing. Nursing ethics shares many principles with medical, ethics, such as beneficence, non-maleficence, and respect for autonomy.

### Objectives of the study

1. To assess the existing knowledge of staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing through pre-test.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching program regarding knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing through post-test among staff nurses.
3. To find an association between post-test knowledge scores of staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing and their selected socio- demographic variables.

### Hypotheses

1. H<sub>1</sub>: There will be a significant increase in the mean post-test knowledge scores of staff nurses working in selected

hospitals at Bangalore regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.

2. H<sub>2</sub>: There will be a significant association between post-test knowledge scores regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing and the selected socio- demographic variables among staff nurses working in selected hospitals at Bangalore.

### Assumptions

1. Staff nurses will have some knowledge regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.
2. Structured teaching program regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing can increase the knowledge of staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.

### Variables of this study

**Independent variable:** Structured teaching program on ethical and legal issues in nursing.

**Independent variable:** Knowledge of staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.

**Socio-demographic variables:** Age, General educational, Professional education, Clinical working experience, in-service education programs, Attended seminars/workshop, source of information.

### Delimitation

The study is delimited to 50 staff nurses at selected hospital Bangalore.

### Methodology

#### Research approach/design

In view to the nature of the problem selected for the study and the objectives to be accomplished, evaluative approach was

considered as appropriate research approach for the present study. The research design selected for the present study is pre Experimental with one group pre-test and post-test design, in which pre-test is conducted followed by structured teaching program and then conducting post-test for the same group after 7 days.

**Target Population**

Population is a group whose member possesses specific attributes that a researcher is interested to study. Target population in the present study was staff nurses working in selected hospital, Bangalore.

**Setting of the study**

This study was conducted in K.C. General Hospital in Bangalore. The criteria for selection of the setting are the availability of subjects, feasibility of conducting the study.

**Sample/ Sample Size / Technique**

The sample of this study comprised of 50 staff nurses working in K.C. General Hospital, Bangalore. Convenient sampling method was used to draw the sample.

**Criteria for selection of sample**

**a) Inclusion criteria**

1. Staff nurses who are willing to participate in the study.
2. Staff nurses who are available at the time of data collection.

**b) Exclusion Criteria**

1. Staff nurses who are on leave and sick during the time of data collection.

**Tools used for the study**

A Structured knowledge questionnaire was prepared to collect the data to achieve objectives of the study is depends on thorough review of literature from published and unpublished research studies, journals and consultation with the guide, subject experts.

**Section-I:** consisted of 09 items related to socio demographic data of the subjects such as age in years, gender, religion, professional qualification, experience (years), work area, In-service training and source of information on ethical and legal issues in nursing.

**Section-II:** Structured knowledge questionnaire consisted of 40 items on knowledge regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.

**Procedure for data collection**

Formal administrative permission to conduct study was obtained from the Medical Superintendent, and nursing superintendent of K.C. General Hospital, Bangalore and from subjects. The pre-test was conducted for 50 staff nurses by using structured knowledge questionnaire; approximately 45 minutes were spent for collecting data. The investigator gathered staff nurses in a comfortable room and conducted STP. After 7 days post-test was given with the same structured knowledge questionnaire. Each subject took about 45 minutes to complete the post-test. The data collection process was terminated by thanking the subject’s co-operation and participation.

**Results**

**Table 1:** Aspect wise mean Pre- test and Post- test Knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing. N = 50

No.	Knowledge Aspects	Respondents Knowledge						Paired ‘t’ Test
		Pre test		Post test		Enhancement		
		Mean (%)	SD	Mean (%)	SD	Mean (%)	SD	
I	General information on ethics	41	1.62	77.85	1.68	36.85	0.06	16.12*
II	Information on Legal aspects	54	0.44	86	0.448	32	0.008	8*
III	Principles of ethics in nursing	45.4	1.08	79.8	1.10	34.4	0.02	15.85*
IV	Principles of Legal aspects in nursing	44.5	1.13	73.27	1.2	28.72	0.10	14.36*
V	Ethical and legal issues in nursing	32	0.52	77.33	0.7	45.33	0.17	9.06*

\* Significant at 5% level, NS: Non-Significant, t (0.05, 49df) =1.96

**Table 2:** Over all pretest and posttest mean knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing. N=50

Aspects	Max. Score	Respondents Knowledge			Paired ‘t’ Test
		Mean	SD	Mean (%)	
Pre test	40	17.22	2.65	43.05	25.96*
Post test	40	30.98	2.7	77.45	
Enhancement	40	13.76	0.046	34.4	

\* Significant at 5% level, t (0.05, 49 DF) = 1.96

**Table 3:** Association between demographic variables and posttest knowledge level

S. No.	Characteristics	Category		Respondents				$\chi^2$	P
				Moderate		Adequate			
				N	%	N	%		
1	Age (years)	21-30	24	6	25	18	75	0.5837	0.9001 P<0.05
		15-40	13	3	23.07	10	76.92		
		41-50	8	2	25	6	75		
		51 and above	5	2	40	3	60		
2	Gender	Male	6	2	33.33	4	66.66	0.1906	0.6624 P<0.05
		Female	44	11	25	33	75		
3	Religion	Hindu	44	9	20.45	35	79.55	6.2937*	0.0430 P<0.05
		Christian	4	3	75	1	25		
		Muslim	2	1	50	1	50		
		Others	0	0	0	0	0		
4	Professional Qualification	Diploma	17	1	5.88	16	94.11	5.4182*	0.0199 P<0.05
		Graduation	33	12	36.36	21	63.64		
5	1. Experience in years	0 -5	25	6	24	19	76	2.0864	0.5547 P<0.05
		6-10	11	2	18.18	9	81.82		
		11-15	5	1	20	4	80		
		15 and above	9	4	44.44	5	55.56		
6	Area of Working	Medical surgical ward	0	0	0	0	0	5.4257*	0.0198 P<0.05
		Paediatric ward	4	3	75	1	25		
		OBG ward	46	10	21.74	36	78.26		
		Other wards	0	0	0	0	0		
8	In-Service Training	Yes	3	0	0	3	100	1.1213	0.2896 P<0.05
		No	47	13	27.65	34	72.34		
9	Source of information	Mass media	25	3	12	22	88	6.3929*	0.0409 P<0.05
		Health personnel	20	7	35	13	65		
		Peer group	5	3	60	2	40		
		Any others	0	0	0	0	0		

\* Significant at 5% level, NS: Non-Significant

### Findings of the study

Majority 48% of the respondent's fall between the ages of 21-30 years. Majority 88 % of the respondents are females. Majority of the respondents 88% are Hindus the professional qualification of 66% of the respondents is graduation. Majority 50% of respondents fall between 0-5 years of experience. Majority 92 % of the respondents are working in OBG ward. Majority 94% of subjects had no in-service education regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing. Majority 50 % of respondents got information regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing from mass media.

The overall knowledge in pre-test is 43.05%, which is less. This shows that there is lack of information among staff nurses regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing. Although some staff nurses had moderate knowledge (26%), and majority of them had inadequate knowledge (74%) regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing.

There was a considerable improvement of knowledge after the Structured Teaching Program on ethical and legal issues in nursing and is statistically established as significant.

Pre-test knowledge scores were found to be 43.05% and after STP the post-test knowledge scores of staff nurses was found to be 77.45% which is enhanced by 34.4% with the t-test value 25.96\* and chi square value 80.18\* which is significant at 5% level.

The study results showed that post-test score (mean: 39.6 %, 2.57) was higher than that of pre-test score (mean: 13.23%, 3.88).concluded that the STP was effective in enhancing the knowledge of health professionals regarding ethical and legal

issues in nursing and the teaching programme had a role in improving the knowledge of the health professionals.

### Conclusion

1. The pre-test knowledge score majority (84%) of staff nurses were had inadequate and post-test knowledge (74%) score found adequate.
2. There was significant enhancement (34.4%) in knowledge of staff nurses after conducting Structured Teaching Program on ethical and legal issues in nursing.
3. There was significant association between post-test knowledge scores and selected socio- demographic variables such as religion, professional qualification, and source of information at 0.05 level.
4. The findings of the study revealed that there was no significant association between post-test knowledge score and selected socio-demographic variables such as age in years, gender, and experience in years and in service education regarding ethical and legal issues in nursing at 0.05 level.

### Recommendation

1. A replication of present study can be conducted with a larger population.
2. A comparative study can be conducted among staff nurses working in urban and rural hospitals.
3. Manuals and information booklets may be developed to enhance the knowledge on ethical and legal issues in nursing among nurses.

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