

Involvement of Staff Nurses in Quality Clinical Education

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Abstract

Staff nurses can play key role in quality clinical education. A descriptive exploratory study was conducted to find out the involvement of staff nurses in clinical education to student nurses. 100 staff nurses of hospital which are attached with nursing colleges were included in the study. Rating scale was used to collect data. 80% staff nurses were having GNM qualification and most of them (78%) were interested in providing quality clinical education to student nurses but needs proper guidelines for it.

Keywords: Staff nurses; Quality clinical education; Student nurses.

Background of the Study

Nursing schools and faculty are charged with educating nursing students to enter the workforce as competent and safe entry level nurses. Staff nurses are an integral piece of nursing students' education process and due to the nursing shortage fewer staff are available to assist in the educational process.

As per the curriculum of nursing, students have to spend 50% of the time in clinical area. The clinical instructors are present to supervise and guide the students but their presence is limited for each, but staff nurses those who are present in departments are continuously present with the students. They are also more familiar with the procedures done in the departments as it is practiced by them on regular basis. Students have differences of opinion regarding clinical posting, some feels that their time is being wasted and others have the opinion that they are

gaining a lot in clinical field. This difference of opinion is developed on the basis of support and co-operation they get from the staff nurses who are with them. As to provide quality nursing care is everyone's responsibility, so to prepare better future nurses, it is necessary to have involvement of staff nurses in clinical teaching. So the researcher thought of doing the study to find out the involvement of staff nurses in providing quality clinical teaching.

Problem Statement

A study to assess involvement of senior staff nurses in providing quality clinical education at selected hospitals of Nagpur city.

Objective

1. To determine the level of involvement of staff nurses in teaching nursing students.
2. To find out the association between degree of involvement and selected demographic factors.

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Methodology

Approach: Descriptive.

Target Population: Senior staff nurses (those who are having more than five yrs of clinical experience.)

Sample Size: 100

Tool: Rating scale

Data Analysis: Descriptive inferential statistics.

Review of Literature

A longitudinal qualitative study conducted by Gray & Smith (2000) explored the qualities of effective mentors from nursing students' perspective. The study followed students from their first semesters as nursing students through their last semesters. Students felt that a good mentor would possess the following qualities: professional, organized, caring and self confident as well as enthusiastic, friendly, approachable, patient and understanding with a sense of humor. Students also felt that a staff nurse that involved students in activities and made an effort to spend time with and showed interest in the student were good mentors. The authors found that as the confidence and knowledge level of the students increased the more they wanted a relationship with a staff nurse mentor. The evidence presented in this study demonstrated that the staff nurse does indeed make a large difference in the learning experience of nursing students and the impact they have is extensive (Gray & Smith, 2000).

The nursing shortage in the United States is predicted to reach 260,000 vacancies by the year 2020 and may reach as high as 500,000 by the year 2025. [1] Enlisting staff nurse to aid in the education of nursing students becomes increasingly more difficult with vacancies. When there are decreased numbers of staff nurses available to help, the learning experience for nursing students may suffer.[2]

Nursing education within healthcare facilities relies heavily on modeling of behaviors. Students observe how a procedure is performed and then imitate or practice the procedure on their own.[3] The staff nurse, in many instances, is the one modeling the procedure. The student views this modeling as "competent, powerful, and attractive".[3] Staff nurses' attitudes and behaviors impact the learning environment of the student. If the behaviors or attitudes are in opposition to what the students have learned this leads to confusion and increased stress for the student.[3]

Nursing students face many stressors on their journey to becoming a nurse. For many nursing students the first time they have any contact with the medical environment is their first clinical rotation. As described by one student nurse of her first clinical experience, "I was terrified! I did not know what to do or how to do it" (personal communication, 2013). Working with a staff nurse that is knowledgeable, friendly and willing to teach can help to decrease the level of stress nursing students experience in the clinical learning environment.[4]



**Table 1: Showing Responses of Staff Nurses in Providing Quality Clinical Education
N=100**

Sr. no.	Statements	Always	Sometimes	Never
1	Interest in teaching nursing students	78	22	00
2	Feasibility teaching the students	60	37	03
3	Library reference to read recent research studies.	27	58	15
4	Discussions on research findings	64	24	12
5	Effort made to implement evidenced based nursing Practices	73	27	00
6	Coordination of staff nurses with clinical supervisor	80	20	00
7	Practical classes for students by staff nurses	60	35	05
8	Co- ordination between education & clinical side	87	13	00
9	Relation with nurses on education side	90	10	00
10	Approach of nursing teacher	53	47	00
11	Role & responsibility in teaching young nursing generation	86	14	00
12	Adequate number of nursing supervisors	69	20	11

Results & Discussion

The data was collected from 100 staff nurses out of which, 80% were GNM, 11% were ANM and only 8% were having B.Sc. Nursing qualification.

The above table shows that most of the staff nurses (78%) were always interested in teaching students, 60% of them says it is feasible to teach students. Most of the staff nurses have positive attitude towards teaching student nurses but because they don't have proper guidelines and directions regarding teaching students, their teaching is not that effective. So researcher would like to recommend further studies like taking students opinion and preparing a manual of guidelines for staff nurses regarding clinical teaching.

Recommendation

1. The finding of the study can be used by hospital administrators as well principal of nursing colleges for developing a tool for staff nurses regarding clinical teaching.
2. Same study can be conducted on larger scale and finding can be send to all the hospitals where nursing colleges are attached.

Conclusion

Staff nurses today are under increased stress due

to staffing shortages, increased workloads, and sicker patients. In addition, nurses are being asked to work with nursing students often without any training or guidance. Research has shown that staff nurses are vital to the education and the socialization of nursing students into the profession.

References

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