

“A Descriptive Study To Assess The Knowledge And Practice Regarding Ethical Aspects Of Pediatric Care Among Staff Nurses”

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND OF STUDY; The increasing complexity of ethical issues in pediatric healthcare necessitates enhanced competencies among staff nurses. Pediatric nursing is the specialty that providing nursing care of children and their families from birth through adolescence within the framework of normal physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development. It is not like other nursing specialty and should apply the accepted standards of practice, professional performance, and ethics. Pediatric nurses must examine their own values so they can provide nursing care in an ethical manner.

AIM; To assess the knowledge and practice regarding ethical aspects of pediatric care among staff nurses”.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: In this study, Quantitative approach and descriptive design is adopted to to assess the knowledge and practice regarding ethical aspects of pediatric care among staff nurses. The study is conducted in a selected private hospitals of different regions (Mumbai, Pune and Nashik) from Maharashtra state. 180 samples were taken. Non-probability convenient sampling technique for selection of samples from the population of the study. A validated semi-structured questionnaire and observation check list assessed the staff nurses' knowledge and practices. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

RESULT: Knowledge assessment showed that most staff nurses had poor knowledge (87.2%). A smaller proportion demonstrated average knowledge (22, 12.2%). Only one nurse (0.6%) showed good knowledge, while none reached excellent knowledge. This indicates low baseline knowledge regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care. The practice levels showed that the majority of staff nurses had poor practice, (132, 73.3%). Average practice was noted (48, 26.7%) None of the nurses demonstrated good practice levels. This indicates that overall practice regarding paediatric care was largely inadequate across...

Keywords: Assess, knowledge and practice regarding ethical aspects of pediatric care.

1. INTRODUCTION

Medical ethics is a crucial component of both the research and the practice of medicine. When we use irrational reasons for medical decisions, when we do not update our knowledge, when we are not analytically and scientifically rational, when we do not attempt to communicate effectively or adequately, and when we are discriminatory for whatever reason, we are practicing unethical medicine. Children are a particularly vulnerable group of people, so every clinical choice must be made with specific consideration for the child's needs. As a health professional, it is our responsibility to stand up for and defend the rights of children. This is especially true when it comes to moral dilemmas concerning minors and individuals incapable of making their own decisions. While the needs of the patient should always come first and any personal, cultural, and religious prejudice should be eradicated, it is also important to consider how the patient's expensive treatment may affect the available healthcare resources. Establishing a morally acceptable code of behavior is critical in order to provide a reasonable and objective management strategy for the child as well as society as a whole, regardless of culture.

Research Approach

Quantitative approach was adopted to assess the knowledge and practice regarding ethical aspects of pediatric care among staff nurses.

Research Design; Descriptive research design was applied

Sampling technique: Non-probability convenient sampling technique

Setting of the Study

The study was conducted in a selected private hospitals of Maharashtra state from different regions

Sample Size

The sample size included for the study consist of 180 staff nurses who met the inclusion criteria.

Description of Tool

Section-A: Deals with 7 items seeks information regarding socio demographic variables of staff nurses.

Section-B: : Deals with 25 structured questionnaire items seeks information based on the concept of definition of ethics, code of ethics, Need of ethics, factors which influences, ethical principle, rights of children, Child protection, common ethical issues, and prevention of ethical issues and guidelines for health care professionals and professional values.

Section-C: It consists of selected aspects of ethical aspects regarding pediatric care, contains 22 items with observation checklist.

Data collection process:

To conduct research study formal permission was obtained from the college authority and the ethical committee. After accepting the permission the following steps were taken up:

- Step 1-Researchers introduced themselves and explains the purpose of the research study to the subjects.
- Step 2 – Administration of Socio Demographic variables and structured questionnaire and observation checklist to assess their practice regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care.
- Step 3 - Collection of data.
- Step 4 - Analysis of collected data.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This section outlines the methods and statistical techniques used in the study to analyse the collected data, followed by a detailed interpretation of the findings in relation to the research objectives.

SECTION; 1

This section deals with Analysis of demographic characteristics of staff nurses under study. It is analysed and presented in form of frequency and percentage table.

SECTION-II

In this section Analysis and interpretation of data is done in order to find out association of knowledge and practice with selected demographic variable among staff nurses.

SECTION-I

Table 1 Description of Staff Nurses Demographic Characteristics n=180

S.NO	DEMOGRAPHIC CHACHARACTERSTICS	F	%
1.1	Age		
	21yrs-25yrs	70	38.9
	26yrs-30yrs	66	36.7
	31yrs-40yrs	19	10.6
	> 40yrs	25	13.9

1.2	Gender		
	Male	21	11.7
	Female	159	88.3
1.3	Education		
	GNM	140	77.8
	B.Sc.(N)	28	15.6
	Post Basic B.Sc.(N)	11	6.1
	M.Sc.(N)	1	0.6
1.4	Total working experience		
	Fresher	38	21.1
	1–5 years	55	30.6
	5–10 years	52	28.9
	>10 years	35	19.4
1.5	Whether attended Training		
	Yes	59	32.8
	No	121	67.2
1.6	Area of work		
	Medical ward	84	46.7
	Surgical ward	40	22.2
	ICU	56	31.3
1.7	Experience in Paediatric ward		
	0 -10 years	146	81.1
	11-20 years	16	8.9
	21-30 years	18	9.1
	31-40 years	0	0

Table .1 depicts the demographic characteristics of staff nurses **Age:** 70 nurses (38.9%) were aged 21–25 years, 66 (36.7%) were 26–30 years **Gender:** 21 males (11.7%) and 159 females (88.3%) **Education:** 140 GNM (77.8%), 28 B.Sc. Nursing (15.6%). **Total working Experience:** 38 fresher's (21.1%), 55 with 1–5 years (30.6%), 52 with 5-10 years (28.9%). **Training:** On ethical issues in child care was reported by 59 nurses (32.8%), while the rest had not attended training. **Area of work** 84 in medical wards (46.7%), 40 in surgical wards (22.2%), and 56 in ICUs (31.1%). **Experience in pediatric ward:** Most nurses (146(81.1%) had 0–10 years of pediatric ward experience.

Table 2 Analysis of knowledge levels regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care among staff nurses n = 180

Assessment of knowledge levels regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care among staff nurses	Percent Range	F	%
Poor knowledge	0 – 40%	157	87.2
Average knowledge	41 – 60%	22	12.2
Good knowledge	61 – 100%	1	0.6

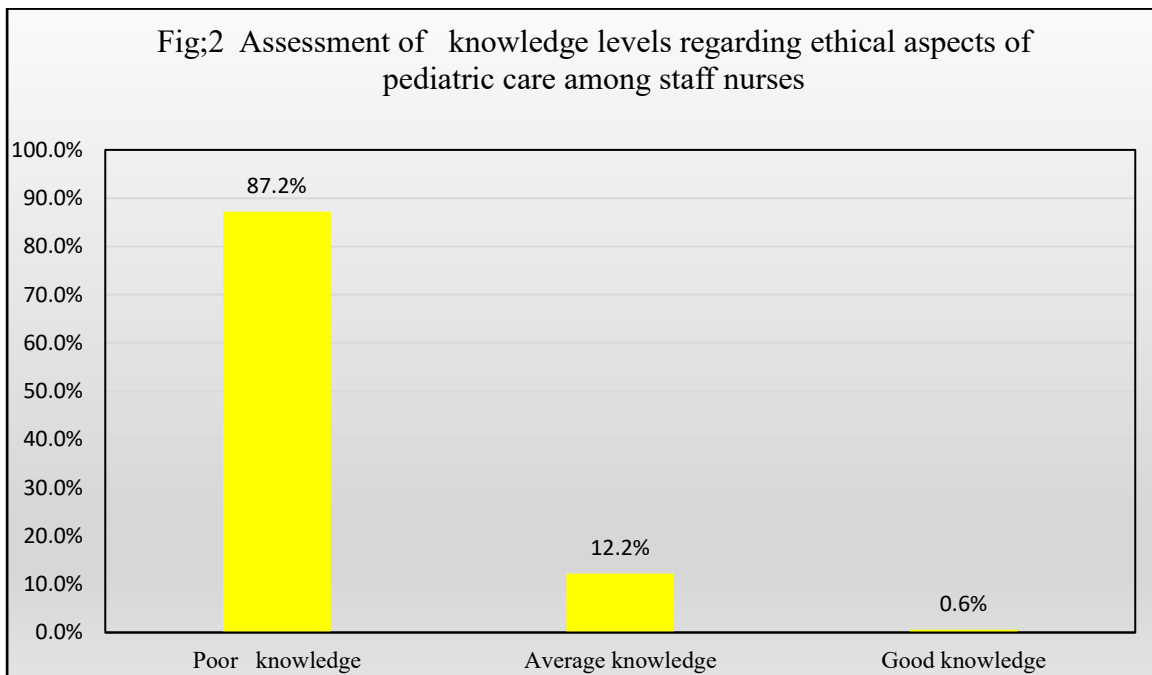
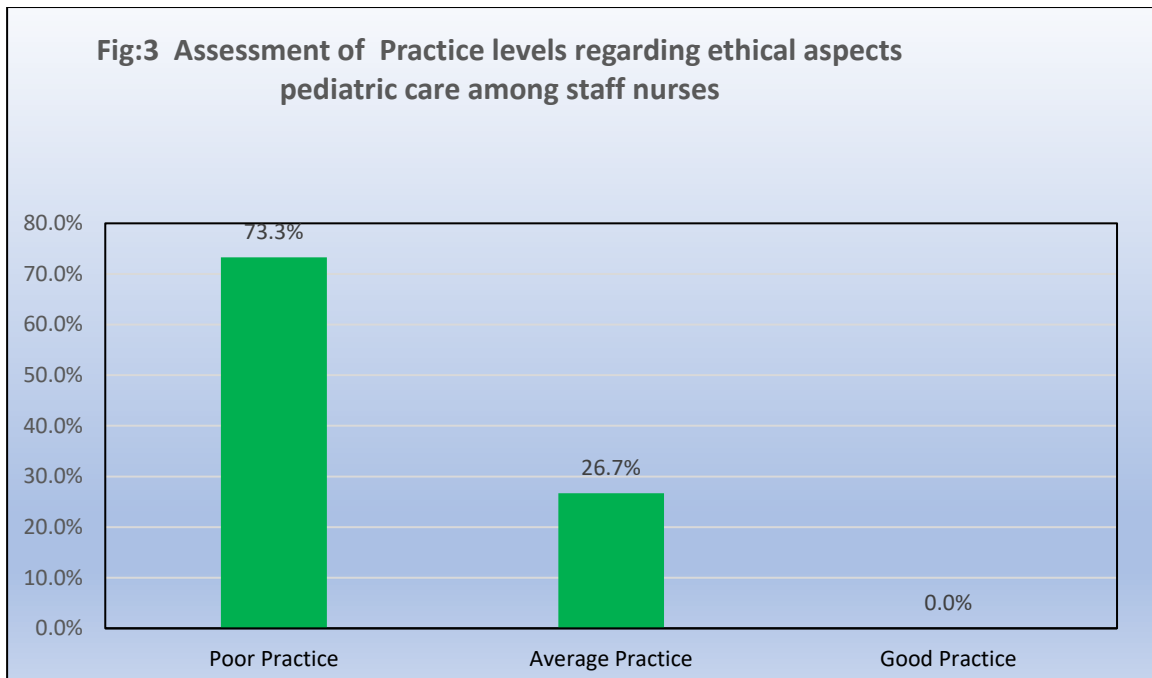


Table 2 and fig; 2 illustrates knowledge assessment showed that most staff nurses had poor knowledge (157, 87.2%). A smaller proportion demonstrated average knowledge (22, 12.2%). Only one nurse (0.6%) showed good knowledge, while none in either reached excellent knowledge. This indicates low baseline knowledge regarding paediatric care.

Table 3**Analysis of practice levels regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care among staff nurses n=180**

Assessment of Practice levels regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care among staff nurses	Percent Range	F	%
Poor Practice	0 – 40%	132	73.3
Average Practice	41 – 60%	48	26.7
Good Practice	61 – 100%	0	0



Table; 3 and Fig; 3 demonstrates the practice levels showed that the majority of staff nurses had poor practice, (132, 73.3%). Average practice was noted more (48, 26.7%) None of the nurses demonstrated good practice levels. This indicates that overall practice regarding paediatric care was largely inadequate.

SECTION-II

Table 4

Association of knowledge score with demographic variables of staff nurses

n = 180

Demographic variables	Group	Poor	Average	Good	<i>p</i> value	Whether significant at 0.05 levels
Age	21yrs-25yrs	60	10	0	0.394	No
	26yrs-180yrs	57	9	0		
	31yrs-40yrs	17	1	1		
	Above 41yrs	23	2	0		
Gender	Male	19	2	0	1.000	No
	Female	138	20	1		
Educational qualification	GNM	124	15	1	0.252	No
	B.Sc.(N)	21	7	0		
	Post Basic B.Sc.(N)	11	0	0		
	M.Sc.(N)	1	0	0		
Working experience	Fresher	34	4	0	0.923	No
	1-3 years	48	7	0		

	3-5 years	45	8	1		
	5-10 years	30	3	0		
Attended Training programme	Yes	55	4	0	0.371	No
	No	102	18	1		
Area of work	Medical ward	72	12	0	0.628	No
	Surgical ward	35	5	0		
	ICU	50	5	1		
Experience in Pediatric ward	0-10 years	125	20	1	0.840	No
	11-20 years	15	1	0		
	21-180 years	15	1	0		
	31-40 years	2	0	0		

Table 4 displays the analysis of association between demographic variables and knowledge scores revealed no statistically significant association at the 0.05 level. Variables such as age ($p = 0.394$), gender ($p = 1.000$), educational qualification ($p = 0.252$), working experience ($p = 0.923$), attended training programme ($p = 0.371$), area of work ($p = 0.628$), and experience in pediatric ward ($p = 0.840$) showed no significant relationship with knowledge scores. This indicates that knowledge levels were similar across different demographic categories. None of the demographic variables were associated with knowledge.

Table 5

Association of Practice score with demographic variables in experimental group n = 180

Demographic variables	Group	Poor	Average	P value	Whether significant at 0.05 levels
Age	21yrs-25yrs	51	19	0.17	No
	26yrs-180yrs	43	23		
	31yrs-40yrs	14	5		
	Above 41yrs	24	1		
Gender	Male	16	5	1.000	No
	Female	116	43		
Educational qualification	GNM	102	38	0.478	No
	B.Sc.(N)	21	7		
	Post Basic B.Sc.(N)	9	2		
	M.Sc.(N)	0	1		
Working experience	Fresher	28	10	0.157	No
	1-3 years	39	16		
	3-5 years	36	18		
	5-10 years	29	4		
Attended Training programme	Yes	39	20	0.181	No
	No	93	28		
	Medical ward	60	24		

Area of work	Surgical ward	29	11	0.781	
	ICU	43	13		
Experience in Pediatric ward	0 -10 years	103	43	0.412	No
	11-20 years	14	2		
	21-180 years	13	3		
	31-40 years	2	0		

Table 5 shows the analysis of association between practice scores and demographic variables revealed that none of the variables such as age, gender, educational qualification, working experience, training programme attendance, area of work, and pediatric ward experience showed a statistically significant association with practice scores at the 0.05 level. This indicates that the improvement in practice scores was independent of demographic characteristics. Hence none of the demographic variables were associated with Practice.

2. DISCUSSION:

Based on the knowledge assessment showed that most staff nurses had poor knowledge (157, 87.2%). A smaller proportion demonstrated average knowledge (22, 12.2%). Only one nurse (0.6%) showed good knowledge, while none reached excellent knowledge. This indicates low baseline knowledge regarding ethical aspects of paediatric care. Practice levels showed that the majority of staff nurses had poor practice, (132, and 73.3%). Average practice was noted (48, 26.7%). None of the nurses demonstrated good practice levels. This indicates that overall practice regarding paediatric care was largely inadequate. Analysis of association between demographic variables and knowledge and practice scores revealed no statistically significant association at the 0.05 level. The results align with the findings of TA Phukubye et al. (2021), who observed that informal continuous training frequently leads to substantial disparities in both theoretical understanding and practical abilities among nursing practitioners. To avoid ethical issues, a staff nurses should follow the standards of care, to provide competent care, communicate with other health care workers and develop a good therapeutic caring relationship during their clinical practice.

3. CONCLUSION;

The results advocate for the necessity of continuous professional development programs in pediatric nursing to reinforce their skills and knowledge regularly. Future initiatives should focus on longitudinal studies with diverse and randomized samples to substantiate these findings further and support the development of standardized training that can be integrated across various pediatric care settings, ultimately enhancing overall healthcare outcomes for children. By acknowledging the distinct ethical considerations in pediatric care and advocating for the development of specialized ethical standards, the nursing profession can reaffirm its commitment to delivering high-quality, ethical care to children.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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