

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Factors Associated with the Implementation of Nursing Process among Nurses in a Government Hospital

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Abstract:

Introduction The nursing process is a scientific approach in the provision of nursing care provided by qualified nurses to all patients. It is used in clinical practice worldwide to deliver quality individualized care to patients. *Purpose* This study aimed to study the practice of nursing process and factor associated with the implementation of the nursing process among registered nurses (RN). *Methods* A cross-sectional study was conducted among 293 RN in Sungai Buloh Hospital using self-administered questionnaires adapted from Abebe (2014). *Results* About 98.4% of the nurses implemented the nursing process during their working life. Approximately 92.1% of the RN stated that a major factor associated with the implementation of the nursing process was the support from the hospital administration. *Conclusion* The nursing process is primarily implemented among nurses in the hospital. However, ongoing education on nursing process is still required to ensure this practice will be continuously carried out in order to improve patient care practices.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nursing process is a systematic method of planning and providing individualized nursing care to the patients. The quality of patient care can be improved by applying nursing process as a standard operating procedure in managing patient while admitted [1].

The nursing process has five phases which are assessing, diagnosing, planning, implementing and evaluating which applied to patients as problem solving method and this is one of the best approach to guide procedure and quality of care [2].

In providing the level best of patient's care, nurses need to be consistent in their work which acquiring high level of critical thinking and action. Therefore, critical thinking of nursing should be equal to nursing process, especially in problem solving process [3].

Hospitals to ensure that quality of nursing care is improve. This must be the main priority as nurses are the one who directly involved in nursing care. Nursing care is an outline of the nursing activities that provided to the patient [4].

The benefits of the nursing process include the continuity of care, prevention duplication, individualized care, standards of care, increased client participation and collaboration of care [2, 3, 4, 5, 6].

Problems begin with the written documentation that need to be done by the nurses. However, due to time constrain implementation the proper nursing process is almost impossible [1]. While nurses exhibit outstanding diligence and high commitment to the care of their patients, it is observed that the application of the nursing process in patient care is evidently inattentive in most health care facilities.

Lack of time, high patient volume and high patient turnover are the factors affecting successful implementation of nursing process [7]. Shortage of staffs, over loading of routine nurses' report, treating and managing patients also make the nursing process documentation almost impossible.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Participant

Convenience sampling strategy was applied in this cross-sectional study design among registered nurses in Sungai Buloh Hospital. The Raosoft Sample Size Calculator at confidence level of 95% indicated sample size was 293. Samples were gathered among registered nurses from Sungai Buloh Hospital working in medical, surgical, neurological and orthopaedics wards.

2.2 Instrument

Self-administered questionnaire adapted from Abebe (2014) consisted of three parts: sociodemographic data (7 items), practice of nursing process (10 items) and factor associated with the implementation of the nursing process practice (10 items). Content validity and reliability has been conducted. The Cronbach's alpha was 0.7 which is considered acceptable in most social science research study.

2.2 Data Analysis

All data analyses were interpreted using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS Version 20.0). Descriptive statistical analysis was conducted to report the frequency and percentages of the related demographic data and the factors associated with nursing process practice.

2.3 Research Ethics

This study was conducted with the approval of ethics from the Universiti Teknologi MARA Research Ethical Committee (REC UiTM) and Medical Research and Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio demographic characteristics

A total of 254 agreed to participate and were enrolled in this study. Table 1 shows the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents of this study. There were 37 (14.6%) male and 217 (85.4%) female. The age between 23 to 30 was the majority of respondents (67.3%) while nursing experience about 3 to 5 years was the highest (40.9%). A large of number were Malay, Indian (4.3%), and Chinese (3.1%). Based on ward, about 40.9% worked under Medical, Surgical (32.2%), Neurological (12.2%) and Orthopaedic (14.6%) (Table 1).

Table 1: Characteristics of the Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	37	14.6
Female	217	85.4
Age		
25-30	171	67.3
31-39	78	30.7
>40	5	2.0
Race		
Malay	229	90.2
Chinese	8	3.1
Indian	11	4.3
Others	6	2.4

Highest Qualification

Degree	14	8.2
Diploma	243	95.7
Certificate	4	1.6

Graduated Institution

KKM	208	81.9
IPTA	14	5.5
IPTS	32	12.6

Nursing Experiences

6 months – 2 years	39	15.4
3 – 5 years	104	40.9
6 – 10 years	83	32.7
> 10 years	28	11.0

Working Discipline

Medical	104	40.9
Surgical	82	32.3
Neurological	31	12.2
Orthopaedic	37	14.6

3.2 Implementation of Nursing Process among Nurses

Table 2 shows results of the implementation of nursing studies among registered nurses in this study where majority (98.4%) of them carried out the nursing process as their routine work in improving quality care to the patients. Contrary, the implementation of nursing process among nurses were truncated due to low knowledge about the nursing process [11].

Lack of facilitative supervision and lack of guided practice lead to the privation of nursing process implementations [8]. Continues encouragement and teaching lesson of nursing process need to be given to nurses by supervisors to ensure that the nursing process implemented to patients

Despite the knowledge of the nursing process certain factors such lack of time, high patient volume and high patient turnover limit the ability of the nurses implementing it in their daily practices. Under a heavy workload nurses may not have adequate time to perform task than can have a direct effect on patient safety [11]. However, based on this study, the factor that the nurses may not have sufficient time to perform task did not influence respondents' feedback on implementation of the nursing process

Table 2: Implementation of Nursing Process

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Implement nursing process		
Yes	250	98.4
No	4	1.6

3.3 Factor associated with implementation of nursing process

The findings revealed that 92.1% of the nurses agreed the hospital administer support the application of nursing process. Almost 83.9% of the nurses claimed allocation of resources for application of nursing process was adequate. More than half of the nurses agreed that allocated time sufficient to apply the nursing process. While 66.5% of the nurses said the nurses/patient ratio were optimal to apply the nursing process. About 70.1% of the nurses claimed that appreciating feedback available for application nursing process. Almost 87.4% agreed that there were monitoring and evaluation for application of nursing process. Only 51.6% of the nurses agreed that there were salary and promotion motivating for application of nursing process. About 72.4% of the nurses willing to be a volunteer to do nursing process. The majority of the nurses did not think completing the nursing process was a waste of time. Almost 83.1% of the nurses agreed that educational level adequate to apply nursing process.

4. CONCLUSION

In summary, majority of nurses implementing the nursing process during their working life. However only working experiences do influence the implementation of the process.

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