

Perception and Attitude of Nursing Professionals towards Parental Needs of Hospitalized Children in Pediatric Areas of a Selected Hospital, Vadodara

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Abstract--- Background: Parental need is an important part of pediatric care right from admission to release of the child. There is often confusion in the awareness and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs of children. The individual mores of the pediatric care unit helps to build and strengthen the framework of parental needs with satisfaction communiqué, information, and relationships between health care workers and parents.

Aim: Parental needs are not always met in health care settings during hospitalization. Hence the investigator aimed to assess the perception and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs during hospitalization.

Material and methods: A quantitative, descriptive study was conducted among 50 nursing professionals of various pediatric hospitals. The samples who met the inclusion and exclusion sampling criteria were recruited by purposive sampling technique. The data on perception and attitude of the respondents was collected by likert scale and check list. Reliability of the tool was done by cronbach's alpha and spearman prophecy formula. The collected data was categorized further for better understanding. For perception, the investigator assessed the respondents under good and bad perception and for attitude samples were categorized as having positive and negative attitude. The collected data was analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: The results discovered that there is no significant association between perception and attitude with their selected socio-demographic characteristics. It was found that the nursing professionals (50) were having good perception and positive attitude towards parental needs of hospitalized children. There was a positive correlation between perception and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs of hospitalized children.

Conclusion: The study results could sensitize the health care providers and other allied professionals to understand the parental needs of hospitalized children. Repeated assessments have to be conducted in the health care settings to promote the relationship between parents and the care givers.

Keywords--- Perception, Attitude, Nursing Professionals, Parental Needs, Hospitalization.

I. INTRODUCTION

The involvement of parents in pediatric care of hospitalized children is a major concern in any child care settings. Hospitals are a extraordinary atmosphere for parents and children which changes parental and significant

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others roles¹. The hospitalization of children requires parental needs to be met and improved communication to be established with parents and proper information to be provided while the routine care activities needs to be discussed. The obstacles and facilitators of parental needs to be noted by the nursing professional's in order to deliver effective care in pediatric care settings².

Child health care services during hospitalization are not restricted to an individual outlook; rather it includes the ill child, the parents and other family members, along with the social-cultural circumstances of the care. The parents and family are considered as citizens in their own views and as the primary caregivers of children. During hospitalization, the relationship between nursing professionals and parents need to be bonded to create conducive atmosphere in the hospital³.

Nursing professionals caring for children have to consider the parents with smile during each interaction, and provide prompt health care information in a friendly manner. Most importantly, consider the parents to provide basic needs for their children during hospitalization. There is a need to recall their continued parental need for physical comfort, support, and discussion and know that parents perceive and appreciate the advocacy roles nurses' play⁴.

Aim of the study: To assess the perception and attitude of nursing professionals and correlate it towards parental needs of hospitalized children

Hypothesis: There will be significant correlation between perception and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs of hospitalized children.

II. MATERIAL & METHODS

This is a descriptive, exploratory study conducted on fifty nursing professionals who were working in pediatric care settings of the selected pediatric hospitals, Vadodara, Gujarat. The samples were recruited by Purposive sampling technique and included in the study as per the inclusion and exclusion sampling criteria. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study and obtained written consent prior to data collection. For data collection, a five point likert scale with 25 statements were used to assess the perception of the respondents and a check list was used to assess the attitude of nursing professionals with 15 statements. Demographic characteristics such as gender, age, qualification, experience of year, income, working area, marital status of the nursing professionals were included. To interpret the perception and attitude of the respondents the scale was categorized as good perception and bad perception, positive attitude and negative attitude. Pilot study was conducted with the tool to understand the feasibility and challenges. The tool was validated by the experts and found reliable. The suggestions received were incorporated. The data was collected through face to face interview method and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

III. RESULTS

The study enrolled 50 nursing professionals, age considered from 20 to more than 40 years and majority 44 (88%) were females. Among all 40 (80%) were aged between 31 to 40 years, almost 23 (46%) respondents had more than 4 years of working experience. Significantly 33 (66%) participants were working in pediatric ward.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

n=50

	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	6	12%
	Female	44	88%
Age	20-30	9	18%
	31-40	40	80%
	>40	1	2%
Qualification	ANM	24	48%
	GNM	14	28%
	B.SC. Nursing	10	20%
	PBBSC	02	4%
	M.SC. Nursing	00	0%
Experience	< 2 yr.	16	32%
	2-4 yr.	11	22%
	>4 yr.	23	46%
Income	< 10000	17	34%
	10000-30000	33	66%
	>30000	0	00%
Working area	Pediatric OPD	2	4%
	Pediatric Ward	33	66%
	PICU	7	14%
	Others	8	16%
Marital status	Married	38	76%
	Unmarried	12	24%

Table 2: Perception of Nursing Professionals towards Parental Needs

n=50

Variable	Good perception	Bad perception	Mean %	SD
Perception	50	0	109.64	4.72

It was found that all the nursing professionals were having good perception towards parental needs of hospitalized children.

Table 3: Attitude of Nursing Professionals towards Parental Needs

n=50

Variable	Positive attitude	Negative attitude	Mean %
Attitude	50	0	92.7

The above table depicts that all the participants had positive attitude towards parental needs of hospitalized children.

Association between Perception and Attitude with Demographic Variables

The investigators found no association between perception and attitude regarding nursing professionals towards parental needs with their selected demographic variables.

Correlation between Perception and Attitude of Nursing Professionals

Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient formula was used to find out the correlation between perception and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs. The observed r value was **0.11** that means there is a very low positive correlation. Hence, the hypothesis H₁ was accepted.

IV. DISCUSSION

It was found that, it is essential to understanding the parental needs during hospitalization. The results coincide with the study conducted by Farrell MF, and Frost C. on most important needs of parents of critically ill children: parents' perceptions and the obtained results indicate that parents have a strong need for information and relief of anxieties that they may have about their child's condition. In our study perception and attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs during hospitalized children and the result was good perception and positive attitude of nursing professionals towards parental needs in pediatric area.⁵

Our study naked that nursing Support for Parents during hospitalization is must in clinical settings. The results were supported by the study conducted by Sanjari, Mahnaz, also emphasizes the support for Parents of hospitalized Children.⁶ Fenella J. Gill BN MN conducted a study on staff nurse and parents perceptions and found that both parents and staff responses were positive in terms of parental needs. Similarly the present study also resulted that nursing professional's perceptions of parental needs was good.⁷

In our study, nursing professional's attitude and self reported behaviors were found positive regarding parental needs and in the study results revealed by Hagedoorn et. al, also confirm the findings that family presence during routine nursing care were supported to the parents.⁸ Another study carried out by Cruz AC, Angelo M. indicated that nurses shown supportive attitudes regarding families' involvement in nursing care and it depends on the affective, cognitive and behavioral components,. In our study nursing professional's attitudes regarding parental needs in pediatric nursing care was positive attitude regarding parental needs participation of nursing professionals.⁹

A study conducted by Melo EM et.al, strongly says that when health care workers do not have clear understanding about parental needs, that reduces the possibility of effective response to their needs and it contributes to the distress and insecurity of the parents¹⁰. Fortunately the present study found that all the nursing professionals had good perception and positive attitude towards parental needs.

V. CONCLUSION

The study focused on nursing professional's perception and attitude and has come out with positive results. It was open that all the nursing professionals involved in the study were having good perception and positive attitude towards parental needs during hospitalization. In order to reduce the stress and win the hope and trust of parents, health care providers need to recognize the parental needs and that have to be valued all the times. The investigators recommend that the similar studies with large sample size could create an impact while generalizing the study results.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no any conflict of interest.

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This is a self funded research and all the expenses were borne by the investigator.

Ethical Clearance

As the study conducted on humans, approval from institutional ethical committee was obtained before commencement of the study.

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