

Knowledge On Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing Among Final Year Nursing Students

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I. INTRODUCTION

Safe nursing practice includes an understanding of legal boundaries within which nurses must function. Nurses must understand the law to protect them from liability to protect their clients right. The advances in medicine and a more demanding healthcare environment have given rise to various complex ethical issues. To provide quality care and avoid liability, the nurse needs to be familiar with various consumer rights in Health care system. It is vital to know the laws protecting the patient and the healthcare deliverer and also to be aware of the legal status as registered nurses. As the final year nursing students will be working independently after the completion of the course so, they are one of the most vulnerable groups who are going to meet the legal issues. Hence, the final year nursing students should have enough knowledge to handle the legal and ethical issues in health care setting.

Objective:

- i. To assess the knowledge of final year nursing students regarding legal and ethical issues in Nursing.
- ii. To find out the association between knowledge regarding legal and ethical issues with selected demographic variables.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

A Descriptive study was conducted among the final year nursing students (B.Sc Nursing and GNM). Non-probability purposive sampling (n=72) technique was used. Prior permission has been taken from the Institutional Authority and an informed consent has been taken. A self-structured knowledge questionnaire was administered.

III. RESULTS/FINDINGS

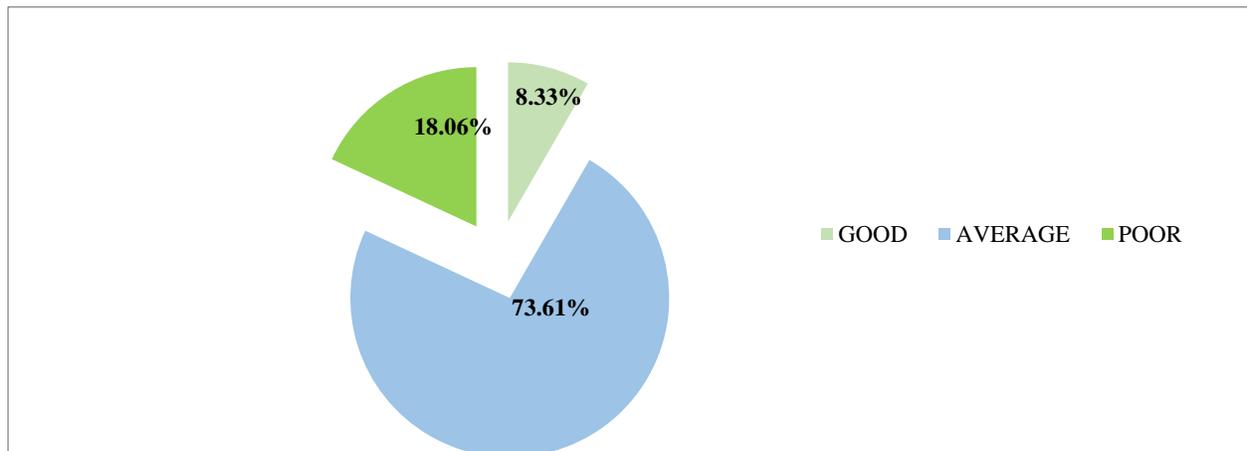


Fig: Pie diagram showing the percentage (%) distribution of the knowledge of final year nursing students regarding legal and ethical issues in Nursing.

Results show that majority (73.61%) are having average knowledge and 18.06% students are having poor knowledge and 8.33% students are having good knowledge.

There is an association found with professional qualification of the students with the knowledge score.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study shows that majority of the students have average knowledge regarding legal and ethical issues in nursing and there is also an association with professional qualification of the students with the knowledge score.

Key Words: Knowledge, Legal and ethical issues in Nursing, Final year nursing students.

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