
A Study to Find the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects in Care of Terminally Ill Patients among Staff Nurses at Selected Hospitals, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) India

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ABSTRACT

A nurse is responsible to ensure that the standard of the nurse's practice conforms to professional standards with the object of enhancing the safety of the individual, any significant other person and colleagues (ANMC 2007 clause 2). The medical profession is a noble profession and it is exciting to think about its relationship with the law—legal profession, interestingly, is also considered to be a noble profession – and its intricacies in a fast developing and evolving world, with the norms governing this relationship fast changing with the passage of time. Medico-Legal aspects are a significant part of the process of making many patient care decisions and determining policies for the treatment of mentally incompetent people and minors, the performance of sterilization or therapeutic abortion and the care of terminally ill patients. Medico-legal considerations, decision and policies provide the framework for informed consent, professional liability, and many other aspects of current practice in the health care field.

Keywords: *Medico-Legal Aspects, Structured Teaching Programme, Terminally Ill Patients, Staff Nurses.*

INTRODUCTION

"Carry out a random act of Kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you".

- Princess Diana

Nurses worldwide need to continually look for “solutions, choices and outcomes for patients that represent the best available knowledge internationally” (Hamer and Collinson 1999) to constantly improve and validate nursing care.

Need of the Study

"You are personally accountable for your practice. This means you are answerable for your actions and omissions, regardless of advice or directions from another professional"

(UK NMC 2002 CLAUSE 1.3).

As a nurse it has become an important necessity to be aware of the legal aspects associated with caring and helping people in the health industry today. Unfortunately, the more and more negligence cases there are less and less people want to get into the health care field fearing legal aspects and the inevitable law suits. The first nursing law created was that of nursing registration in 1903. The Tort Law is the legal aspects of the law that most nurses are more familiar with in order to continue their care efficiently. The legal aspects of nursing are taught and expected to be kept up on throughout every nurse's career. A nursing job is something many young people aspire to but without the legal knowledge behind them, many hospital will not hire them now then legal issues are becoming

more and more problematic. Ethics have always been an integral part of nursing. Nurses at all levels/areas of practices experience a range ethical issue during the course of their day-to-day work [1].

Critical care has come to be associated with high-tech, and often risk-filled medical care. The critical care nurse are often confronted with ethical and legal dilemmas related to various ethical principles and it has increased dramatically since the early 1990s. Many dilemmas are by products of advanced medical technologies developed over the past several decades [2].

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients before and after structured teaching programme.
- 2) To evaluate the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.
- 3) To find the association between the knowledge of staff nurses regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients with their socio-demographic characteristics.

HYPOTHESES

- 1) **H₁**. There is significant difference between the pre-test mean score and post-test mean score knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses at selected Hospitals, Moradabad.
- 2) **H₂**. There is significant association between the pre test knowledge score regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses with their socio-demographic characteristics.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Effectiveness

Effectiveness is the capability of producing a desired result. In this study, effectiveness refers to the knowledge gain as determined by significant difference in pre-test and post-test knowledge score regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.

Structured Teaching Programme

According to oxford advanced learners dictionary the term structured teaching programme is forming a planned series of event in order to provide instruction. In this study, structured teaching programme refers to systematically planned teaching program designed to provide information regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.

Knowledge

Knowledge refers to a theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. It can be implicit (as with practical skill or expertise) or explicit (as with the theoretical understanding of a subject); it can be more or less formal or systematic. In this study, knowledge refers to the facts, information or skill acquired through experience or education or by structured teaching programme regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.

Medico-Legal Aspects

Pertaining to legal aspects of the practice of medicine (as malpractice or patient consent for operations or patient information). In this study, a medico-legal aspect refers to aspects of medical practice aims to provide a sound knowledge of legal rules and responsibilities applicable to practice and administration of health care.

Terminally Ill Patients

A patient is considered to be terminally ill when the life expectancy is estimated to be

six months or less, under the assumption that disease will run its normal course.

In this study, terminally ill patients refer to a state of diseased patient characterised by progressive, irreversible deterioration, with impairment of function and survival limited in time.

Staff Nurses

A staff nurses are a hospital nurse whose rank is just below that of a sister or charge nurses. In this study, staff nurses refer to the person who is trained to give care to the people who are sick or injured and who are admitted in hospital.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

A conceptual framework is an analytical tool with several variations and contexts. It is used to make conceptual distinctions and organize ideas. Strong conceptual frameworks capture something real and do this in a way that is easy to remember and apply. The conceptual framework for this study was directed from Wiedenbach's helping art theory (1969).

According to Ernestine Wiedenbach's (1969), nursing is nurturing and caring for someone in a motherly fashion. Nursing is a helping service that is rendered with compassionate skill and understanding to those in need of care, counsels and confidence is the area of health.

Conceptual used for this study based on the concept of helping the staff nurse to improve the knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients. According to this theory nursing practice consists of three aspects which include:

Step I: Identifying the need for help

Step II: Ministratation of the help needed

Step III: Validation that helps provide was indeed helpful

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

“Review your goals twice every day in order to be focused on achieving them”.

- Les Brown

"A literature review is a body of text that aims to review the critical points of knowledge on a particular topic of research". (ANA, 2000).

Reference to original sources is important as information can be taken out of context and used inappropriately therefore an abundance of secondary sources should be viewed with caution as they may not provide sufficient detail or possibly distort some aspects of the original research (Polit and Hungler 1997; Burns and Grove 1993) [3].

- 1) Review of literature related to knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects.
- 2) Review of literature related to care of terminally ill patient.
- 3) Review of literature related to issues among health care worker

Review of Literature Related to Knowledge Regarding Medico-Legal Aspects

S Dr. Malarvizhi and Samson Dr.Rebecca, 2014, conducted a study on "Knowledge and Attitude of Nurses on Legal Aspects in Patient Care" Pondicherry. Legal responsibility in nursing practice is becoming of greater importance as each year passes [4].

Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of their legal rights in the health care, therefore a nurse should know his/her legal rights. The results revealed that 44.5% (227) of nurses had poor knowledge, 24.1% (123) of nurses had average knowledge, 21.2% (108) of nurses had good knowledge, 8.6% (44) of nurses had very good knowledge and 1.6% (8) of nurses had excellent knowledge [5].

Mali Ramling, Mali Nootan R, 2014, conducted a study on "Effect of Self Instructional Module on Knowledge Regarding Medico Legal Responsibilities among Nurses", Dombivli (E), India. The patient is considered the consumer of nursing & health care, along with this fact, there is growing awareness of the law by the public, an understanding of the medico- legal responsibilities is becoming more important. The findings imply that a specialized training program intended to impart knowledge regarding medico legal responsibilities to the staff nurses need to be organized and implemented. It will in turn help her in acquiring a better efficiency & vigil in her services [6]

Review of Literature Related to Care of Terminally Ill Patient

Cogo Silvana Bastos , Lunardi Valéria Lerch, 2015, conducted a study on "Anticipated directives and living will for terminal patients: an integrative review", Brazil. It was noted that this practice has made it possible for patients have their wishes met for the end of their lives and that those responsible for decisions involving limitations of treatment can guarantee meeting the wishes of the patient. It is necessary to respect the choices expressed whilst the patient is still able, to assist in the conduct, whilst considering the wishes of the patient related to their autonomy and dignity [7].

According to World Health Organization, 2013, conducted a study on "Ethical issues in patient safety research: interpreting existing guidance". The guidance provided in this report offers an initial response to many of the challenges faced by patient safety researchers and quality improvement professionals building from the existing corpus of ethical standards. Furthermore, this guidance also calls attention to the potential ethical risks that may be brought up by activities and

programmes of patient safety or quality improvement, though usually not considered part of research and therefore not usually under the oversight of ethics review committees' [8].

Review of Literature Related to Issues among Health Care Worker

Paganini Maria Cristina, 2014, conducted a study on "Nurses' autonomy in end-of-life situations in intensive care units", Brazil. Nurses exercise their autonomy through care. Their experience expressed by the process of increase opportunities to exercise autonomy is conditioned by the pressure of the intensive care unit environment, in which nurses can grow, feel empowered, and exercise their autonomy or else can continuously depend on the decisions made by other professionals [9].

Yadav Sunil, 2014, conducted a study on "Important cases on medical negligence" in India. In the case of V. Krishan Rao Vs Nikhil Super Speciality Hospital 2010, Krishna Rao, an officer in malaria department filed a complaint against the hospital for negligent conduct in treating his wife. His wife was wrongly treated for typhoid fever instead of malaria fever, due to the wrong medication provided by the hospital. Finally, the verdict was given and Rao was awarded a compensation of Rs 2 lakhs. In this case, the principle of *res ipsa loquitur* (thing speak for itself) was applied and the compensation was given to the plaintiff [10].

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study. It comprises the theoretical analysis of the body of methods and principles associated with a branch of knowledge. Typically, it encompasses concepts such as paradigm, theoretical model, phases and quantitative or qualitative techniques.

Methodology is "the analysis of the principles of methods, rules, and postulates employed by a discipline".

This chapter deals with the type of research approach used, in setting of the study, population, sampling technique, sample selection, the inclusion and exclusion criteria, development of the tool, collection of data, pilot study, procedure of data collection and the plan for data analysis.

RESEARCH APPROACH

Research Approach is the description of the plan to investigate the phenomenon under study in a structured (quantitative), unstructured (qualitative) or a combination of the two methods (quantitative-qualitative integrated approach). In present study, research approach is quantitative method of approach

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design the research design refers to the researcher's overall plan for obtaining answer to the research questions. The research design adopted for the present study is a quasi-experimental (Nonrandomized control group) design.

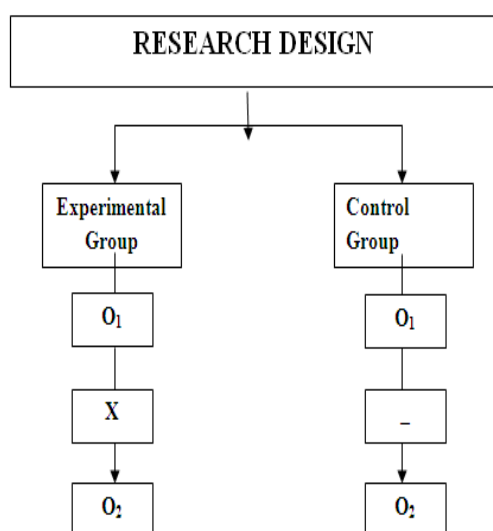


Fig 2. Schematic Representation of Research Design

Keys

- O₁: Represents the pre test of both group
- X: Represents the structured teaching programme
- O₂: Represents the post test of both group
- : Represents that no intervention for control group.

Setting of Study

The study setting is the location in which the research is conducted-it can be natural, partially controlled, or highly controlled. The study is conducted in the Teerthanker Mahaveer Hospital and Research Centre, Moradabad.

Sampling and Sample Size

- Sample is defined as representative unit of a target population
- Non-probability sampling method.
- The proposed sample size for this study is 60.

Sampling Technique

In this study purposive sampling is used to select the sample.

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Staff nurses with the age group between 20-50 years.
- Staff nurses, who can read, write and understand English.

Exclusion Criteria

- Staff nurses those who are not willing to participate will be excluded.
- Staff nurses who are not available at the time of data collection will not be included.

Variables

Variables refer to the attributes or characteristics that can have more than one value, such as height, weight.

Independent Variable

- 1) Variables that are purposely manipulated or changed by the researcher.

2) In this study independent variable is structured teaching programme.

Dependent Variable

1) Variables that change as the independent variable is

manipulated by the researcher.⁽²⁹⁾

2) In this study dependent variable is knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among nurses.

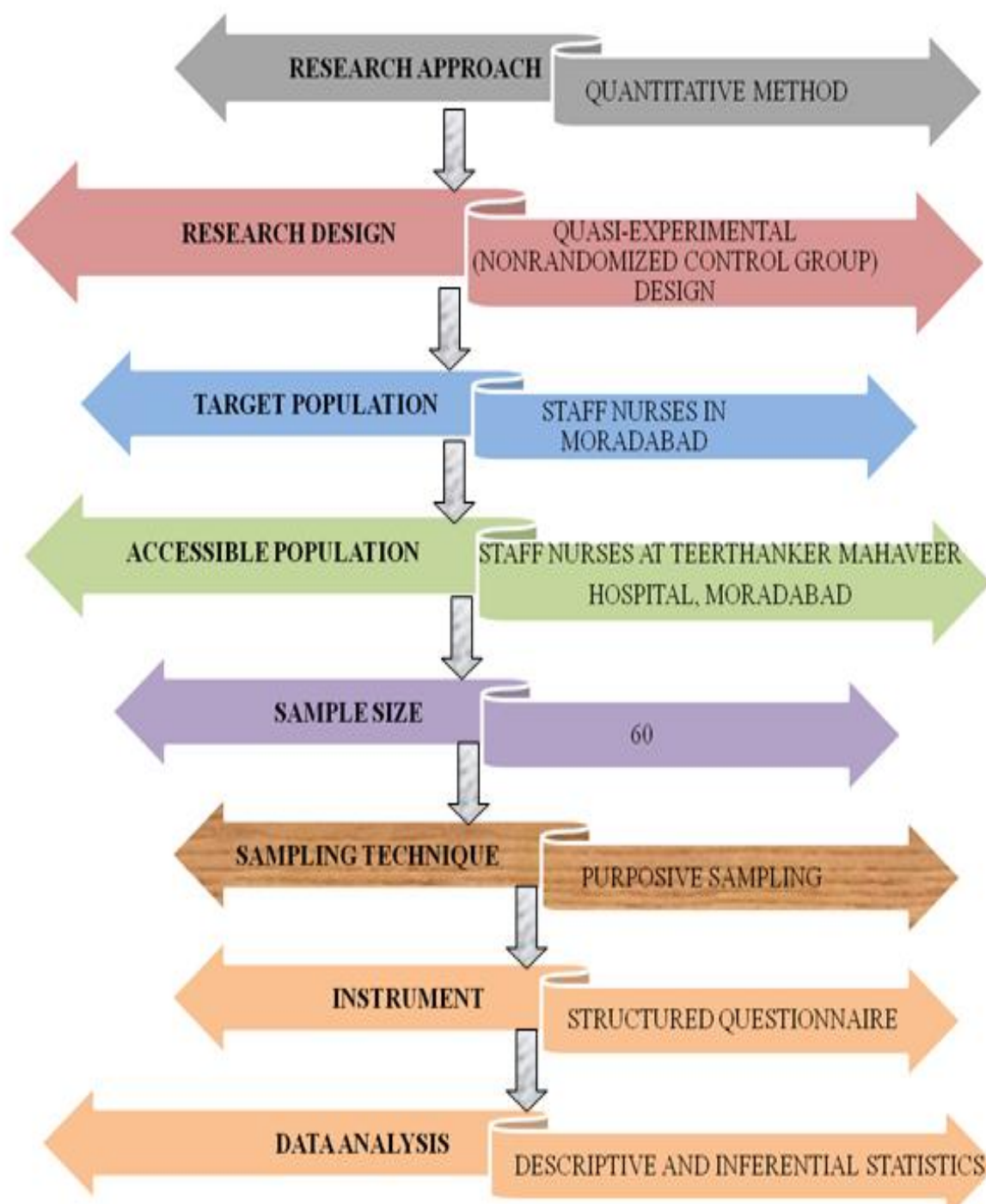


Fig. 3. Schematic Representation of Research Methodology

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

"The greatest moments are those when you see the result pop up in a graph or in your statistics analysis - that moment you realise you know something no one else does and you get the pleasure of thinking about how to tell them".

-Emily Oster

Analysis is the process of organizing and synthesizing the data so as to answer research questions and test hypothesis. Interpretation is the process of making

sense of numerical data that has been collected, analyzed, and presented. Analysis and interpretation of data involves the computation of the certain measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exists among data groups. Analysis and interpretation of data includes complication, editing, coding, classification, and presentation of data

SECTION A

Pre test and Post test level of knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Staff Nurses According to their Pre test and Post test Level of Knowledge in Experimental and Control Group.

Level of knowledge	Range	Experimental group				Control group			
		Pre-test		Post-Test		Pre-test		Post-Test	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Inadequate	0-10	12	40	-	-	16	53.33	19	63.33
Moderate	11-20	18	60	9	30	14	46.67	11	36.67
Adequate	21-30	-	-	21	70	-	-	-	-

The table 1 indicates that in pre test experimental group, 60% of the staff nurses had moderate level of knowledge (range 11-20), followed by 40% of the staff nurses had inadequate level of knowledge (range 0-10).

The table 1 indicates that in post test experimental group, 70% of the staff nurses had adequate level of knowledge (range 21-30), followed by 30% of the staff nurses had moderate level of knowledge (range 11-20).

The table 1 indicates that in pre test control group, 53.33% of the staff nurses had inadequate level of knowledge (range 0-10), followed by 46.67% of the staff nurses had moderate level of knowledge (range 11-20).

The table 1 indicates that in post test control group, 63.33% of the staff nurses had inadequate level of knowledge (range 0-10), followed by 36.67% of the staff nurses had moderate level of knowledge (range 11-20).

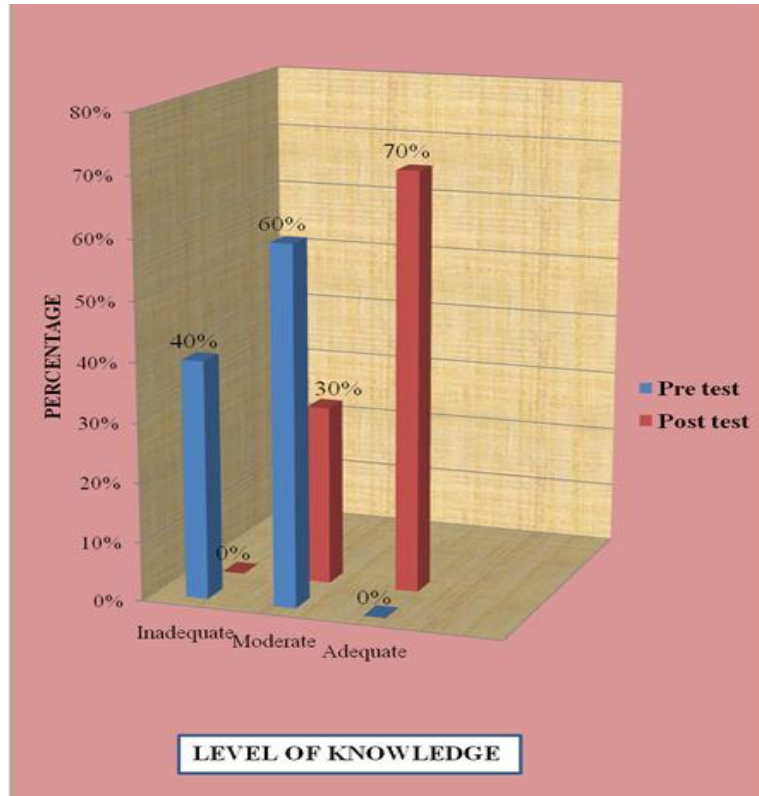


Fig. 1. Bar Diagram Representing Pre Test and Post Test Level of Knowledge in the Experimental Group.

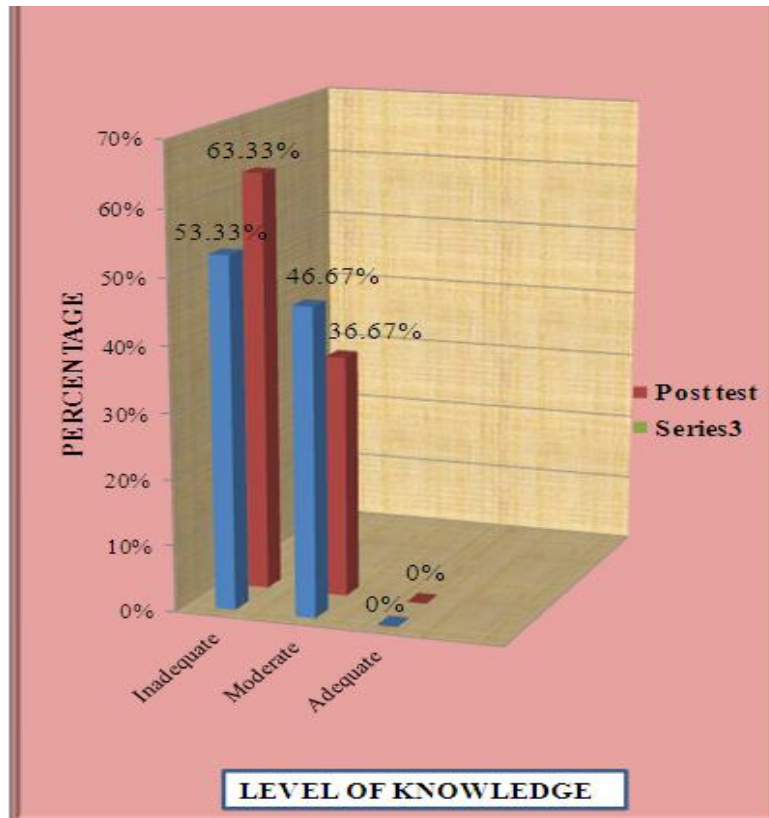


Fig. 2. Bar diagram representing pre test and post test level of knowledge in the control group.

Table 2. Range, Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of Pre-Test and Post Test Knowledge Scores In Experimental and Control Group.

N₁=30, N₂=30

Group	Test	Range of scores	Mean	Median	Standard deviation
Experimental group	Pre-test	7–18	10.47	10	2.6
	Post-test	14– 29	22.03	22	3.7
Control group	Pre-test	6–17	10.37	10	2.8
	Post-test	7–17	10.37	10	2.6

SECTION B

Effectiveness of structured teaching programme in experimental group.

1) Comparison of Pre-test and Post-test Knowledge Scores of Experimental Group

To compare the pre - test and post - test knowledge scores, the paired 't' test was used. In order to test the statistically

significance the following hypothesis was stated.

H₁. There is significant difference between the pre-test mean score and post-test mean score knowledge regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses at selected Hospitals, Moradabad.

Table no. 3: Mean, Standard Deviation, Mean Difference and 't' value of Pre-Test and Post-Test Knowledge Scores in the Experimental Group.

N=30

Test	Mean score	Standard deviation	Mean difference	't' value
Pre - test	10.47	2.6	11.57	20.39*
Post - test	22.03	3.7		

*Significant $T_{29}=2.05, p < 0.05$

Table 3 indicates that in the pre test the mean score of experimental group was 10.47, the standard deviation was 2.6, in post test the mean score was 22.03, the standard deviation of 3.7 was obtained. The mean difference obtained between the pre test and post test was 11.57. The 't' value obtained was 20.39 and $p < 0.05$. It shows that there was a significant difference between pre test knowledge and post test knowledge. Hence the hypothesis was accepted

DISCUSSION

The present study showed that, there was significant difference in the pre-test and

post-test mean score knowledge (from 10.47 to 22.03) of experimental group regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses at 'Teerthanker Mahaveer Hospital and Research Centre', Moradabad. In previous study conducted by S Dr. Malarvizhi. and Samson Dr. Rebecca, 2014 on "Knowledge and Attitude of Nurses on Legal Aspects in Patient Care", Pondicherry.

The results revealed that 44.5% (227) of nurses had poor knowledge, 24.1% (123) of nurses had average knowledge, 21.2% (108) of nurses had good knowledge, 8.6% (44) of nurses had very good knowledge and 1.6% (8) of nurses had excellent knowledge.

This study showed that, there was significant effectiveness of structured teaching programme on knowledge (as the 't' calculated value is 20.39 whereas the 't' table value is 2.05 at $p < 0.05$) regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses at 'Teerthanker Mahaveer Hospital and Research Centre', Moradabad. An attempt was made to compare similar study conducted by Mali1Ramling, Mali2 Nootan R, 2014, on "Effect of Self Instructional Module on Knowledge Regarding Medico Legal Responsibilities among Nurses", Dombivli (E), India. The majority (88 %) of the participants were female 70% of the total samples did not attend any in-service education regarding medico legal responsibilities of nurses, & 96% of them were never involved in a medico legal case. The findings imply that a specialized training program intended to impart knowledge regarding medico legal responsibilities to the staff nurses need to be organized and implemented.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study can be used in the following areas of nursing profession.

Nursing Practice

- Nurses are the key persons of the health team, who play a major role in promotion and maintenance of health. Nursing is an art and science in providing quality care.
- This study implies a basis for developing a structured teaching programme regarding the medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients among staff nurses.

Nursing Education

- As a nurse educator, there are an abundant opportunities for nursing professionals to educate the staff

nurses about the medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients.

- Through mass media, information, structured teaching programme; knowledge can be given to all the staff nurses about the medico-legal aspects, its types ethical principal, responsibility, and rights of patient.

Nursing Administration

- The role of nursing administrator is very important.
- Administrators must provide adequate information booklet or organize in-service education programme on medico-legal aspects which would enable the nurses to act as a patient's advocate and also prevents the loss of hospital management's time and money which may arise due to consumers suing the hospital due to nurses negligence.

Nursing Research

- This study helps the nurse researchers to develop appropriate structured teaching programme tools to increase the knowledge of staff nurses regarding medico-legal aspects in care of terminally ill patients.
- The study may motivate the beginning researchers to conduct same study with different variables on large scale.

CONCLUSION

Reasoning draws a conclusion, but does not make the conclusion certain, unless the mind discovers it by the path of experience.

–Roger Bacon

Based on the results from the study, most of the staff nurses at 'Teerthanker Mahaveer Hospital and Research Centre' had inadequate knowledge regarding the medico-legal aspects for which they are accountable, legally responsible and may land up into the legal and ethical issues. Thus to avoid these issues, to safeguard

them and to provide the best quality care to the patients, it's the responsibility of each nurses to be aware about the medico-legal aspects which are meant for medical and legal welfare of the patient.

With the emergence of new technologies and advancement in the scientific field, the common public are aware about their rights and responsibility in every aspects of life. By reviewing the literature, it discusses about the legal and ethical issues of nurses, and every time or the coming year the doctors will not be responsible for the negligence committed by the nurse. Also most the nurses are going abroad for their job, where the legal rules are strictly followed. So, being a staff nurse or the health care provider, it's our duty to be competent in all areas of our profession.

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