

## **“A study to assess effectiveness of planned teaching programme on legal aspects in health care among registered nurses in selected hospital of New Delhi.”**

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**Abstract:** Nurses should know their legal obligation as they all have to update with the fastest changes and advanced professional knowledge for providing safe nursing to their clients on the basis of their needs and problems. Legal aspects bring life in nursing at every stage what is essential and what we understand are able to critically reflect in the nursing practice. For planning of safe and high quality of nursing care good knowledge of legal aspects is necessary for all registered nurse. So, in this concern, an exploratory study was conducted, the aim of the study was to assess the knowledge of the registered nurses on legal aspects in health care. Methodology used was Pre- Test and Post- Test reserch design. Sample selected was registered nurses. Pre-test was taken and then planned Teaching was given and reassessment was done with Post - test. Which revealed significant increase in the knowledge among registered nurses.

**Key Words:** Legal aspects, ethical issues, healthcare issues

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### **I. Introduction**

**“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do”**

**-POTTER STEMART**

Legal aspect is a set of rule which is organized by state or institution. It ensures that each and every company should work as per protocols of the country. This concept is required to maintain record and statement preparing in the manner provided by law. It is a set of rule for conducting developed relationship and practices for the government or society which contains both national and international laws in the diplomat status and also protects from unsafe and unlicensed practices and helps in enhancing the future of company and health care. For regulation of human behavior and to form foundation in their practices there is need of legal aspects and it also helps in governing the relationship between the organization and individual. The purpose of it is to communicate with employees and for the desired outcomes for the organization. Policies in an institute is vitally important in policies for setting it as a common plan of action used as a guide desired outcomes and work as fundamental guidelines for helping in making decisions.<sup>1</sup>

Now a days many of the practices are traditionally performed by the nurses which have been use to non-professionalism under the guidance of in charge and nurses. Health care regulation and standard are compulsory for insuring compliance and for providing safe health care for every person who access the system. Legal aspect in Health care system helps in building up trust. Legal aspect in health care system is necessary for preventing false claims and whistle blower suits. It helps to prevent the institution from embarrassments situations. Nurses should know their legal obligation as they all have to update with the fastest changes and advanced professional knowledge for providing safe nursing to their clients on the basis of their needs and problems. Legal aspects bring life in nursing at every stage what is essential and what we understand are able to critically reflect in the nursing practice. For planning of safe and high quality of nursing care good knowledge of legal aspects is necessary for all registered nurses.<sup>2</sup> Now a days, legal aspects are not highlighted due to public awareness. Nurses must know the updated knowledge on legal aspects in nursing care. Legal aspects in nursing is important to improve the quality and effectiveness of care.<sup>3</sup>

A case was reported on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The prosecution case is that mini Philip, a NRI women underwent a surgery for sterilization in Deen Hospital at Punaloor in Kollam (Kerala) due medical negligence of doctors and nursing staff. The court observed that the surgery was performed on the lady without necessary tests and she died next day of procedure. Court sentenced 3 doctors and 2 nursing staff to 1 year imprisonment.<sup>4</sup>

Another case was report on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 Master Ankus Sit son of Jayant sit admitted to pediatric ward of Asansol district hospital with breathing problem. He has been suffering from pneumonia and chest infection. Nurse give saline on right hand after tie a tourniquet but forget to remove it so cyanosis occur and was referred to SSKM hospital and right hand amputated and she has to compensate for it. So we feel there was need

to conduct a study to preventit.<sup>5</sup>

The objectives of the study were to assess the pre-test knowledge of registered nurse regarding legal aspects in health care, to execute the planned teaching programme on legal aspects in health care, to assess the level of post-test knowledge of registered nurse regarding legal aspects in health care, to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching programme. The research hypothesis was Planned Teaching Program will increase the knowledge level of Registered Nurse regarding Legal Aspect in Health Care by 80%.

## II. Material and Methods

The study was conducted in February 2020. An exploratory research approach was used to assess the effectiveness of planned teaching programme on legal aspects in health care among 127 registered nurses in Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, in New Delhi. Permission from the Principal and ethical clearance from Organizational Review Board was taken before starting the study. Purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. Before the structured questionnaire was given to the participants, consent was taken, aims and objectives were explained to them. The data was collected from the registered nurses by online mode (by sharing the online Google link) in the month of February 2020 (from 1-02-2020 to 11-02-2020). The subjects were given Google form link For pre-test - (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1faipqlsdnga57u7e69tps6dfiemt3clmuyj156ivoyxofixsju->) for post-test - (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1falqlsepecw9ozsnmy-cp4ulufyka0j7qv2im03pbzjdnut1evbjxa/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>) to submit their responses. The structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding legal aspects in health care among registered nurses comprised of two sections. Section A consists of Demography proforma including 11 items to collect information on subject's demography characteristics (Age, Nationality, Education, State of Nursing study, Current Designation, Unit, Total Working Experience, Working Experience in Apollo, Have you or your colleague faced any health care related legal issue, Are you aware of legal aspects related health care, Are you Registered to any Nursing council). Section B consists of Structured knowledge questionnaire including 20 knowledge items each item has 3 options regarding legal aspects. The maximum score was 40 and minimum score was 0. Pre-test was taken and then structured teaching was given with the help of lesson plan and A.V. aids, and then post-test was taken. The knowledge level grading criteria considered appropriate as follows:

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL	PERCENTAGE	SCORE
GOOD	>80%	>32
AVERAGE	60-80%	24 – 32
BELOW AVERAGE	<60%	<24

## III. Result

**Table 1** reveals that all the registered nurses were female; 80 (62.9%) were in the age group 20 to 25 years, 36 (28.3%) were in the age group 25 to 30 years, 11 (8.66%) were in the age group 30 to 35 years and 0 (0%) were in the age group more than 35 years. 122 (96%) were Indian and 5 (3.9%) were others. Educational qualification of 11 (8.66%), 68 (53.5%), 48 (37.7%) RNs were ANM, GNM and BSC respectively. 96 (75.5%) were qualified from Delhi and 31 (24.4%) were qualified from other state. 126 (99.2%) were staff nurses, 1 (0.7%) was team leader and there was no charge nurse involved. 62 (48.8%) were working in General ward, 49 (38.5%) were working in ICU, 8 (6.2%) were posted in OT, 8 (6.2%) in OPD. 71 (55.9%) were having total experience of 0-2 yrs., 51 (40.1%) were having 2-5 yrs. and 5 (3.9%) were having more than 5 yrs. 44 (34.6%) were having less than 1 yr working experience in Apollo, 77 (60.6%) were having 1-3 yrs experience in Apollo, 5 (3.9%) were having 3-5 yrs experience in Apollo and none were having more than 5 yrs experience in Apollo. None of them faced any legal issue related health care. 03 (2.3%) were not aware about the legal aspect whereas 107 (84.2%) having a bit awareness regarding legal aspects, 17 (13.3%) having awareness about legal aspects. All of them were registered to nursing council.

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Data of Registered Nurses**

S.	DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Age		
	20-25 yrs.	80	62.9%
	25-30 yrs.	36	28.3%
	30-35 yrs.	11	8.66%

	More than 35 yrs.	0	0%
2.	<b>Nationality</b>		
	Indian	122	96%
	Others	5	3.9%
3.	<b>Education</b>		
	A.N.M	11	8.66%
	G.N.M	68	53.5%
	B.Sc. / Post B.Sc. or above	48	37.7%
4.	<b>State of Nursing study :</b>		
	Delhi	96	75.5%
	Outside Delhi (please specify the state)	31	24.4%
5.	<b>Current Designation</b>		
	Staff Nurse	126	99.2%
	Team Leader	1	0.7%
	Charge Nurse	0	0%
6.	<b>Unit</b>		
	General ward	62	48.8%
	ICUs / HDU / ER	49	38.5%
	OT	8	6.2%
	OPD	8	6.2%
7.	<b>Total Working Experience</b>		
	0-2 yrs.	71	55.9%
	2-5 yrs.	51	40.1%
	More than 5 yrs.	5	3.9%
8.	<b>Working Experience in Apollo</b>		
	<1 yrs.	44	34.6%
	1-3 yrs.	77	60.6%
	3-5 yrs.	5	3.9%
	>5 yrs.	0	0%
9.	<b>Have you or your colleague faced any healthcare related legal issue.</b>		
	Yes	0	0%
	No	127	100%
	If yes, please elaborate	0	0%
10.	<b>Are you aware of legal aspects related to health care.</b>		
	No	3	2.3%
	Yes, a bit	107	84.2%
	Yes, everything	17	13.3%
11.	<b>Are you Registered to any Nursing council?</b>		
	Yes	127	100%
	No	0	0%

**Table-2** reveals that in pre-test, 61(48.03%) registered nurses were having good knowledge. 51(40.15%) of registered nurses having average knowledge and 15(11.8%) of registered nurses have below average knowledge while in post -test, 117(92.1%) registered nurses were having good knowledge. 8(6.29%) of registered nurses having average knowledge and 2(1.57%) of registered nurses have below average knowledge regarding the legal aspects in health care.

**Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Pre-Test and Post - Test Knowledge Scores of Registered Nurses regarding Legal Aspects**

CRITERIA	PRE-TEST		POST - TEST	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
GOOD (>80%; >32)	61	48.03%	117	92.1%
AVERAGE (60-80%; 24-32)	51	40.15%	8	6.29%
BELOW AVERAGE (<60%; <24)	15	11.81%	2	1.57%

**Table-3** shows that in pre-test, mean was 31.18, median was 32 and standard deviation was 5.52 while in post-test, mean was 37.59, median was 39 and standard deviation was 3.58.

**TABLE 3: Mean, Median and Standard Deviation of Pre-Test and Post-Test Knowledge Score of Registered Nurse Regarding Legal Aspects In HealthCare.**

	MEAN	MEDIAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
<b>Pre-Test</b>	31.18	32	5.52
<b>Post-Test</b>	37.59	39	3.58

**Table-4** depicts that the mean of post-test (37.59) is higher than the pre-test mean (31.18) by the difference of 6.41.

**TABLE-4: Variation between the Pre-Test and Post-Test Mean**

PRE TEST MEAN	POST TEST MEAN	MEAN DIFFERENCE
31.18	37.59	6.41

**Table-5** shows that the calculated ‘Z’ test value 11.05 is more than 2.00 at 0.05 level of significance which signifies that the data is significant. Hence registered nurses knowledge increased after planned teaching programme.

**TABLE-5: Effectiveness of Planned Teaching Programme regarding the Knowledge among Registered Nurses Regarding Legal Aspects In HealthCare.**

ITEMS	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	MEAN DIFFERENCE	STANDARD ERROR	Z TEST
PRE-TEST	31.18	5.52	6.41	0.58	11.05
POST-TEST	37.59	3.58			

#### IV. Discussion and Conclusion

Every profession has some rules and regulations. Negligence at work place occurs when professionals does not provide care to their clients according to the rules and regulation, therefore they do not meet the client expectation. In the nursing it treated with utmost seriousness as they are charged with preserving human life and with their limited knowledge of procedure<sup>6</sup>

There are some rules and regulation of nurse practice act which are to be followed by nurses and if any inaccuracy occurs there is high risk of losing license and facing are malpractice suit. For Example-in case of emergency nurse has to act patient advocate with legal obligation. She has to act as a connector between physician and patient. She has monitor patient for any complication and abnormalities arises, a physician has to be reported and about that information. Nurses is legally obligated to keep it private, if not doing so is violation of rules and regulation of nurse practiced act.<sup>7</sup>

The present study findings were revealed in terms of the objective for the study. All the registered nurses were female; 80(62.9%) were in the age group 20 to 25 years, 36(28.3%) were in the age group 25 to 30 years, 11(8.66%) were in the age group 30 to 35 years and 0(0%) were in the age group more than 35 years. 122(96%) were Indian and 5(3.9%) were others. Educational qualification of 11(8.66%), 68(53.5%), 48(37.7%) RNs were ANM, GNM and BSC respectively. 96(75.5%) were qualified from Delhi and 31(24.4%) were qualified from other state. 126(99.2%) were staff nurses, 1 (0.7%) was team leader and there was no charge nurse involved. 62(48.8%) were working in General ward, 49(38.5%) were working in ICU, 8(6.2%) were posted in OT, 8(6.2%) in OPD. 71(55.9%) were having total experience of 0-2 yrs., 51(40.1%) were having 2-5 yrs. and 5(3.9%) were having more than 5 yrs. 44(34.6%) were having less than 1 yrs working experience in Apollo, 77(60.6%) were having 1-3 yrs experience in Apollo, 5(3.9%) were having 3-5 yrs experience in Apollo

and none were having more than 5yrs experience in Apollo. None of them faced any legal issue related health care. 03 (2.3%) were not aware about the legal aspect whereas 107(84.2%) having a bit awareness regarding legal aspects, 17(13.3%) having awareness about legal aspects. In post-test, 117(92.1%) registered nurses were having good knowledge, 8(6.29%) of registered nurses having average knowledge and 2(1.57%) of registered nurses have below average knowledge regarding the legal aspects in health care. On conclusion many of the registered nurses are having Good knowledge i.e. 177 (92.1%) regarding legal aspects in health care.

The present study findings reveal that knowledge of registered nurses increased after administering teaching programme on legal aspects in healthcare. This finding was in agreement with the findings of the study conducted by Lavanya, P (2018) A Study to Assess the Effectiveness of Structured Teaching Programme on Knowledge and Practice regarding Legal and Ethical Issues in care of children among Nurses working in Pediatric Wards at Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, Chennai. College of Nursing, Madras Medical College, Chennai. The result finding shows in posttest after structured teaching programme, Nurses were gained 32.88% knowledge score, 41.00% practice score more than Pretest score and the mean differences were 8.22 and 6.15 by using students paired t-test and Generalised McNemar's. Hence, it would help the nurses to prevent legal and ethical issues in care of the children.<sup>8</sup>

Another study which support the finding of current study was conducted by Vaishali Mohite, Prakash Naregal (2015), A study to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on level of knowledge regarding ethical issues in nursing practice among 105 nursing professionals at selected hospital at Karad Maharashtra. T-test value shows that calculated paired 't' value ( $t = 13.17$ ) is greater than table value ( $t = 11.26$ ) hence there was significant difference was existing between pre-test & post-test knowledge scores so structured teaching programme was effective in improving the knowledge of nursing professionals.<sup>9</sup>

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