Exploring the under graduate nursing student`s knowledge and attitude toward end of life care at a College of Nursing, in Jeddah- KSA

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Abstract

End of life care is a fundamental area of nursing practice and considered a challenge for undergraduate students who first encounter dealing with a dying patient. The majority of nursing students reported that the education they received is very little to adequately prepare them to overcome their anxieties and emotionally demanding feelings while caring for a dying patient. Limited studies were found in Saudi Arabia exploring how student nurses` knowledge and attitude could affect caring for dying patients. Aim of the study is to explore the undergraduate nursing student`s knowledge and attitude toward the end of life care. A cross-sectional design was used to collect data at the College of Nursing Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. A convenient sample of all undergraduate students who enrolled in clinical nursing courses (a total of 180 students +/-) was included in this study. Two data collection tools; Sociodemographic, knowledge assessment questionnaire and Frommelt's attitude toward care of the dying (FATCOD) scale were used. From 178 participants in the study, only 43.3% attended a palliative course (an elective course). The majority of the students 68.5% had unsatisfactory knowledge while 31.5% had satisfactory and good knowledge about End of Life care. The student attitude was positive with ranges (38.2% to 63.5%) and mean (3.3 $\pm$ 0.379), while 5 statements in FATCOD revealed negative feeling with range (38.2% to 52.8%). There is a positive correlation between Knowledge, attending a palliative course and attitude. In conclusion: undergraduate nursing students demonstrate a positive attitude toward the end of life care. Less than half of the students attend the palliative course as an elective course in their curriculum which reflects the high unsatisfactory knowledge of the participant. Recommendation: to change a palliative course from an elective course to an essential part in the undergraduate curriculum with specific attention to the end of life care.

Keywords— *Attitude, End of Life, Dying, Knowledge*

Professional Biography

Seham Elgamal has completed her Master and PhD from Cairo University. She is working as an assistant professor in College of nursing- King Saud Bin Abdualaziz University for Health Sciences since 2013, and docent for different nursing courses in nursing college such as (Critical care nursing, health assessment, Nursing care of adult 1 & 2, and Fundamentals of nursing 2). In addition she is a member in the clinical simulation committee as well as a chief coordinator for BLS since 2014 and unit coordinator for medical surgical since 2016. Research interest; Emergency Nursing, Organ transplantation, Critical care nursing, Clinical simulation and education.



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