Evaluating nurses clinical competency in intensive care units on Tehran University hospitals

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Nursing

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Abstract

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Background: The need for providing nursing cares in complicated circumstances specifically in the intensive-care units highlights the importance of the clinical competency of nurses in such units. Based on it, at the present research, it was tried to investigate the ratio of the nurses’ clinical competency in the intensive-care units.

Method of Research: The present research is of a descriptive and analytical type in which the clinical competency of the nurses working in the intensive-care units of hospital affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences was studied. The statistical population is 400 nurses holder of Bachelor’s Degree or Master’s Degree working in the intensive-care units (ICUs) for adults and CCU of the selected hospitals affiliated to Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The tools for gathering information was a two-part questionnaire that at the first part, the demographic data of the research’s statistical population was studied and at the second part, activities of a nurse in 52 questions in terms of six different dimension (leadership, critical cares, teaching, implementation and evaluation, communication and professional progress) were evaluated too. The data was analyzed with SPSS statistical software Ver.16. In order describe the samples the descriptive statistics including frequency distribution table, central indexes and dispersion were used. Also, in order to achieve the objectives and to respond the questions, independent t test, Anova one-sided test as well as Kruskal-Wallis test with meaningfulness level of α=.05 were used.

Results: The results indicated that the highest ratio of the nurses working in of Imam Khomeini Hospital and were female, married, holder of Bachelor’s Degree aging 26-30 year old who mostly have not passed the training courses with 1-5 years of experiences in the ICU. Also, most of them responded “Medium” to the question about how do you intend the nursing career? The research results revealed that the competency ratio of 22.8% of nurses working in the ICUs was at weak level, 67% at medium level and 9.8% at the strong level.

Conclusion: The results revealed that the highest percentage of the studied units in five aspects (leadership, critical cares, implementation and evaluation, communication and professional progress) was at medium level and at a weak level for teaching aspect as well. According to this issue that the clinical competency of the nurses working in the ICUs is relevant to the quality of cares, since based on the research results, the nursing managers and nursing training planners are recommended to have more co-ordination and co-operation together in order to improve the clinical competency of the nurses specifically in intensive-care units so as to more suitable ground can be provided for improving the clinical competency of the nurses in these units.

Keywords: clinical competency, competency, intensive care unit.