Tehran University of Medical Sciences
School of Nursing and Midwifery
International Campus

Investigating the Correlation between Family Nursing Practice and Nurses' Attitude towards Family Importance in Care in Adult Intensive Care Units in Uganda

A Thesis Submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Award of Master of Science (MSc.) Degree in Critical Care Nursing

By:
Frank Kiwanuka

Supervisor:
Dr. Masoomeh Imanipour

Advisor:
Dr. Julita Sansoni

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ABSTRACT

Background: The analysis of family-centered nursing is fundamental in nursing practice in critical care settings. While nurses' attitudes presuppose an assessment what they are willing to do and objections towards certain practices. Thus, attitudes of nurses towards family importance in care could influence family-focused nursing interventions in critical care settings.

Purpose: This study aimed to assess family nursing practice and nurses' attitude towards family importance in care in adult intensive care units in Uganda. Secondly, it also sought to assess whether a correlation exists between family nursing practice and nurses' attitudes towards family importance in care.

Methods: The study was a correlational cross-sectional study. The study participants included nurses working in adult intensive care units in Uganda. Ethical clearance was obtained from Ethics Committees of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (IR.TUMS.FNM.REC.1397.197) and the Research and Ethics Committee of Clarke International University, Uganda (UG-REC-015). Data collection was carried out from February to April 2019. By using census sampling, 116 ICU nurses from ten hospitals with functional intensive care units completed the study. The Family Nursing Practice Scale (FNPS) and the Family Importance in Nursing Care-Nurses Attitude (FINC-NA) was used to collect data and total scores of them were computed. Data analysis was done using SPSS, version 16. Pearson's test was used to assess the correlation of FNP and FINC-NA. *p-value* <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: The mean age of the nurses was 29.4 years. More than half of the nurses (71.7%) were female. The total family nursing scores obtained varied from 20 to 69 with a mean score of 38.7±12.7. The mean score of the FINC-NA scale was 90.6±14.7 and its range varied from 74 to 117. Further analysis revealed that there was a statistically significant relationship between FNPS and FINC-NA (*p<0.01*).

Conclusion: Our findings showed that majority of the nurses had moderate family nursing practice, and majority of them notably had positive attitude about family importance in nursing care in the context of intensive care settings. Comparatively, a relationship existed between FNP and FINC-NA. Therefore, considering different educational and managerial strategies are recommended to improve nurses' attitude about family importance in care and consequently, improving family focused practices. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to assess FNP and FINC-NA in Uganda. It is hoped that the findings will be a useful addition to the growing body of literature highlighting the FINC-NA and FNP in critical care settings in low-middle income countries.

Keywords: Nurse, Family, Attitude, Family Nursing, Intensive/Critical Care Units, Uganda