

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

PERCEPTION OF HEALTH WORKER ON INTEGRATION OF NURSING EDUCATION AND NURSING SERVICES AT PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, JANAKPUR

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ABSTRACT

Background: Integration in nursing is a challenge. Integration of nursing results in improved patient care, emotional safety, reduced workload and better communication among various disciplines. The aim of this study was to assess the perception of health workers on integration in nursing education and nursing services.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 158 health working in Provincial Hospital, Janakpur, Nepal. The samples were selected using Convenience sampling technique. Self-administered questionnaire on three-point Likert Scale was used for data collection to assess the perception of health care providers on integration of nursing education and nursing services. Data were analyzed in Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS version 26) using descriptive statistics.

Results: The perception of health worker regarding integration of nursing education and nursing services was high in 74.5% medium in 18% and low in 7.5% of the participants. The doctors and teaching faculties have high perception and the nursing staff have medium perception on integration of nursing services and nursing education.

Conclusions: The overall perception of health worker on integration of nursing education and nursing services were high. Males have more high perception compared to female. The teaching faculties have more high perception compared to non-teaching samples.

INTRODUCTION

There should be effective integration between nursing and health care providers to achieve better patient care and provide best nursing care.¹ Classroom, skills laboratory, clinical posting and seminars are the four settings where nursing education is taught.² Clinical posting environment is the most essential resource in development of competent, capable and caring nurses.³ Clinical education is main link between classroom education and professional practice which offers chance for nursing students to apply knowledge in the clinical area. This dual role uplifts standard of patient care as well as aids in preparing committed, competent, compassionate nurses with excellence.^{4,5}

A study on nursing care and education reported that integration was effective for improving the quality of nursing care.⁶ Satave and Kadam found medium to low level of perception between the health care personnel and attitude was unfavorable and suggested that there was need to find out barriers of integration in nursing profession.⁷ Bhatra M et al concluded majority of health care professionals agrees integration would improve

the interpersonal relationship between nurse educators and health care providers.⁸ Studies also reported staff nurses who worked with teaching faculty reported work overload, conflict and ambiguity.^{9,10}

The nursing professionals should focus on bridging and removing the existing gap between nursing service and nursing education. Thus, the present study was aimed to assess the perception of health worker on integration in nursing education and nursing services for patient care.

METHODS

A descriptive cross-sectional study design was conducted among 158 participants working in Provincial Hospital Janakpur, Dhanusha, Nepal. The data was collected from June 2023 to December 2023. The participants included 46 staff nurse, 32 consultant doctors, 28 medical doctors, 23 ANM and others 26 were nursing and medical teaching staff. The ethical clearance for the study was obtained from Nepal Health Research Council Ref No. 3066. Convenience sampling method was used to enroll the health workers working in Provincial

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Demographic Variables		n (%)
Gender	Male	75(46.6%)
	Female	86(53.4%)
Age	18-30 Years	49(30.4%)
	30-40 Years	77(47.8%)
	40-50 Years	31(19.3%)
	Above 50 Years	4(2.5%)
Religion	Hindu	159(98.8%)
	Muslim	2(1.2%)
Residence Area	Town	139(86.3%)
	Village	22(13.7%)
Type of Family	Nuclear	63(39.1%)
	Joint	98(60.9%)
Education Level	Certificate level or Equivalent	32(19.9%)
	Bachelor level or Equivalent	70(43.5%)
	Master level or Equivalent	59(36.6%)
Monthly Income	Below 30000	15(9.3%)
	30000-40000	55(34.2%)
	40000-50000	34(21.1%)
	Above 50000	57(35.4%)
Work Experience	5 Years	34(21.1%)
	5-10 Years	63(39.1%)
	10-15 Years	33(20.5%)
	15-20 Years	21(13.0%)
	More than 20 Years	10(6.2%)
Designation	Nurses	75(46.58)
	Doctor	60(32.24%)
	Others	26(16.14%)
Total		161(100%)

Hospital. A three-point Likert scale was used for data collection. The data collection tool was adopted with permission from study by Bhatra M. et al.⁸ The questionnaire was developed in English. The tool was validated by 10 experts in the field of medicine and nursing for adequacy of content, relevance, clarity, and sequence of questions. Content validity was done using S-CVI and was found 0.95 Reliability of tool was assessed by Cronbach's Alpha which was found to be 0.93. The Likert scale questionnaire consisted of 20 questions to assess the health workers perception on integration of nursing education and nursing services. The questions were about present clinical nursing services, need of ongoing education, interpersonal relationship between nursing teachers and clinical nurses and a last question about whether they want to implement integration or not. Each response was scored as agree-3, don't know-2, and disagree-1. The maximum score was 60. The perception was measured as High (75-100%; 45-60) medium (74-50%; 30-44) and low (below 50%; 29). Data were collected by researcher herself using self-administered questionnaire. The study objectives were well explained to the patients. They were also explained that there was no harm to the participants and a written consent was taken. The collected data was checked for completeness and transferred to SPSS and was analyzed for descriptive statistics using SPSS version 26.

RESULTS

Majority of the participants were of age group 30-40 years. The male and female were nearly equally included in the study. Almost all the samples were Hindu (98.8%) by religion. The participant's area of residence was town in majority (86.3%), more than half of the participants lived in joint family (60.9%). Bachelor level of education was with 43.5% of the participants. The nursing professionals were 46.6%, the medical doctors were 37.7% and teaching faculty were 16.1% (Table 1).

The overall perception of health worker on integration of nursing education and nursing services were high almost 74.5% have high perception 18% have medium perception and only 7.5% have low perception. All the teaching faculty have high perception; 80% of doctors and consultants have good perception. All the nursing officer have medium proportion and more than half of the staff nurse and ANM have high perception (Table 2).

The perception of health worker on integration of nursing education and nursing services among gender; income and designation showed that males have more high perception compared to female samples. The samples with higher income have more high perception compared to samples with low

Table 2: Over all perception of health workers towards concept of nursing education and nursing services

Perception	High	Medium	Low
Overall Perception	120 (74.5%)	29 (18.0%)	12 (7.5%)
Perception of Health Worker as Per Designation in Hospital			
ANM	15(65.21%)	3(13.04%)	5(21.73%)
Staff Nurse	31(67.39%)	9(19.56%)	6(13.04%)
Nursing Officer	0(0)	6(100%)	0(0)
Doctor	48(78.57%)	5(17.85%)	1(3.57%)
Others	13(100%)	0(0)	0(0)

income. The teaching faculties have more high perception compared to non-teaching samples. The consultants and medical officers have more high perception than the nursing samples.

DISCUSSION

Health workers in this study refers to “ a person registered in the concerned Council as a health worker under the prevailing law.¹¹The nursing services in health service center with both nursing education and health care have both learning and patient care in hand to hand. The nursing officers are primarily involved in patient care and teaching nursing faculty are responsible for theoretical and clinical training of the nursing students. The integration of nursing services and nursing education involves the planning, solving problems, coordinating and co-operating, setting goals and working together to achieve and communicating among the nursing officers and the nursing faculties. The integration of nursing education and nursing services further aids in improved patient care, emotional safety for nursing personnel, earlier identification of changes in patient’s condition, reduced workload and better communication.¹²

The study found that 40.4% of the participants perceive that the present clinical services are not as per standard of quality of care. About 84% of health worker said that integration will improve the quality of patient care. The results are similar to study by Bhatra et al⁸ and Gupta et al.⁶ More than two thirds of the participants (70.8%) agreed that integration would improve interpersonal relationship between clinical nurses and teaching staff. About half of the participants (51.6%) agreed that integration will increase workload of nursing faculties and 48.4% of participants agreed that the integration will increase workload of nursing officers. This was in line with the other studies.⁸⁻¹⁰ Majority of the participants agreed that nursing staff should supervise the nursing students. More than half of the participants (64%) agreed integration will create more learning environment. The similar results are found by Bhatra et al⁶ and Balachandran et al.¹³ The majority of participants 80.70% agreed that integration will improve practical skills of nurse under supervision of nursing teachers. The results are in consistent with other others too.^{8,14,15} More than half of the participants agreed that integration will create more academic environment.

Similar results were also reported by Bhatra et al⁸, Noonam et al.¹⁶ and Hsu et al.¹⁷

Nearly 4/5 (84.5%) of the participants responded that health care personnel can be involved in research for integration. More than 90% of the respondents agreed that for theory and practice to be integrated, some teaching must occur in the clinical setting. In the current study 91.3% of the participant states the clinical environment is crucial in the integration of theory and practice. Only 29.8% of the respondents agreed that the nursing teachers do not have any idea what to do when they enter clinical practice. In the present study 85.1% of the participants think that clinical staff is equally responsible as the educators in ensuring that theory and practice. The findings are in accordance to study by Patil et al.¹⁸

In the current study nearly ¾ (74.5%) of the participants have high perception towards the integration of nursing education and nursing services; 18% have medium perception and 7.5% have low perception. The results are in contrast to study by Satave and Kadam et al⁷ and Patil et al¹⁸ where majority has low level of perception. The results are in accordance to study by Bhatra et al.⁸

This is a single center study so a multi-center study would have been better with larger sample size.

CONCLUSION

Perception of health workers on integration of nursing education and services in the present study was high. Integration between nursing education and nursing services is important for quality of care to patient as well as for a learning environment to nursing students. More focus should be given to remove the gap between the nursing services and nursing education for better patient care and a good clinical learning environment for nursing students The teaching faculties have high perception compared to non-teaching samples. The consultants and medical officers have high perception than the nursing samples.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: None

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