“A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE STAFF NURSES REGARDING CARE OF UNCONSCIOUS PATIENTS IN A SELECTED HOSPITAL, MANGLORE”

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ABSTRACT
A study to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding care of unconscious patients who are working in a selected hospital Mangalore. The samples consisted of 80 registered staff nurses, selected by purposive sampling. The result revealed area wise analysis of staff nurses knowledge regarding care of unconscious patients shows the highest means of knowledge score was 5.32 which is around 59.16% of the total score for area on ‘care of skin’. The mean score for the area ‘fluid and electrolyte management’ was 3.41 which is around 68.25% of the total score of that area. The lowest mean score was .52 which is around 17.5 of total score of the area of ‘unconscious conditions’.

KEYWORDS: Staff nurses, unconscious, patients were operationally defined for the purpose of the study.

Introduction:-
The patient’s state of consciousness is defined by both the behavior and the pattern of brain activity recorded by an electroencephalogram (EEG). In the deepest state of unconsciousness, the patient does not respond to painful stimuli, corneal and pupillary reflexes are absent. The patient cannot swallow or cough and is incontinent of urine and feces. The ECG pattern demonstrates decreased or absent neural activity. This patient is in a coma.

Nursing the unconscious patient can be a challenging experience. Unconscious patients have no control over themselves or their environment and thus are highly dependent on the nurse. The skills required to care for unconscious patients are not specific to critical care and as unconscious patients are nursed in a variety of clinical settings. Nursing such patients can be a source of anxiety for nurses. However, with a good knowledge base to initiate the assessment, planning and implementation of quality care, nursing skills acquired can promote confidence in the care of all patients.

Objective:-
1. To assess the knowledge of the staff nurses regarding care of the unconscious patients.
2. To identify the relationship of the knowledge on the care of the unconscious patients with demographic variables.

Assumption: -
1. Nurses with higher professional qualification will have better knowledge about care of unconsciousness.
2. Nurses with more experience will have better knowledge about care of unconscious patients.
3. Nurse’s exposure to different educational programmes (in-service education) will improve their knowledge about care of unconscious patients.
4. Nurses constantly working with unconscious patients will have better knowledge about care of these patients.

Methodology:-
• Research approach - Exploratory approach was used for this study.
• Research design- Non experimental descriptive research design
• Setting of the study – This study was carried out in a hospital situated in the city of Mangalore with bed strength of 750. This is a general as well as specialty hospital.

• Population – The target population was all registered nurse midwives working as staff nurses in the selected hospital.
• Sample- Registered nurse midwives working as staff nurses in a selected hospital, who fulfilled the inclusion criteria.
• Sample size- Eighty staff nurses who are available during the period of data collection
• Sampling technique- Purposive sampling technique has been used to select the sample for the study.
• Variables- Independent variables are training experience, in-service education and exposure to caring of unconscious patients may have some influential relationship in the existing knowledge of nurses in the care of unconscious patient.
• Method of data collection:-
Development and description of the tool-
Part A- Demographic data consisted of -items which included age, gender, professional qualification, exposure to different departments, experience in the field of nursing and the experience of attended in-service education programs.

Part B- structured knowledge questionnaire were used for the data collection

Data collection Procedure:-
Prior to the data collection, the investigator obtained formal permission from the concerned authority to conduct study. The investigator introduced her self to the subjects and established a good rapport with them and explained the purpose of the study and its usefulness. The participants were assured about the confidentiality of their responses. An informed consent obtained from the subjects indicated their willingness to participate in the study.

Result:-
Area wise analysis of staff nurses knowledge regarding care of unconscious patients shows the highest means of knowledge score was 5.32 which is around 59.16%of the total score for area on ‘care of skin’. The mean score for the area ‘fluid and electrolyte management’ was 3.41 which is around 68.25% of the total score of that area. The lowest mean score was .52 which is around 17.5 of total score of the area of ‘unconscious condition’.

Nursing implications:-
A) Nursing education:
The finding will help the nursing faculty to give more importance for planning and organizing the teaching programme to improve the knowledge regarding communicable disease or any other diseases to the student.

STP on “tuberculosis treatment” can be used on newly recruited nursing staff to care for patient with TB and provide appropriate nursing intervention.
Nursing education should focus attention in teaching the student regarding care of TB patient. An effective education or guidance to most disease to other.

In-service and continuing educational programmes for nurses regarding care of unconscious clients and prevention of complications/mortality rate.

B) Nursing practice

- The aim of nursing service is service to the patient. Disease hampers the quality of life of the patient. Nurse can act as counselor and help the patients uplift their physical and mental health, and understand their need and concern.
- The nurse has a key role in health care delivery system mainly in primary prevention includes health promotions. One of the methods of health promotion is by health education. In the clinical area as well as in the community area nurse will have direct contact with patient and the family this opportunity should be used by health personnel who are responsible for them, therefore providing health education to patients and family care givers.
- Every patient is enlisted to have information about his or her own care during the course of same. Thus meticulous planning of nursing care and educational programme with specific objective towards importing knowledge on disease condition prevention promotion and rehabilitation are the paramount responsibility of nursing fraternity.

C) Nursing administration:

- Nursing administrator may use the finding of this study to improve the quality of patient care the nursing personnel working in general and TB specialty hospital should be given in service education and continuing education regarding communicable diseases especially highly infectious TB disease. This would enable them to build their confidence and provide appropriate care to the patient.
- Appropriate teaching learning material need to be prepared and make them available for nurses in ward to increase the knowledge and quality care, to control complication.
- With technological advances and ever growing need of upgrading the knowledge of nurses, the administrator should provide continuing educational opportunities to nurse and student nurse.

D) Nursing research:-

- Nursing research focusing on lived in experiences of a patient with the TB is limit and nurse can conduct small project in dots centers, or communities to enhance or further strengthen the finding the present study. A researcher could also be conduct health personnel involved directly in dots programme in order to assess their views on factor enhancing quality of life of dots patients.
- The finding of the study can be utilized for conducting research using large scale sample.
- The research can be utilized for conducting research on different specialization department of the hospital setting.
- Nursing research is essential aspect of nursing as it uplift for the profession, develop new nursing norms, and enhancing nursing knowledge.

Conclusion:-

Nursing education aims at an all-around development of nurses and not merely imparting knowledge to them. As the world is progressing, the demand for cost effective nursing care is also increasing day by day. Nurses are responsible for clinical judgment (nursing diagnosis) based on individuals responses to actual or potential health problems. It is nurse’s duty to identify the problems faced by the clients and to give appropriate care to resolve them.

Bibliography:-
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