Attitude Towards Computer Application in Nursing Practice by PATCH Scale

P Vadivukkarasi Ramanadin¹, Manjeet Kaur²
¹Asst. Professor, Dept. of OBG (N), ²Principal, Mata Sahib Kaur College of Nursing, Mohali, Punjab

ABSTRACT

Nursing is the noblest of all profession. Nurses should be efficient in providing health care which requires skill in all aspects including computer application in nursing practice. With an aim of this the investigators undertook the study to assess the attitude of the Staff Nurses towards computer application in nursing practice by a standardized scale called P.A.T.C.H. Scale (Pretest for Attitudes Towards Computers in Healthcare). Thirty Staff Nurses working in the Private Hospital, Pondicherry were selected by Non-Probability, Convenient sampling Technique. P.A.T.C.H. Scale was administered to assess their attitude. Differential & inferential Statistics were used to assess their attitude. Study findings shows that 5 % of Staff Nurses had limited awareness, 40% of them had realistic view, 55 % of them had Enthusiastic view and 5 % of them had idealistic view and also 59% of them shown positive attitude, 20% of them had negative attitude and 21% of them had no opinion on computer application in nursing practice. This study shows that though we are in technology world many of the staff nurses have less awareness towards computer application in nursing practice and it can be changed by conducting Inservice education programme.

Keywords: PATCH, Scale (Pretest for Attitudes Towards Computers in Healthcare), Realistic view, Enthusiastic view & Idealistic View

INTRODUCTION

As we are in the computer era, the nursing profession also should go hand in hand with the current change. Computers have entered into each & every part of the world. But it is pathetic to see many of the institutions are still dependent on manual work. Use of computers in the nursing profession will aid in better way that nurses provide Quality care. It saves resources such as men, money, material & time. It will improve the accuracy of the results & promote quality of care which is the primary goal of nursing care. Documentation is very essential part of Nursing Profession. The computers are the one which can influence this effectively. Nursing Informatics is the new emerging field in our profession which will prepare the nurses to use computers in our field effectively & efficiently. Keeping this in view the Indian Nursing Council introduced the subject of Computers in Nursing and made a mandatory subject in all nursing courses to enhance the Knowledge & Skill towards Computer application in nursing profession. Still the application of computers is limited, only to completion of Syllabus & examination. The application of this knowledge is yet to go a long way.

Attitude towards computer application can be assessed by the standardized tool called P.A.T.C.H. Assessment Scale (Pretest for Attitudes Toward Computers in Healthcare) which was prepared by June Kaminski (1996 – 2012). This tool helps to identify the views of the health care providers towards computer application in health care. It has got four views such as Limited awareness, realistic view, Enthusiastic view & idealistic view. An exploratory study conducted in the year 2004 in India shows that the majority 75% staff nurses had good computer Knowledge, 100% of nurses

Corresponding author:
P. Vadivukkarasi Ramanadin
Asst. Professor, Dept. of OBG
Mata Sahib Kaur College of Nursing,
Chd- Kharar Highway, Near Sales tax barrier,
Mohali, Punjab
MOBILE NUMBER : 7696732898
Email ID: krishraghav2010@gmail.com
had positive attitudes towards computer utilization, 50.8% and 30.8% had average and fair computer skills respectively.

Hence the Researcher would like to know the attitude of the Staff Nurses towards computer application in nursing practice to enhance their Knowledge, Attitude & Skill.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess the attitude towards computer application in nursing practice among the Staff Nurses
- To find out the association between Staff Nurses attitude towards computer application in nursing practice and selected demographic variables.

HYPOTHESIS

H_0 There will not be any positive attitude towards computer application in nursing practice among the Staff Nurses working in Private Hospital at 0.05 level of significance.

H_0 There will not be any significant association between Staff Nurses attitude towards computer application in nursing practice and selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Quantitative – Descriptive research design was used for the present study. Thirty Staff Nurses working in a private Hospital, Pondicherry were selected by Non-Probability Convenient Sampling Technique. P.A.T.C.H (Pretest for Attitudes Towards Computers in Healthcare) standardized scale was used as a tool. Differential and Inferential Statistics were used to assess their attitude towards Computer application in nursing practice.

RESULTS

Part – I

Table 1. Attitude of The Staff Nurses According to PATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Limited awareness</th>
<th>Has a realistic view of current computer capabilities in healthcare</th>
<th>Enthusiastic view of the potential of computer use in healthcare</th>
<th>Idealistic, positive view related to computer applications in healthcare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Private Staff Nurses</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above mentioned table shows that 5% of Staff Nurses had limited awareness, 40% of them had realistic view, 55% of them had Enthusiastic view and 5% of them had idealistic view towards computer application in nursing practice by P.A.T.C.H Scale.

Part – II

Table 2. Attitude of The Staff Nurses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLNo</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Positive attitude</th>
<th>Negative Attitude</th>
<th>Noopinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Private Staff Nurses</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table depicts that 59% of them shown positive attitude, 20% of them had negative attitude and 21% of them had no opinion on computer application in nursing practice.
Majority of the nurses 98.1% (n=105) desired to be trained in computer applications. Most nurse managers (69.1%) on job training in computers.

An Exploratory Study conducted to assess the Computer Knowledge, Attitude and Skill Among Nurses in Health care Setting of a Selected Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab, India. 120 staff nurses were surveyed by systematic random sampling. Self structured Knowledge Questionnaire on Computer; Attitude & Skill were assessed by Scale. Data analysis showed that the majority 75% staff nurses had good computer knowledge. 100% of nurses had positive attitudes towards computer utilization. 50.8% and 30.8% had average and fair computer skills respectively. No significant correlation was found between nurses computer knowledge, attitude and skills.

**CONCLUSION**

This study shows that though we are in technology world many of the staff nurses have less awareness towards computer application in nursing practice and stick on to the olden trend. This scenario can be changed by conducting in-service education on trends and innovation in nursing profession.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We are thankful to all the Staff Nurses who participated and contributed their valuable time & opinion towards the study.

**Conflict of Interest**

There is no conflict of interest.

**Sources of Funding:** None

**ETHICAL CLEARANCE**

Study objectives were explained to all the Staff Nurses & Informed consent have been taken before the study.

**REFERENCES**

