Factors influencing use of the nursing process in Naivasha District Hospital

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Abstract:

Introduction: Nurses make up 51.5% of all health workers in Kenyan public hospitals (NHRH, 2010). This implies that nursing services contribute a large percentage towards overall healthcare. The nursing process (NP) is a framework of care that is applicable in all clinical care settings to provide quality nursing care (QNC). Fortunately training curricula for all cadres of nurses in Kenya have incorporated the NP as a framework for using care. However, nurses find it difficult to implement nursing care using this framework. This contributes to poor quality health care (QHC) in public hospitals in Kenya (KIPPRA, 2010). This study was therefore aimed at determining factors influencing use of the NP in Naivasha District Hospital (NDH).

Methodology: This was a cross sectional study conducted between May and June 2012 on 43 nurses. A structured questionnaire and an observation checklist were used to collect data on factors influencing use of the NP in NDH. The data was entered in Microsoft excel computer software and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient was used to establish correlation between variables. Ethical approval was obtained from Keuyatta National Hospital/UON Ethics and Research Committee.

Results: Minority of the participants (51.8%, N=43, mean=4.2, SD=1.124) strongly agreed that the NP facilitates total patient care. The proportion of the participants who carried out the various components of the nursing process appropriately ranged between 15.7% and 30.1%. The study showed a statistically significant correlation between demographic characteristics and nursing factors that could promote use of the NP as follows: qualification of participants & training on NP (F=0.228, p=0.038), gender & drive to appear professional (1=0.234, p=0.034), age & drive to appear professional (r=0.24, p=0.029) and years of clinical experience & drive to appear professional (r=0.285, p=<0.01). There was also a statistically significant correlation between demographic characteristics and nursing factors hindering use of the NP as follows: gender & lack of experience on using the NP (r=0.218, p=0.047) and age & inadequate knowledge on the NP (r=0.245, p=0.026).