Attitude Towards Computer Application in Nursing Practice by PATCH Scale

P Vadivukkarasi Ramanadin[1], Manjeet Kaur[2]

[1]Asst. Professor, Dept. of OBG (N), [2]Principal, 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.

HYPOTHESES

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

N = 30

Sl. No	Variables	Limited awareness of applications of computer technology in healthcare	Has a realistic view of current computer capabilities in healthcare	Enthusiastic view of the potential of computer use in healthcare	Idealistic, positive view related to computer applications in healthcare
1	Private Staff Nurses	5%	40%	55%	5%

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 pracftice by P.A.T.C.H. Scale.
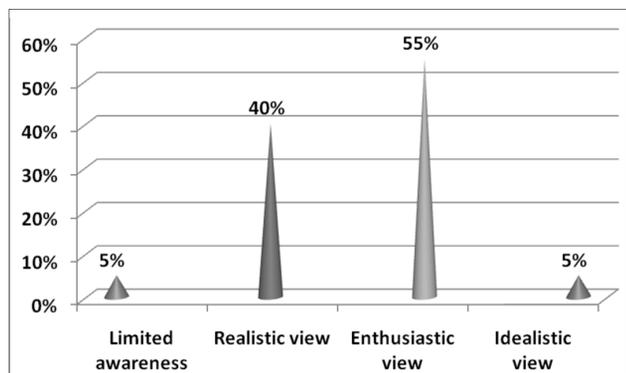

Fig.1. Attitude of The Staff Nurses According To PATCH

Part – II

Table: 2. Attitude of The Staff Nurses

N = 30

Sl.No	Variables	Mean Percentage		
		Positive attitude	Negative Attitude	No opinion
1	Private Staff Nurses	59%	20%	21%

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.
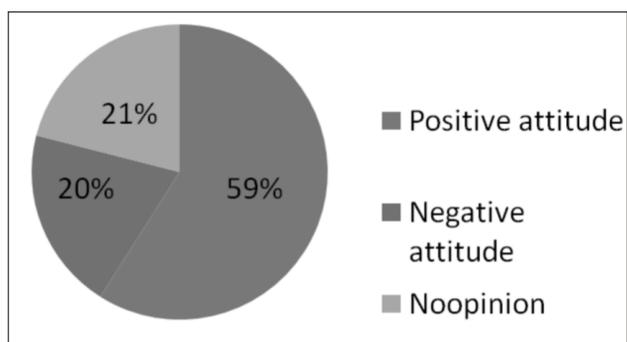
Fig. 2. Positive and Negative Attitude of the Staff Nurses

Part – III

Table : 3 Association Between Selected Demographic Variable and Attitude

S. No	Variable	χ^2 Value	Table value at 0.05 level	Level of significant
1	Age	1.29	3.89	Not Significant
2	Sex	2.4		
3	Education	2.3		
4	Year of Experience	2.4		
5	Income	1.41		
6	Type of family	2.1		
7	Religion	1.43		
8	Marital status	1.78		
9	Place of residence	1.92		
10	Source of information	3.04		

This table denotes that there is no association between attitudes of staff nurses regarding computer application with selected demographic variables.

DISCUSSION

The cross sectional descriptive study was conducted among middle and functional level nurse managers at Kenyatta National hospital, Kenya. A purposive sample of 107 nurses' managers was selected from every department in the hospital. Data was collected using a self administered questionnaire. The study revealed that nurse managers had very positive attitudes towards use of computers in provision of health care. The attitudes of the nurse managers towards use of computers in nursing were not significantly influenced by accessibility to a computer, previous training in computer (p=0.05). However the length of practice as a nurse and the age of the respondents have negative influence on attitudes (p=0.05). Majority of the nurse managers (85%, n=91) did not have computer studies as part of their training in basic nursing, fifty one percent (n=55) had received training in computers after their basic training in nursing.

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.

ETHICAL CLEARANCE

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

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