



Awareness and Attitude regarding Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care (NPCC) Post Graduate Programme among final year undergraduate students.

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ABSTRACT-

Introduction: The nurse practitioner is a nursing residency program with main focus on competency-based training. The duration is of two years with the curriculum consisting of theory that includes core courses, advanced practice courses and clinical courses besides clinical practicum which is a major component. Nurse practitioner will be able to provide cost effective, competent, safe and quality driven specialized nursing care to patients in a variety of settings in tertiary care centers. The main aim of this study is to assess the knowledge regarding nurse practitioner in critical care course among undergraduate students. And to determine the attitude regarding nurse practitioner in critical care course among undergraduate students. **Methodology:** A quantitative research approach with descriptive research design used. A sample of 60 final year undergraduate students selected using the method of non-probability convenient sampling technique. Data was collected by semi-structured questionnaire. Data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage). **Results:** The study findings showed that the majority of 36 (60%) students had average knowledge and 59 (98.33%) students had favorable attitude. Result revealed that there was a significant association between age of the students and knowledge regarding the Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care (NPCC) post graduate programme. **Discussion:** This study signifies that 59% of students had favorable knowledge regarding nurse practitioner course although further studies can be carried out on large number of samples.

Index term: Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care, Post graduate program, undergraduate students.

INTRODUCTION -

The nurse practitioner is a nursing residency program with a main focus on competency-based training. The duration is of two years with the curriculum consisting of theory that includes core courses, advanced practice courses and clinical courses besides clinical practicum which is a major component.^[1] Nurse practitioner will be able to provide cost effective, competent, safe and quality driven specialized nursing care to patients in a variety of settings in tertiary care centers. Nurse practitioner have been prepared and functioning in USA since 1960s, Australia since 1990s and Netherlands since 2010^[2]. Critical care nursing is the field of nursing which focus mostly on care of the critically ill or unstable patients following extensive injury, surgery or life-threatening diseases. Critical care specialties, such as general intensive units, medical intensive care units, surgical intensive care units, trauma intensive and burns unit falls under critical care.^[3] The Indian Nursing Council has initiated the 'Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care, Program' (NPCC), the first postgraduate nursing residency program in India in year 2017. The program was approved by the Government of India and launched by the health minister and it is announced on the INC website in the year 2017. Many undergraduate students are not aware of this residency programme and has mixed attitude towards this programme. Our graduates are successfully placed in leading healthcare institutions and contribute immensely to the intensive care.^[4]

NEED OF THE STUDY-

The aim of this study was to improve the care of critically ill patients by acquiring, discussing, distributing and promoting evidenced based information. In this program nurse practitioner has new opportunities to build strong career pathway and professional development. With help of this program nurses can work independently in hospital setting, and the nurses who all are working in critical care area they are able to do the advanced procedures and improved there critical thinking skill in giving better

quality patient care and improved safety outcomes. They are able to help and analyze the patient condition and identify the potential issues.^[5]

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study Sample

In this study 60 final year undergraduate students.

Inclusion Criteria:

In this study the inclusion criteria was following;

- 1) 4th year BSc nursing students.
- 2) Students willing to participate in this study.
- 3) Present during the day of data collection.

Exclusion Criteria:

- 1) 1st, 2nd and 3rd year BSc nursing students.

Hypothesis:

H₀: There is no association between knowledge with selected demographic variable regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme.

Study design

In this study quantitative research approach with descriptive research design was used. Samples were selected by using a non-probability convenient sampling technique and samples was 60 final year undergraduate students.

Method/technique for data collection:

The tool was prepared based on information gathered from the review of literature and objectives of the study.

Section A: Socio-demographic Characteristics.

It consisted of items to assess the demographic variables like age, gender and designation.

Section B:

Tool 1: 20 Semi-structured questionnaires to assess the knowledge regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme among nursing students

Tool 2: Likert Scale to assess the attitude regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme among nursing students.

Statistical Method

Frequency and percentage distribution was used to describe demographic data.

Frequency and percentage distribution was used to assess knowledge and attitude regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme among final year undergraduate nursing students.

Chi-square test shows that there is an association between age and knowledge of students regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post-graduate programme.

RESULT

Section 4:1 Distribution of demographic data of students using frequency and percentage.

n=60

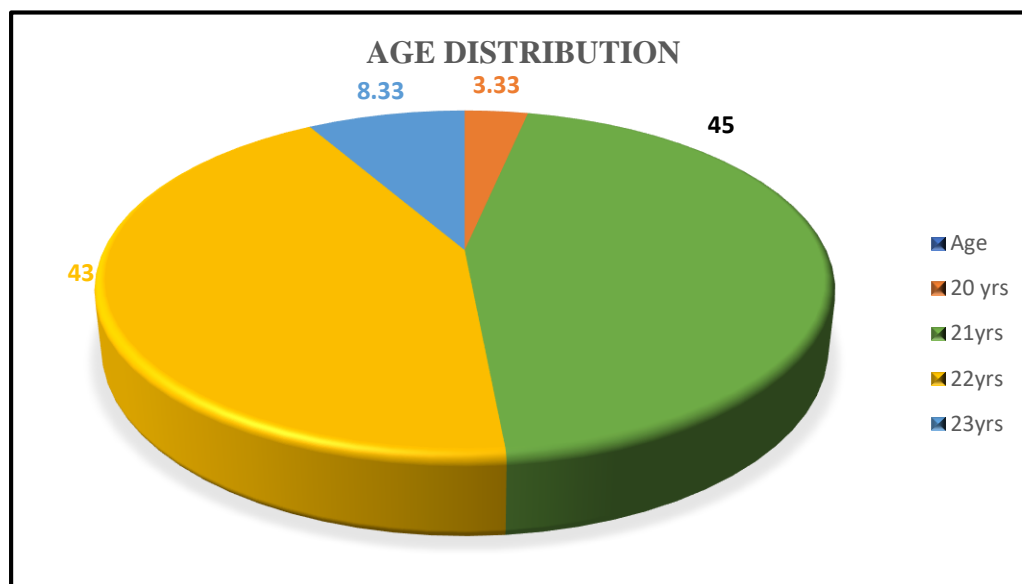


Figure 1: depicts that 22 (43%) of students were in the age group of 20 yrs., 26 (45%) of students were in the age group of 21 yrs, 15 (8.33%) of students were in the age group of 23 yrs. 6 (3.33%) of students were in the age group of 20 yrs.

Figure 02. Showing the gender of students who has participated in this study.

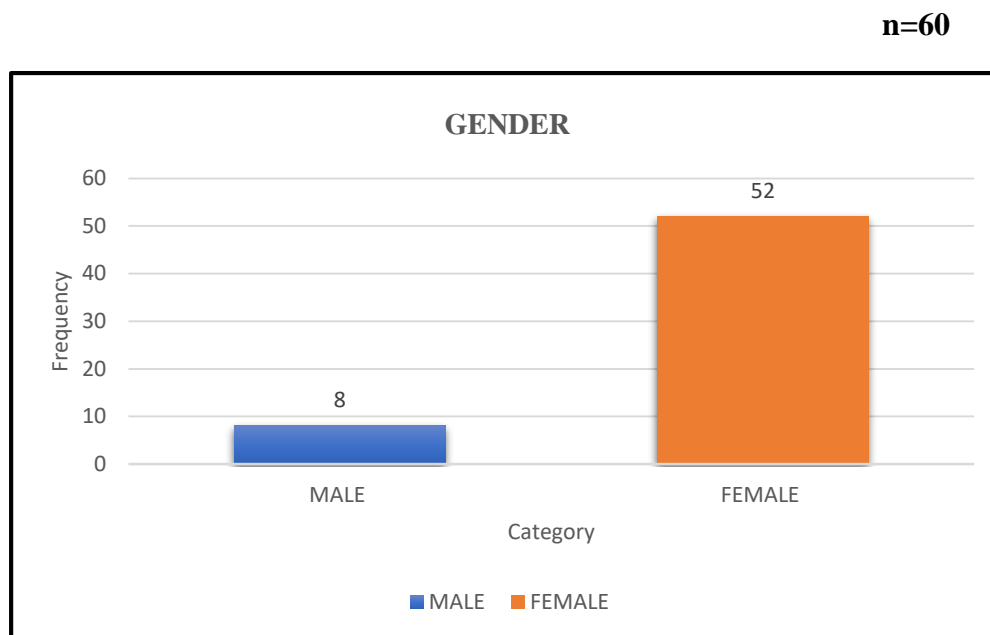


Figure 2: Depicts that 08(13%) of students were male, and 52(86%) students were female participated in this study

Figure 03. Showing the designation of students who has participated in this study.

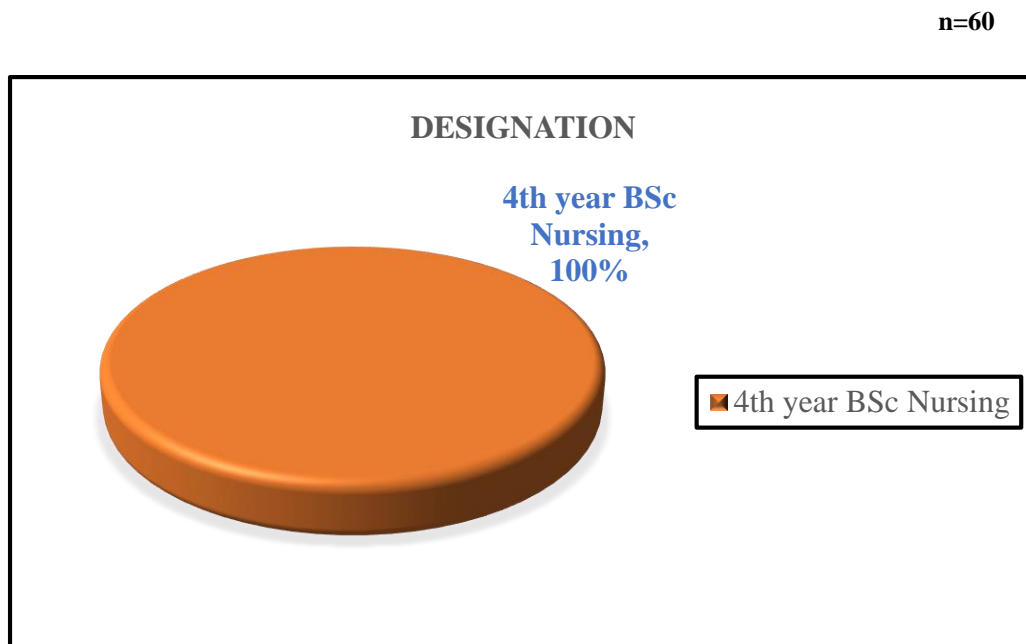


Figure 03: The designation of students who all are participated in this study were 4th year BSc nursing (final year undergraduate nursing students).

Section 4.2: Distribution of sample based on knowledge score regarding Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care (NPCC) Post Graduate Programme among final year undergraduate students.

n=60

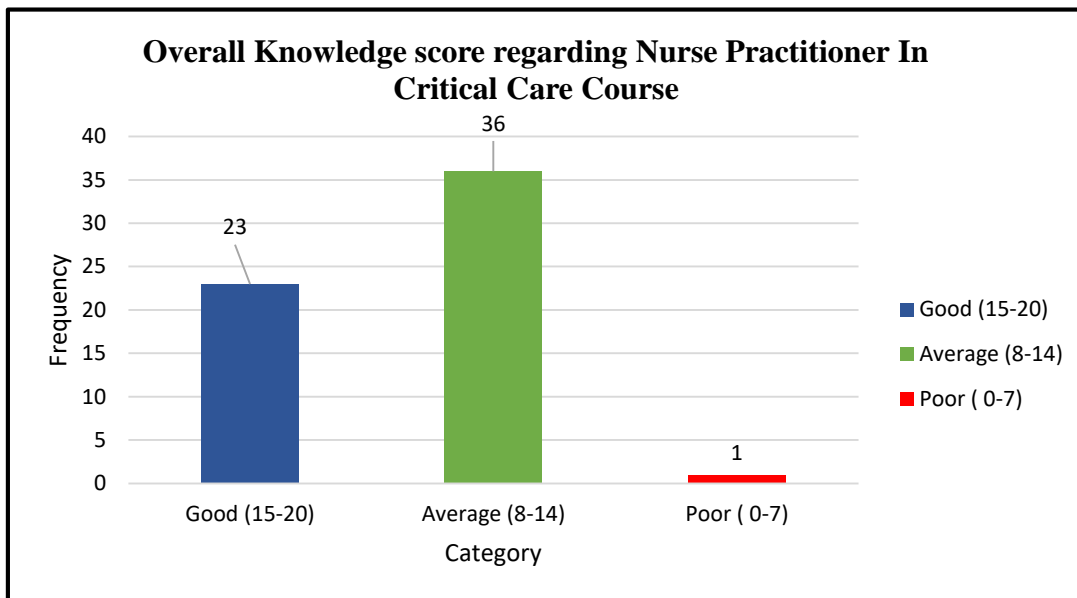


Fig 4: Depicts that out of 60 students 23(38%) students are having good knowledge regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme, whereas 36(60%) students are having average knowledge and 1 (1.66%) student having poor knowledge.

Section 4.3: Distribution of sample based on attitude score regarding nurse practitioner in critical care course post graduate programs among nursing students.

n=60

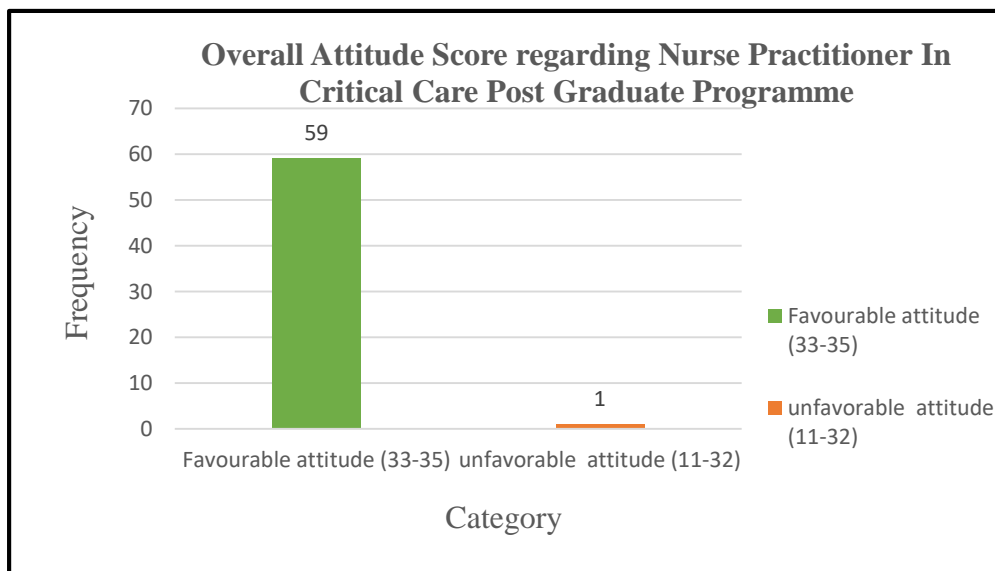


Fig. 5: Depicts that out of 60 students 59(98.33%) students are having favourable attitude and 1 (1.66%) student are having unfavourable attitude regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programs.

Section 4.5: Association between knowledge in relation to nurse practitioner in critical care among undergraduate final year students and selected demographic variables.

n=60

Demographic Variable	Good	Average	Poor	χ^2	P-value	Association
Age						
20 year	0	4	0			
21 year	11	13	0			
22 year	10	19	0	40.23	15.51	Significant
23 year	1	0	1			
24 year	1	0	0			

Table 5: Shows that association between selected demographic variable with knowledge of undergraduate final year students checked using chi-square test with degree of freedom. For age chi- square value $\chi^2 >$ Tab value ($40.23 > 15.51$), so, null hypothesis is rejected and there is association between age and knowledge of undergraduate final year students regarding Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care post graduate programme.

DISCUSSION:

In this present study it was found that majority of 60% of students are having average knowledge regarding nurse practitioner in critical care course post graduate programme, whereas 38% are having good knowledge and least 1.66% students are having poor knowledge regarding nurse practitioner in critical care course post graduate programme.

Statistical analysis shows that maximum knowledge score was 18 out of 20.

Chi-square test shows that there is an association between age and knowledge of students regarding nurse practitioner in critical care post-graduate programme.

The students had a average knowledge, and favourable attitude towards Nurse Practitioner in Critical care Programme.

Based on this study finding researcher revealed that with the help of this post-graduate programme student are able to perform the advanced procedures individually and improve their critical thinking skills.

CONCLUSION:

Nurse practitioner are clinical professionals responsible for patients care during their critical care admission. They are highly experienced and educated practitioners and they are skill full in performing in dept health assessment and procedures. They have strong foundation of theoretical knowledge which helps them in providing care to the critically ill or injured patients. Students have average knowledge, favourable attitude towards nurse practitioner in critical care post graduate programme.

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