

THE PERCEPTION OF NURSES ON THE NEEDS OF CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS -AN EXPLORATORY STUDY

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- **Abstract: Background:** The escalating burden of diseases in countries like India has placed caregivers under immense physical, mental, and emotional strain. Nurses play a pivotal role in providing comprehensive support to patients and caregivers. However, little is known about nurses' perceptions regarding the needs of caregivers.
- **Objective:** This study aimed to assess nurses' perception on the needs of caregivers of patients.
- **Method:** An exploratory study was conducted among 226 staff nurses using a convenient sampling technique. Nurses' perception of caregiver needs was evaluated through a self-administered semi-structured questionnaire.
- **Results:** Most (98.67%) of participating nurses demonstrated adequate perception, while a small proportion (1.33%) exhibited inadequate perception of caregiver needs. Significant associations were found between nurses' perception and demographic variables, including religion, education, recent caregiving experience to family members, and working area.
- **Conclusion:** The study concludes that nurses' perception of caregiver needs is significantly influenced by demographic factors. Understanding these perceptions is crucial for optimizing caregiver support strategies and enhancing patient care outcomes.
- **Keywords:** Perception, Needs of caregivers, Patients, Nurses.

INTRODUCTION

Hospitalized patients can range from those who are critically ill to those with less severe conditions. The needs of these patients and their caregivers vary significantly depending on the severity of the illness. Patients with less serious illnesses, can typically be managed effectively with appropriate medical support to prevent complications.

When a family member falls ill, it impacts the well-being of the entire family, leading to changes in their lifestyle. Addressing the needs of family members is crucial in avoiding complications and negative consequences for both the patients and their families. A specialized healthcare team provides 24-hour care to patients, with nurses playing a vital role in this team. To provide comprehensive care, nurses must accurately identify and address the needs of the family members.

Therefore, assessing the needs of patients and their families during the hospital stay is essential. This study aims to investigate nurses' perceptions of the needs of caregivers in selected hospitals, providing insights that can improve the support given to both patients and their families.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess demographic variables of nurses.
2. To determine the perception of nurses on the needs of caregivers of patients.
3. To associate the perception of nurses with the demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study employed an exploratory research design with a quantitative approach to assess the perception among nurses at Holy Spirit Hospital, Andheri East, Mumbai. A total of 226 Staff Nurses from various departments, including

Wards, ICUs, and Casualty, were selected using a convenient sampling technique, spanning different age groups. A Self-Structured Questionnaire was utilized to gauge nurses' perceptions, with questions scored on a scale of 1 to 3 (disagree, neutral, agree). Reliability analysis yielded a Cronbach's Alpha score of 0.7470. After the ethical clearance, the study was carried out and Data analysis was conducted using inferential statistics to derive insights from the obtained data.

RESULTS

Objective I: Description of demographic variables of nurses under the study.

Summarizes key demographic details of the 226 surveyed nurses. Most participants (208) are aged 21-30 years, and the majority (211) are female. Christian affiliation is common (169 nurses), and a significant portion (149) hold a B.Sc. degree. About 91 nurses have 1-2 years of work experience. Notably, 149 nurses have recent caregiving experience, and the majority (146) work in ward settings.

Objective II: To determine the perception of nurses on the needs of caregivers of patients.

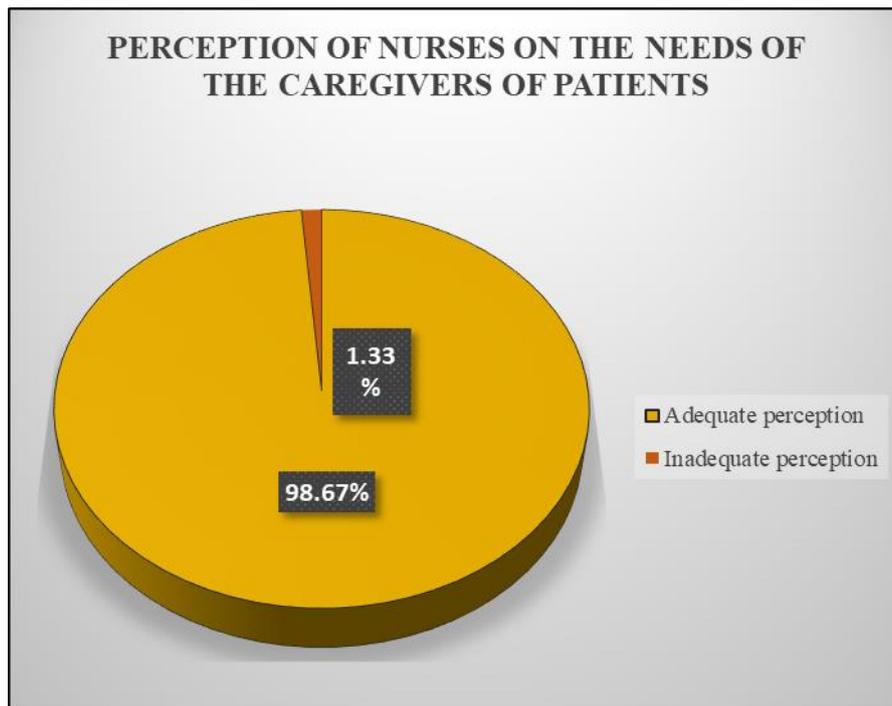


Fig 1 Percentage distribution of the perception of nurses on the needs of caregivers of patients.

Figure 1 shows that the majority of the nurses 223 (98.67%) have an adequate perception, while 3 nurses (1.33%) have an inadequate perception of the needs of caregivers of patients.

Objective III: To find out the association between the perception of nurses and the demographic variables.

Table 2: Frequency, Percentage, Chi-square, and p-value.

SR NO.	VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	CHI-SQUARE	P VALUE
I.	AGE				
	21-30years	208	92.04%	1.8427	5.99
	31-40years	12	5.31%		
>40years	6	2.65%			
II.	GENDER				
	Female	211	93.36%	3.4905	3.84
Male	15	6.64%			
III.	RELIGION				
	Christian	169	74.78%	9.6902	7.815
	Hindu	54	23.89%		
	Muslim	2	0.88%		
Others	1	0.44%			

IV.	EDUCATION				
	GNM	52	23.01%	11.1581	7.815
	B.Sc.	149	65.93%		
	P.B.B.Sc.	24	10.62%		
	M.Sc.	1	0.44%		
V.	WORKING EXPERIENCE				
	Fresher	88	38.94%	4.76	7.815
	1-2	91	40.27%		
	3-4	17	7.52%		
	>4	30	13.27%		
VI.	EXPERIENCE OF CAREGIVING TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS RECENTLY				
	Yes	149	65.93%	6.261	3.84
	No	77	34.07%		
VII.	WORKING AREA				
	Wards	146	64.60%	8.04	5.99
	ICUs	62	27.43%		
	Casualty	18	7.96%		

Table 2 Highlights significant associations ($p < 0.05$) between nurses' perception and key demographic factors such as religion, education, recent caregiving experience, and working area.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Our study set out to explore the perception level among staff nurses regarding the needs of caregivers of hospitalized patients. Through our analysis, we discovered that an overwhelming majority of staff nurses, accounting for 98.67%, demonstrated a commendable level of perception regarding caregiver needs. However, a small proportion, comprising 1.33% of the participants, exhibited an inadequate understanding of these needs. To conclude the findings of this study shed light on the perception level among staff nurses concerning caregiver needs. The high percentage of nurses exhibiting adequate perception underscores the importance of their role in recognizing and addressing the multifaceted needs of caregivers. However, the presence of a minority with inadequate perception highlights the need for targeted interventions to enhance nurses' understanding of caregiver needs. Ultimately, bridging this gap in perception can lead to improved caregiver support strategies and ultimately enhance patient care outcomes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful to the management for allowing us to conduct this research and for providing the opportunity to contribute to the field of nursing. We sincerely appreciate Principal Dr. Sr. Lalitha Rosali for her consistent support and encouragement. A big thank you to our invaluable guide, Dr. Supriya Mane, for her expertise and guidance throughout the study. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go out to all the participants who generously shared their time and insights, making this study possible and enriching our understanding of the subject matter.

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