

Summary

Cardiac units is a specialized units where seriously ill patients are treated by the most highly qualified staff , therefore it needs specialized competent nursing personnel to provide better nursing care for the patients and save them from further complications . It is a fact that there is a lack in specialized nurses , consequently there is a need for inservice education programmes for nurses to improve their practice and to update their knowledge according to the rapid advancement of knowledge and practice .

Aim of the study :

This study aimed to :

Evaluate the effect of an educational program on the performance of nurses working with cardiac patients .

Research question/s :

This study is based on answering the following questions :

- 1- Is there a positive relationship between an educational program for nurses about care of cardiac patients and nurses performance?
- 2- Is there a lack of nurse's knowledge and skills required for care of cardiac patients ?

Subjects and methods :

Research setting

This study was conducted in the medical cardiac units , these units are : Intensive care unit (ICU) , cardiac department involving the coronary care unit (CCU) , cardiac catheter , at Benha University Hospitals in Benha city .

Subjects :

All available nurses (70 nurses) , are worknig at the above – mentioned setting and are caring for the patients with cardiac disorders , with different qualifications .

Tools of data collection :

- 1- An arabic questionnaire sheet to assess the nurse's knowledge related to the care of patients in medical cardiac units.
- 2- An observation check list to assess the nurse's practice in the same units .
- 3- Likert scale to assess the nurse's attitude toward patients in medical cardiac units .

Results :

The results of the study showed that :

- The majority of nurse's ages were amonge the age group between (20 – 30 years) .
- In relation to level of education , it was found that the majority of nurses were having diploma in nursing .
- As regard to marital status , the present study indicated that two third of them were married .
- According to years of experience , it was found that nearly three quarter were $5 \leq 7$ years .
- Regarding training program , it was found that the majority of nurses had no training program .
- There were statistically significant difference between pre and post program implementation regarding nurse's knowledge working with cardiac patients .

- There were an improvement in nurse's practice between pre and post program implementation .
- There were a significant differences pre and post program implementation in relation to nurse's attitude toward care of cardiac patients .
- There were no statistical significant differences found between knowledge , attitude , practice , nurse's ages , level of education and years of experience pre / post program implementation .
- There were a statistical significant differences pre and post program implementation between nurse's knowledge and attending a previous training program .
- There were no correlation between pre and post program implementation regarding age , level of education and years of experience with total knowledge score , practice score and attitude score .
- There were significant correlation coefficients between studied nurse's knowledge scores and attending training program , while there were no correlation between nurse's practice score and attitude score and attending training program pre and post program implementation .

Conclusion :

After the application of an educational program proved that , nurse's knowledge , attitude and practice toward the care of patients with cardiac diseases improved significantly post program implementation .

The most important recommendations are :

- 1- A continuous inservice educational programs should be held for nurses working or dealing with cardiac patients . Regarding nursing care for these patients to revise , acquire and develop the knowledge , practice and attitude needed to deal with such group of patients .
- 2- Nurses working with cardiac patients should be theoretically prepared with principles of caring for cardiac patients and well trained for the specialized procedures needed for patients care .
- 3- Incentives should be given to nurses working at CCU & ICU to encourage them to tolerate the heavy work .
- 4- Emphasizing on monitoring and supervision as important element for service improvement .