
Summary

Ethics are systems of valued behaviors and beliefs that govern the proper conduct to ensure the protection of an individual's right. They involve judgments that help to differentiate right from wrong or indicate how things ought to be. Also, they are concerned with the education and the training process to assist individuals to the competencies required for responsible moral action (*Tharpe & Cindy 2009*).

Nursing ethics is important for nurses to have a basic understanding of the various concepts, principles, approaches, and theories used in ethics throughout history and to identify and analyze ethical issues and dilemmas that are relevant to nurses in the 21st century. Mature ethical sensitivities are critical to ethical practice (*Ruth & Wendy 2011*).

Aim of the study:

This work aimed to study the effect of guidelines about ethics in obstetric and gynecology department on nurses' knowledge, attitude and performance.

Research Hypotheses:

To fulfill this aim, the following research hypotheses were formulated:

- The majority of nurses have poor knowledge, attitude and performance regarding ethics in obstetric and gynecology department.
- Nursing guidelines about ethics will improve the nurses' knowledge, attitude and performance in obstetric and gynecology

department.

Research design:

Intervention study design was used.

I. Technical Design:

Technical design included the setting, subjects as well as tools of data collection.

- **Setting:**

The study was conducted in obstetric and gynecology department at Benha University Hospital.

- **Subject:**

The subjects of the present study were represented a total sample that involved all nurses (50) who were working in the obstetric and gynecology department at above mentioned setting regardless their age, level of education and years of experience, in three shifts (morning, afternoon and night).

Ethical considerations:

- Considering the ethical side of the scientific research.
- Questionnaire did not include any immoral statement that contradict nurse's beliefs and customs.
- Did not contradict nurse's culture, tradition, and religious.
- Did not touch nurse's dignity.
- Verbal approval was obtained from nurses to participate in the study after explanation the purpose of the study to them.



- Nurses were assured that their personal data will be confidential and it will be used only for the research purposes.

- **Tools of data collection:**

A. Assessment questionnaire.

Self administrated questionnaire it included the following parts:

Part (1): Assessing nurses' general characteristic data (age, years of experience and level of education).

Part (2): Assessing nurses' knowledge regarding ethics utilized during given care to mother in obstetric and gynecology department

B. Modified Likert Scale: Assessing nurses' attitude concerning ethics in obstetric and gynecology department. The scale consisted of 14 statements about nursing attitude regarding ethics in obstetric and gynecological department

C. An Observation Checklist: Assessing nurses' performance concerning ethics in obstetric and gynecology department.

D. A guide booklet : It based on nurses needs regarding ethics in obstetric and gynecology department.

II. Operational Design:

2) Pilot study:

It was involved five working nurses in obstetrics and gynecological department to test the applicability of the study tools and to determine the time needed to fill the sheet. Accordingly, the necessary modifications were done in the form of adding or omission of some questions from

direct questions to indirect questions of nurse's attitude then the nurses involved in the pilot were excluded from the study.

- Field work :

Implementation of teaching took (10) weeks period and were implemented for a group of (3-4) nurses according to working circumstances and nurse's physical condition. The researcher visited the setting in the three shifts.

- Assessment of nurses knowledge, attitude and performance regarding nursing ethics in obstetrics and gynecology department (pre- test)
- Design guideline about nursing ethics according to the nurses needs.
- Self-administered nursing ethics guideline was distributed to all nurses after assessing nurse knowledge, attitude and performance.
- After one-month post implementation of self-administered nursing ethics guideline, the researcher evaluate the effect of guideline on knowledge, attitude and performance regarding nursing ethics in obstetrics and gynecology department (post- test)

The findings of this study can be summarized as follows:

- The results reflected that, general improvement in all items of knowledge about ethics in obstetrics and gynecological department during the different assessment periods as compared to before program with highly statistically significant difference observed between before and after intervention.
- The study illustrated that, highly statistically significant difference at different times of assessment in relation to attitude of the studied nursing ethics in obstetric and gynecology department.
- The finding of the current study indicated improvement in relation to

nurse's performance about nursing ethics in obstetric and gynecological department.

- There was a highly positive statistical significant correlation between total knowledge and total attitude scores regarding nursing ethics at different times of assessment.

Recommendations:

- Distribution of ethics guidelines of the present study to all maternity and gynecology departments in Ministry of Health Hospitals at Qaliobia Governorate.
- Preparing graduates of faculty of nursing to serve as models to supervise and instruct nurses about nursing ethics.
- Regular pre-service and in-service educational programs must be developed and implemented for health team members to improve their ethical awareness and improve their abilities to utilize ethical issues in obstetrics and gynecology department.

Further studies needed in this area of nursing ethics to:

- Investigate impact of ethical guidelines on the health team members, on their knowledge, performance and attitude regarding ethics in Qaliobia governorate.
- Investigate the health team compliance with the ethics guidelines in obstetrics and gynecology department.