



Summary

Pneumonia is a common serious infection that afflicts children less than five years throughout the world and is considered the most important global cause of death among them. It is an acute illness caused by infection. The lungs become inflamed, congested leading to cough and breathlessness (**Scott & Brook, 2008**).

Nurse plays an important role in providing nursing care and health education for children and their families especially if they are skilled and well cultured (**WHO, 2007**).

The present study aimed to assess nurses' knowledge and practices regarding care of children with pneumonia. This study was carried out in Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Allergy and Chest Unit, and Medical Units at Benha (University, Specialized Children and Teaching) Hospitals in addition the sample of this study included 100 nurses working in the mentioned settings.

Data were collected by using two tools, a predesigned questionnaire sheet to assess nurses' knowledge and observational checklists to assess their practices.

I- A predesigned questionnaire sheet:

It was designed and developed by the researcher after reviewing related literature, and it was written in Arabic Language to assess nurses' knowledge regarding nursing care given to children suffering from pneumonia and consisted of three parts including: Nurse's characteristics,



their knowledge regarding pneumonia as well as their knowledge regarding care given to children with pneumonia.

II- Observation check list:

It was adopted by the researcher to assess nurses' practice regarding pneumonia. Nurses' practices were evaluated during their actual nursing care using observation checklists concerning O₂ therapy, suctioning, chest physiotherapy, I.V therapy, hand washing and vital signs.

Field work:

The actual fieldwork started from November 2010 up to June 2011 for data collection. It was started by interviewing the nurses at the above-mentioned settings. The researcher started by introducing herself to the nurses then informed them about the purpose of study. The researcher at the end of each shift met them at their available time (after providing nursing activities in the unit). Nurses were individually interviewed to fill in the questionnaire sheet in their areas, each interview lasted for about 20-30 minutes. As regards the nurses practices, they were observed in the previously mentioned settings during their actual work in different shifts.

The results of the study can be summarized as follows:

- More than third of nurses (38%) their age ranged from 20- < 25 years, while nearly the quarter of them (26%) their age was 30 years and more.
- A minority of nurses (10%) their experience was less than 2 years, while (29%) their years of experience ranged from 5- < 8years and about third (32%) of them was ≥ 8 years of experience.





- The majority of nurses (84%) had poor level (<60%) of total nurses' knowledge regarding pneumonia.
 - Nurses' practice in relation to O₂ therapy given by (mask & nasal cannula), suctioning, hand washing, vital signs and IV therapy were performed incompetently by majority of nurses. Meanwhile, all of them (100%) performed chest physiotherapy incompetently.
 - The highest percentage of nurses (84%) performed incompetent level of practice regarding care of children with pneumonia.
 - There were insignificant differences between level of knowledge regarding pneumonia and nurses' characteristics namely: age and years of experience, while there were highly statistically significant difference between qualifications, attending training program, hospital departments of the work and their level of knowledge.
 - There was a statistically insignificant difference between nurses' level of practice and attending training program, while there were highly statistically significant differences between level of practice and nurses' characteristics namely: age, years of experience, qualifications and working departments.
 - There was a highly significant difference between nurses' level of practice and knowledge, where all nurses who achieved competent level of practice had an average level of knowledge, while, the majority of them (84%) who had poor level of knowledge performed incompetently in practice.
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From the result of the present study, the following can be concluded:

The result of the present study concluded that the majority of nurses scored poor level of knowledge, as well as, incompetent level of practice regarding care given to children with pneumonia. Furthermore, qualification and department of the work had a positive effect on both nurses' knowledge and practice.

From the previous findings, the following recommendations are suggested:

- In-service educational program for nurses about care given to children with pneumonia with emphasis on follow up.
- Continuous supervision and evaluation of nurses' performance regarding care of children with pneumonia in hospital to achieve and maintain the quality of care.
- Standardized nursing procedure booklets and guidelines for the nurses should be available to guide them for giving the adequate care of children with pneumonia.
- Nurses should be trained well on the competent level of practice regarding care given to children with pneumonia .
- Conducting an orientation programs for the newly appointed nurses, to provide them with information related to pneumonia, and nursing care for children suffering from pneumonia.
- The pediatric ICU and other units should be adequately staffed and well equipped through three shifts, with systematic continuous supervision.