



A PRE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SELF INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE ON KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING COMMUNICATION WITH UNCONSCIOUS PATIENTS AMONG CRITICAL CARE NURSES WORKING IN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL, JODHPUR

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: *The communication need in unconscious patient is always missed or denied because of their unresponsiveness. Nurses feel unimportant to explain the procedure and steps before performing on them. Many times nurses ignore the patient communication need and busy doing the treatment and technical aspects of work. Every patient has the right to know the condition and informed consent before performing the procedures on them, whether they are conscious or unconscious. The knowledge and attitude of nurses plays an important role when it comes to the communication skills with unconscious patients.*

AIM OF THE STUDY: *Assess knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses*

MATERIAL AND METHOD: *A pre-experimental one group pre-test post-test study was used in order to evaluate effectiveness of self instructional module (the Independent variable) on knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients (the dependent variable) among critical care nurse of selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique in tertiary care hospital of Jodhpur. Each participant was informed about the study and that they could withdraw at any time and a written consent was also obtained.*

RESULT: *The finding study showed that after introducing the SIM, the critical care nurses knowledge had increased from 0 to 70% having excellent knowledge and remaining 13.33% to 30% with good knowledge and attitude level had increased from 30% to 76.67 % with high level of attitude and 23.3% with average level of attitude. However, there was no significant association found between knowledge and attitude and selected demographic variables except total years of experience.*

CONCLUSION: *It can be concluded that critical care nurses had excellent knowledge and high attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients as per current research recommendations. Self-instructional module is effective in improving the knowledge and attitude of the critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients.*

KEY WORDS: *Knowledge, Attitude, communication, unconscious patients.*

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The patients admitted in intensive care units are critically ill and most of them may be unconscious sensory deprived and with limited mobility when nursing such patients verbal communication are missed or considered as unimportant. Unconsciousness is when a person suddenly becomes unable to respond to stimuli and appears to be asleep. A person may be unconscious for a few seconds as in fainting or for longer periods of time in comatose state. People who become unconscious don't respond to loud sounds or shaking. They may even stop breathing or their pulse may become

faint. Unconsciousness can be brought on by a major illness or injury or complications from drug use or alcohol misuse. Common causes of unconsciousness include a road traffic accident, severe blood loss, a blow to the chest or head, a drug overdose and alcohol poisoning.

The importance of using verbal communication in the care of critically ill patients has long been known. The unconscious patient has a considerable need for information and support, so verbal communication can provide orientation and meaningful sensory input to these patients. Information received by the unconscious patient may assist in reducing stress, can help patients preserve self-identity and self-esteem and reduce social isolation.



In this present study, researcher wants to conduct a pre experimental study to assess the effectiveness of self-instructional module on knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses in tertiary care hospital of Jodhpur. There is a need to conduct a research in this field because the increasing cases of unconsciousness and poor outcome of the disease causes economic burden and functional disability of the patient which affect the family as well as the nation economy. Communication is one of way to provide sensory stimulation to the patients to help them to maintain the brain activity and preserve their self-identity.

Nurses working in critical units are unaware of the significance of communication and feel unimportant to communicate with unconscious patients due to work overload, a negative attitude and lack of knowledge. So as a point of interest researcher want to assess critical care nurses knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients and introduce a self-instructional module regarding the importance of communication need in them. Self-instructional module is effective method to update the knowledge and attitude among nurses. There are many studies already done in this aspect which descriptive in review of literature.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses
- To assess the attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses
- To assess the effectiveness of self-instructional module on knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses
- To find out the association between pre-test knowledge and attitude scores with selected socio demographic variables
- To determine the correlation between the knowledge and attitude of critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- **H₀**: There is no significant difference in pre test and post test scores on aspects of knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses
- **H₁**: There is significant difference in pretest and post test scores on aspects of knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses
- **H₂**: There is significant association between level of knowledge and attitude with selected socio demographic variables

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

- **ASSESS**: In this study assess refers to determining the knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses using a self-administered knowledge questionnaire and likert scale.
- **EFFECTIVENESS**: It refers to the extent to which the self-instructional module has brought significant gain in the knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores.
- **SELF INSTRUCTIONAL MODULE**: It refers to a systematically developed self-instructional material on aspects of usage and care regarding communication with unconscious patients.
- **KNOWLEDGE**: The knowledge refers to the correct responses given by the critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients.
- **ATTITUDE**: It refers to the way of thinking of the critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients.
- **COMMUNICATION**: It refers to the use of verbal or non-verbal communication with unconscious patient by the critical care nurses.
- **UNCONSCIOUS PATIENT**: It refers to a person becomes unable to respond to stimuli and appears to be asleep.
- **CRITICAL CARE NURSES**: It refers to the nurses working in different intensive care units.
- **PRE-EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**: It refers to single group are observed after some intervention or treatment presumed to cause change.

ASSUMPTION

- Critical care nurses will be having little knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients
- Critical care nurses may have poor attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients
- Self-Instructional Module is one of the best systematical developed self-instructional materials on communication with unconscious patients

DELIMITATION

- The study is limited to the Critical Care Nurses

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **RESEARCH APPROACH**
A Quantitative research approach was used in the study to assess the effectiveness of self-instructional module on knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

A pre-experimental design, one group pre-test post-test design was adopted for the study.

RESEARCH VARIABLE

- **Independent variable:** Self Instructional Module.
- **Dependent variable:** Knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses.
- **Demographic variable:** Age, gender, professional qualification, total working experience, ICU experience and special training if any attended.

POPULATION

In this study target population was critical care nurses working in neuro ICU, medical ICU, surgical ICU and trauma ICU.

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY**SAMPLING SIZE**

In this study, the sample consist 30 critical care nurses working in neuro ICU, medical ICU, surgical ICU and trauma ICU.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

- The sampling technique used in this study was Convenience method of sampling. This entails the use of the most readily available persons in a study. Sample who meet the criteria for sample selection were selected.

RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL

- The tool was tested for reliability using Karl Pearson correlation coefficient formula. Correlation coefficient $r = +0.945$ (approximately 0.9).

Table 1

Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables among critical care nurse (N=30)

S. No	Socio-demographic variable		Frequency	Percentage
1	Age (in years)	21-30	14	46.67
		31-40	11	36.67
		41- above	05	16.67
2	Gender	Male	15	50
		Female	15	50
3	Professional qualification	Diploma	26	86.67
		Graduate	04	13.33
		Post graduate	0	0
4	Totals experience in yrs	below 1 year	2	6.67
		1-5 years	11	36.67
		above 5 years	17	56.67
5	Work experience in ICU (YRS)	6mth-1 year	05	16.67
		1-3 years	12	40.00
		more than 3 years	13	43.33
6	Additional training if any attended	No	24	80
		Yes	06	20

Table 1 Depicted that the nurse participated in the study, Age 21-30, (14, 46.67%), Gender male & female (15, 50%), Qualification Diploma (26, 86.67%), total experience

(in year) above 5yr (17, 56.67%), work experience in ICU yr more than 3yr (13, 43.33%), additional training of any attended No (24, 80%).

Table-2

Finding related to pretest and posttest knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses (N=30)

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL	PRE TEST		POST TEST	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Poor	5	16.66 %	0	0 %
Average	21	70 %	0	0 %
Good	4	13.33%	9	30%
Excellent	0	0%	21	70%
Mean	6.27		12.73	
SD	1.84		1.89	



Table 2 depicted that the pre-test knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses. The major findings are 70% of critical care nurses had average knowledge, the remaining 16.66% had poor knowledge and 13.33% had good knowledge. The mean of the level of pre-test knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care

nurses was 6.27 with SD \pm 1.84. In post-test knowledge the major findings are 70% of critical care nurses had improved with excellent knowledge, the remaining 30% with good knowledge, and no one left over in poor and average categories. The mean of the level of post-test knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses was 12.73 with SD \pm 1.89

Table-3

Findings related to pretest and posttest attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses

ATTITUDE LEVEL	PRE TEST		POST TEST	
	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Poor	1	3.3%	0	0 %
Average	20	66.7%	7	23.3 %
High	9	30%	23	76.67 %
Mean	50.17		61.10	
SD	7.54		5.40	

Table3 depicted that the pre-test level of attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses. The major findings are 66.7% of critical care nurses had average level of attitude, the remaining 30% had high level of attitude and 3.3% had poor level of attitude. The mean of the level of pre-test level of attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care

nurses was 50.17 with SD \pm 7.54. In post-test the major findings are 76.67% of critical care nurses had increased with high level of attitude remaining 23.3% had average level of attitude. No one left over with poor level of attitude. Mean of the post-test level of attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses was 61.10 with SD \pm 5.40.

Table-4

Paired t-test to assess the effectiveness of self-instructional module on Knowledge and Attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses

KNOWLEDGE		MEAN	SD	T	P-VALUE
		PRE TEST	6.27		
	POST TEST	12.73	1.89	23.22	0.00
ATTITUDE	PRE TEST	50.17	7.54	7.37	0.00
	POST TEST	61.10	5.40		

Table 4 depicted that the researcher applied paired t-test to assess the effect of self-instructional module on knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses. Average knowledge score in pre-test was 6.27 which increased to 12.73 in post-test. t- value for this test was 23.22 with 29 degrees of freedom. Average attitude score in pre-test was 50.17 which increased to 61.10 in post-test. t- value for this test was 7.37 with 29 degrees of freedom. Corresponding p-value was small (less than 0.05) Thus self-instructional module was found to be significantly effective in improving the Knowledge and Attitude of critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients. Hence it can be concluded that null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was accepted.

DISCUSSION

The hypothesis made in the study is there is significant difference in pretest and post test scores on aspects of knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients among critical care nurses with selected

socio- demographic variables among critical care nurse at the level of $P \leq 0.05$. The association between knowledge and attitude level with socio demographic variable shows, that only total clinical experience was found significant at the level of $p < 0.05$ while other socio demographic variables were not found to be significant. There was a positive but very weak correlation $r = 0.007$ between the knowledge and attitude of critical care nurses.

- Three assumptions were made in this study. The first one was the finding of the study reveals that after introducing the SIM, the critical care nurses knowledge had increased with 70% having excellent knowledge and remaining 30% with good knowledge regarding communication with unconscious patients. Similar studies were also done in different parts of the country and same results were found that all the healthcare workers were having average level of knowledge and attitude which has enhanced by introduction of SIM to a excellent knowledge and high level attitude regarding



communication with unconscious patients and all its aspects.

- The second assumption was the finding of the study reveals that after introducing the SIM, the critical care nurses attitude level had increased with 76.67 % high level of attitude and 23.3% with average level of attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients
- The third assumption was self-instructional module was found to be significantly effective in improving the knowledge and attitude of the critical care nurses regarding communication with unconscious patients.

CONCLUSION

The finding of this study showed that after introducing the SIM, the critical care nurses knowledge had increased with 70% having excellent knowledge and remaining 30% with good knowledge and attitude level had increased with 76.67 % high level of attitude and 23.3% with average level of attitude. However, it was no significant association found between knowledge and attitude and selected demographic variables except total years of experience. This study has made some progress in establishing the current status of critical care nurses knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients and is able to provide a framework for developing critical care nurses knowledge and attitude regarding communication with unconscious patients and regular education and training for nurses in frequent intervals should be carried out for improved quality critical care.

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