



INVESTIGATING THE ATTITUDE OF NURSES TOWARDS PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL IN SIERRE LEONE. (A CASE STUDY OF ANNEX WARD, GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, KENEMA).

BY

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in the Kenema City Government Hospital and the Annex Ward to be specific in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. The main purpose for the research is to investigate the attitude of nurses towards the patients in the Annex Ward which is consider to be the only ward that is meant to handle sensitive cases with careful attention for proper administration of medication for speedy health recovery. This research critically assessed the condition of service delivery from the nurses to the patients and encompasses the nurses' attitude to the patients.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction:

For centuries, there have been nurses in some capacity who have the job of taking care of all individuals. Modern nursing is thought to have begun following the work of Florence Night gale also known as “the lady with the lamp” (who’s live in British History) today there is a wide range of nursing degree and specialties develop to better serve patients. For years, research has confirmed that nurses’ approach has a vital effect on individual health a sympathetic nursing outlook can cultivate healthy and possible advance the healing process (for patients) as recent research suggests.

A nurse is defined as “a person formally educated in the care of the sick or affirms” (Webster’s revise unabridged dictionary). Nurses are responsible for caring for patients, working every day with high tech-equipment and are direct involved in decisions regarding a patient’s care. It has often been said that the way one thinks affects his or her overall health and reality images in the mind are real occurrences to the body. The mind has powerful control over the body. The overall attitude of the health provides affects a patient’s general attitude and desire or will power. Whatever you dwell upon grows and expands in your life. Patients believe that the attitudes of others around them affect his or her recovery status. When dealing with the sick, it is always essential to use positive reinforcement. Speaking kindly, using positive words, complimenting and empowering are excellent ways to motivate an ill person.

Background of the Study:

Nurse’s attitudes refer to self knowledge or feeling and behaviour which are fundamental relationship which is key to rendering quality treatment to patients’ positive nurses attitudes are of importance when developing. A caregivers word can be a form of dangerous interference, namely, if his words cause the patient to think negatively and possible refused vital treatment.

It is a wise idea for a nurse to be conscientious in his or her outlook and behaviour at the work place.

Statement of Problems:

It has often been said that the way are thinks affects his or her overall health and reality. A nurse’s care and attention level can also affect a patient physically, mentally and emotionally. The overall attitude of a caregiver affects the patient physical, mental and emotion well being of. This is a problem that needs investigation which the researcher has decided to undertake nurses at Government Hospital Annex Ward attitude of Nursing at very appealing and negative towards. It is against this backdrop the

researcher wants to bring it to the attention of Government and stakeholders, and find a way of combating the challenge in hospitals.

Aim of the Study:

The aim of this study is to investigate the attitude of nurses at Annex Ward in the Government Hospital Kenema City.

Objectives of the Study:

This study has the following objectives:

- i. Identifying the attitude of nurses.
- ii. Diagnosing the effects of nurses' attitude on patients.
- iii. Providing suggestions and recommendations to address these problems.
- iv. Assessing the medical facilities and equipment used by the hospital staff.

Definition of Terms:

1. Attitude - is a state of mind, way of thinking or position of the body.
2. Caregiver – Health care provider attention, concern.
3. Patient – a person receiving medical treatment or care
4. Stigma – a mark of disgrace.
5. Nurse – a person who looks after people who are ill, especially in hospitals, health centers, among others.
6. Hospital, Health center etc- a place where ill people are treated.
7. Equipment – machine used to test or find out.

It was mentioned in the 2003 study in Sydney by (O'Baugh et al 267) pointed out that patients believe that the attitude of others around them affect their positive recovery status. When dealing with the sick, it is always essential to use positive reinforcement after all, in some circumstances, one is as sick as he or she feels. And the encouragement and positive stance of others (namely the health care providers can do nothing but lift the spirit of the ill and make him or her feel better than he or she is actually speaking kindly using positive words, praising and empowering are excellent ways to motivate an ill person (Knuston 15).

Nurses' care and attention level can also affect a patient physically. Overall attitude of a care giver affects the patient physically, spiritually and emotionally. If the nurse is positive, the patient is more likely to have a positive attitude and potentially improve at a faster rate. Other end of the spectrum, a negative attitude may affect the patient attitude and recovery in a negative attitude and damaging manner. Experience and time spent with a patient may also play a role in the care giver's openness with a patient. It is vital that nurses behave positively around patients in order to aid in recovery. Nursing strategies and out looks have and will continue to affect a patient well being. Nurses typically, work long shifts that require the utmost attention and dedication. This is often a tiresome and training profession. It takes a special individual with a calling to be a nurse. But the satisfaction of nursing is the knowledge that are made a positive difference in another individual's life (Heron XV). When a person becomes a nurse, they sign on for life. It doesn't seem to matter for how long or in what branch of nursing one works, there is a certain quality which is unique to a nurse (Heron IV). If not simply for occupational reasons there are also biblical obligations to care for others Luke 10:27 the bible states "Love your neighbour as yourself". Loving others and giving them the best care possible requires understanding, humility and the will power.

A nurse's care and attention level can also affect a patient physically. In 2006 a study was conducted in Sweden surveying 252 registered nurses and nurses aids 53% were positive about caring for a patient's nutritional health. It is believed that in regards to malnutrition (focus area of the study) nurse's attitude affect the patients' health in an encouraging manner (backache - windstorm 2007). The overall attitude of a caregiver affects the affects the patient physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research carried out the attitude of nurses towards Under Five ill children in the Manowa town. Here, the quantitative and quantitative approaches will be utilized:

RESEARCH POPULATION:

This research is under taken to find out the attitude of nurses towards under five children. A random population sample would be done using the targeted groups;

- i. Trained nurses at Manowa
- ii. Lactating mothers

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS:

The following instruments were used to obtain relevant information for the research:

1. **Questionnaire:** This instrument was used to collect data from participants who can respond to questions in writing. However, questionnaire structured were administered to 40 participants, 10 each from the group.
2. **Interview:** a number of interview sessions were conducted in each of the group this instrument generally focused on providing data on the attitude of nurses towards under five ill children.

DATA COLLECTION:

Frequent visitation to the target groups was done for the distribution of the questionnaires. The respondents were given two weeks to complete the questionnaires. At the end of it, they were collected by the researcher. Frequent internet websites were visited to obtain vital information from it. Interviews conducted and observation made, were also collected for additional information.

DATA TREATMENT:

The data collected was treated descriptively and analytically using percentage in a tabular form. Conclusion and recommendation on the basis of these finding were made. However, the following constraints were envisaged by the researcher: The focus of this was limited to Government Hospital Pujehun. Also, the collections of questionnaires from the nurses, adult mothers and adult fathers and patient. With the above limitation, the researcher is convinced that, the sample could serve as a fairly adequate representation of what obtain in the District in Sierra Leone.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDING

TABLE I: FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGES OF RESPONDENT QUESTIONNAIRE AND CORRESPONDING RETURN.

Group	No. Of Administered Questionnaire	Return Questionnaire	Percentage (%)
Trained nurses male	10	10	25
Trained nurses female	10	10	25

Patient	20	20	50
Total	40	40	100

Source: Survey data, 2018

Table was shows that unequal proportions of questionnaires were distributed to the various sections attributed to the investigation. 20 (50%) lactating mother and 10 (25%) for train nurses male and female respectively. This give a balance picture of questionnaire distributed.

TABLE II: FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGE OF SEX RESPONDENTS QUESTIONNAIRES AND CORRESPONDING RETURN:

Sex	No. of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Male	10	25
Female	30	75
Total	40	100

Source: Survey Data, 2018

The table above shows that 20(50%) of the respondents were male and 20 (50%) were female. This shows a balance picture of the respondents.

TABLE III: REASONS FOR THEIR ATTITUDE

Reason	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Physiological change	04	10
Psychological distress	08	20
Depression	04	10
Poor recovery outcome	20	50
Stigma	04	10
Total	40	100

Source: Survey Data, 2018

Table 3 showed that 20(50%) of the respondents indicated that poor recovery outcome of patience's among others is the main reason responsible for this attitude towards patients. Also 8 (20%) of those contacted admitted that psychological distress is mother factor affecting nurses attitude. Finally, 4(10%) account for the other reason i.e. stigma, depression, physiological change.

TABLE IV: CAUSES OF THESE ATTITUDES:

Causes	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Poor recovery outcome	30	75
Caregivers words	05	12.5
Nurses care and attention	05	12.5
Total	40	100

Source: Survey Data, 2018

Table 4 shows that 30(75%) of the respondents indicated that poor recovery of the patient is the main causes of the negative attitude of nurses towards patients. Also, 05 (12.5%) of those contacted admitted that caregiver's words is another cause of the attitude. Finally, 05(12.5%) accounted for the nurses care for the patients

TABLE V: EFFECTS OF THESE ATTITUDES

Effects	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Physical	10	25
Spiritual	10	25
Emotional	10	25
Mental	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: Survey Data, 2018

Table 5 showed that 10(25%) of the respondents indicated that the effect of nurses negative attitude, the following effects are visible on the patients- physical, spiritual, emotional and mental respectively.

TABLE VI: SUGGESTIONS FORM THE VARIOUS RESPONDENTS THAT WHEN EMBACK ON WILL ENHANCE POSSIBLE ATTITUDE:

Suggestions	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Positive care/attention	20	50
Good outlook/behaviour	10	25
Speaking kindly	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: Survey data, 2018

Table 6 showed that 20(50%) of the responding indicated that positive care and attention as a suggestion to improve relations between patient and caregivers. Also 10 (25%) of those contacted indicated that: good outlook or behaviour as another point. Finally, 10 (25%) of those contacted suggested that nurses should speak kindly to patients to enhance their recovery and care.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS:

The findings reveal that, nurse's attitude self-knowledge of feeling and behaviour are fundamental to cultivating a positive nurse patient working relationship. And positive nursing attitudes are importance when developing therapeutive relationships with patients because they are the foundation to a supportive relationship. It was observed that nursing attitude towards patients varied with setting or other related factors. The overall attitudes of a caregiver's affect the patient physical, spiritual and emotional. A good number are trained but not on voucher this account for vary attitude.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings drawing from the study the following conclusions have been realized:

A nurse's care and attention level can also affect a patient physically, spiritually an emotionally. A nurse's positive attitude has the potential to affect the patient health in an encouraging manner.

On the other hand of the spectrum, a negative attitude may affect the patient's recovery in a negative and damaging manner. It is vital that a nurse behave positively around patients' in order to aid recovery. Speaking kindly using positive words, praising and empowering are excellent ways to motivate an ill person. Finally, positive attitudes are essential for nurses in providing care and enhancing out comes for patients.

RECOMMENDATION:

The following recommendations should be drawn from the finding:

- i. Training programme – such as in-service course or workshop be organize for serving health care providers on ways of treatment of patients.
- ii. Monitoring mechanism be put in place to monitor the relations between nurses and patients in health facilities.
- iii. Press to can monitor the issue, by conducting interviewing with patients and their attendances.
- iv. Government should provide equipment and personnel gears during attendance of patient.
- v. Nurses should be given extra- remuneration for motivation.

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