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Perceived workplace violence reported by nurses enrolled in B.Sc Nursing degree programme at KAATSU International for Undergraduates, Sri Lanka

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Background: Workplace Violence (WPV) are violent acts directed towards workers, and includes physical assault, the threat of assault, and verbal abuse, and it is widely recognized as having far-reaching consequences for workers' health and safety. Nurses are the most vulnerable group for the WPV. In recent years WPV against nurses has proliferated, becoming a nationwide phenomenon across the hospital settings. Furthermore, it can be affect the quality of patient care and reduce the efficiency and quality of the entire health system.

Objective: To determine the perceived workplace violence reported by nurses enrolled in B.Sc Nursing degree programme at KAATSU International for Undergraduates (KIU), Sri Lanka.

Method: A quantitative descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 306 undergraduate nurses in KIU using simple random sampling. A pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data which consisted with three sections namely demographic information, prevalence of WPV and factors associated with WPV. Data analysis was done with descriptive statistics and chi-square test using SPSS version 23. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee of KIU.

Results: The majority of participants (97.4%) were females, aged between 20-30 years (61.4%) and with ≤ 5 years of work experience (63.7%). The prevalence of workplace violence was 75.5%. The main type of violence reported was verbal violence (66.3%). Medical and surgical wards (30%) were the most frequent working areas where nurses faced the violence behavior. The perpetrators were found to be supervisors (55.2%), patients' relatives (40.2%), and patients (39.5%). Working unit of the nurses and their designation were significantly associated with WPV among nurses ($p \leq 0.05$).

Conclusion: Prevalence of WPV was high among nurses. Verbal abuse from nursing supervisors were more common. Therefore, special attention of nurse administrators is essential to reduce WPV among nurses.