PP 33

Participation in continuous nursing education and it's relationship to e-health literacy among the nursing officers at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Wijekoon WMTKK[1*], Meegoda MKDL[2]

[1]*International Institute for Health Sciences, Sri Lanka,* [2]*Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.*

Background: Continuous Nursing Education (CNE) is one of the most significant elements in the nursing profession. Skills in utilizing electronic health resources are useful in CNE. Nurses' perceived skills at using information technology to update health knowledge; use of computer, search information, and ability to read and understand health information is considered as e-health literacy.

Objective: The aim of the study was to assess the participation for CNE and its relationship with e-health literacy among the registered nursing officers working in the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL).

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional design study was conducted among 337 registered nurses at NHSL. A stratified sampling technique was used and a pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire (in-house) was distributed to collect data. Scale reliability was tested using item analysis for internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha). Ethical approval was obtained from the Ethics Review Committee of the International Institute of Health Sciences and further permission was obtained from the NHSL. Descriptive analysis was performed using SPSS version 22.0. Binary logistic regression analysis was performed to identify the relationship between e-health literacy and CNE.

Results: Of the sample (n=337), 86.1% had participated in CNE. Item reliability analysis produced a fitting scale alpha value of 0.74. Among the respondents, 88.5% had the ability to understand clinical literature to obtain updated health information, and 80.7% of them had the ability to continue professional nursing education in English. Cumulative response on ability to utilize the internet was significantly higher (84.9%) than their computer literacy (77.5%). There was no significant relationship between the participation of CNE and e-health literacy ($p=0.61 > 0.05$).

Conclusion: Nursing officers' participation in CNE is very high. There was no significant relationship between the participation of CNE and e-health literacy.