

## STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF NURSES IN THE CARE OF DRUG-DEPENDENT PATIENTS ADMITTED IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS OF THE CITY OF YASOUJ, IRAN IN 2014

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** According to the growing number of addicts dependent on drugs, hospitalization for them is due to medical reasons is inevitable in hospitals. Attitude of nurses can affect the quality and performance of nursing care. This study aimed to survey relation between attitude and practice of nurses in the care of drug-dependent patients admitted in public hospitals of the city of Yasuj, Iran in 2014.

**Materials and methods:** In this cross-sectional study 200 nurses of government hospitals in Yasuj, as the target population, were selected by quota sampling method and participated in the study. Information was collected using the questionnaire in three parts: demographic, attitude and performance. Validity of questionnaire was determined through the validity and reliability content of the Cronbach's method and was acceptable (0.86). Data were analyzed using SPSS software.

**Results:** Results showed there is a significant positive correlation between attitude and practice of nurses ( $P < 0.001$ ,  $r = 0.423$ ). This means that 18.4% of the variance function of the subjects was influenced by their attitude. As well as the attitude and practice of samples were positive. T-test showed that, there is a significant difference between attitude and practice of nurses ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Although, the majority of nurses' attitudes and practice was acceptable, but to increase the positive attitude of nurses in order to improve health services, we need to pay more attention to issues related to the affiliation of the material in higher education and holding in-service training.

**Key words:** Attitude, Practice, Nurse, Drug-dependent patients.

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### Introduction

Although, drug history goes back to pre-history, but from 1960 onwards the use of these materials has shown up as a major social problem<sup>(1)</sup>. Prior to 1964, drug abuse and drug addiction, was named as addiction. But after the suggestion of the World Health Organization and to reduce the social burden, words drug abuse and drug dependence, were used instead of word addiction<sup>(2)</sup>. Now, 3/6% - 6/9% of adults (those 15 to 64 years old) are under the influence of illegal substances. According to the International Organization for medicine in 2013, since 2008, the number of drug users has increased by 18%<sup>(3)</sup>.

According to statistics of Iran's Drug Control Headquarters in 2009, the number of addicts in the country is less than one million and two hundred thousand, and the number of addicts dabbled around, was estimated eight hundred thousand<sup>(4)</sup>. Each year millions of dollars are consumed to fight the drug or treatment of drug dependent people in different countries. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2004, Iran in terms of attitudes to drug use is ranked first among the world countries<sup>(5)</sup>. The results Rocket and colleagues have shown that patients with drug dependence treatment needs compared with patients with no drug dependence treatment needs, are 81% more likely to have hospital admissions<sup>(6)</sup>.

Nurse is a key member in sanitary and therapeutic care. Nurses offer services that are vital for the survival and well-being of patients<sup>(7)</sup>. The reports show that some factors, such as attitudes of nurses, can have a role in the quality of care<sup>(8)</sup>.

Boyle et al. in a study have shown that nurses' attitudes can have a direct impact on the welfare of patients and their performance in the provision of health care. This is despite the fact that nurses are expected to have a function without prejudice for treating a wide range of people with different medical conditions<sup>(9)</sup>. Since, compared to other chronic diseases, use of drugs and addiction has been little noticed in nursing education programs it is possible that nursing graduates when they enter the clinical field have not sufficient knowledge about this topic. Lack of training and knowledge, expose them to the negative attitude towards these patients<sup>(10)</sup>. This study was conducted to assess the attitude and practice of nurses related to providing nursing care to drug-dependent patients.

## Material and methods

This is cross-sectional study that was carried out for 6 months. The statistical population is consisted of all nurses (400) in government hospitals of Yasuj, Iran that 200 people were randomly selected using quota sampling. Data were collected by questionnaire out of 200 distributed questionnaires 182 questionnaires were completely analyzed. The questionnaire was prepared in two parts. The first part of the questionnaire is related with personal characteristics including gender, age, education, the work of the ward and hospital service's subjects. The second part is about attitude and performance. Attitude questions were 20 questions and 36 questions about performance were asked. All questions are for five-item Likert scale. Validity of questionnaire was determined through the validity and reliability content of the Cronbach's method and was acceptable (0.86). In order to observe the ethics of research, the researchers after introducing himself and explaining the objectives assured the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants and then in condition of agreement the questionnaire were completed. Data from the questionnaires was analyzed using SPSS software (version 21).

Two variables of attitudes and performance were analyzed also Student t test and analysis of variance was used.

## Results

Information obtained after statistical analysis in order to achieve the aim of "characteristics of individual units" showed that most of the samples were in the age group: 25- 29 years, 71 person (39%), 137 female (75.3%), 124 married (68.1%), 170 expert (93.4%), normal occupational category 165 person (90.7%), work experience less than 5 years, 89 person (48.9%), respectively. The evaluation results showed that there is a significant difference with p level of  $P < 0.001$  between the attitude of study samples and performance of study samples. Also Results showed there is a significant positive correlation between attitude and practice of nurses ( $P < 0.001$ ,  $r = 0.423$ ) (Table 1).

	Attitude	Performance
Test value	60	108
Abundance	182	182
Average $\pm$ SD	68.98 $\pm$ 8.6	82.27 $\pm$ 11.1
Rate of correlation	$r = 0.423$	$P < 0.001$

**Table 1:** Relation between Attitude and Practice of Nurses in the Care of Drug-Dependent Patients Admitted in Public Hospitals of the city of Yasuj, Iran.

Analyzing the results in connection with the determination of attitudes and practice showed that the majority of samples have attitude more than the cut line (60) and performance further of cut line (108), respectively (table 2).

Statistics		Number	Proportion
Attitude	Weak ( lower than 60.13)	6	3.3
	Average ( 60.13-78.2)	154	84.6
	Strong ( more than 78.2)	22	12.1
Performance	Weak ( lower than 128.6)	29	15.9
	Average ( 128.6-168.1)	118	64.8
	Strong ( more than 168.1)	35	19.2

**Table 2:** Nurses' attitudes and practice in relation to drug-dependent patients.

## Discussion and conclusion

Results showed that most of the samples were in the age group: 29-25 years, female, married, expert, normal occupational category, work experience less than 5 years, respectively.

These data are consistent with results of studies of Tabiei and colleagues and Motamed-Jahromi et al.<sup>(11, 12)</sup>. One of the main elements in providing any service is having a positive attitude about it. The results of this study showed that there is a positive attitude among nurses to provide nursing care to drug dependent patients.

Morgan study also says that nurse's attitude to drug-dependent patients is positive<sup>(13)</sup>. Also this study showed that the nurses' performance has been favorable toward drug-dependent patients. Hemmati, Maslakpak and colleagues' research result also has evaluated nurses' communication performance with patients in special care in Urumia's Educational and non-educational hospital in good level<sup>(14)</sup>.

For nurses, who are in relation to drug-dependent patients, it's necessary to pay attention to their attitude and behavior toward these people, therefore they can by combining knowledge and own craft make a good relation with patient. That's because nurse's attitude and performance as caregivers of drug dependent people can be transmitted to people and help them in the healing process. Fortunately the results show that increasing awareness and knowledge of nurses in relation to such patients improves their attitude and performance in relation to them, since having knowledge about any subject improves our attitude towards the issue and doing any correct responsibility requires a positive attitude toward that subject<sup>(15)</sup>.

The results also indicate that nurses, due to their increasing knowledge and their sense of inner responsibility towards their patients, communicate their patient with a positive attitude and good performance and try to recover them. The results show a significant positive relationship between attitudes and practices of nurses at  $P < 0.001$ , meaning that the more positive the attitude of nurses to drug-dependent patients is, nurses' performance in the care of these patients also will be better and more appropriate. These findings are consistent with previous research, including Tiznobick et al<sup>(16)</sup>.

The importance of health care as an important aspect of nursing science has not been considered in action. And also attention to issue of drug addiction in higher education programs should be considered.

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