

Barriers standards of professional ethics in clinical care from the perspective of nurses

Estándares de barreras de la ética profesional en la atención clínica desde la perspectiva de las enfermeras

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Abstract

Introduction: Promoting professional values is an important factor in the development of nursing careers, so any mischief in honoring professional commitment and ethics can overcome the quality of nursing care. The view of most nurses is there are barriers to ethical performance in their work environment, which disrupts their ability to provide appropriate care. According to the above, and such a study was not carried out in Bam, this study aimed to determine Barriers standards of professional ethics in clinical care from the perspective of nurses. Methods: This descriptive-analytic study was conducted with the participation of nurses of Bam Pasteur Hospital in a census sampling. Tool for collecting information is a questionnaire that examines the barriers to observing professional ethics standards in three dimensions: managerial, environmental and individual-care. Data were analyzed by SPSS software version 23 using descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, standard deviation) and inferential statistics (independent t-test, ANOVA). The results of the study showed that there is no significant relationship between observance of ethical criteria and demographic variables. The mean barriers standards of professional ethics in clinical care from the

perspective of nurses was $0/56 \pm 3/81$ that according to the maximum mean (5), There are barriers to standards of professional ethics in clinical care, which has average barriers in various fields as follows: environmental barriers with an average of $0/66 \pm 4/10$, administrative barriers with an average of $0/64 \pm 3/77$ and personal barriers with an average of $0/65 \pm 3/75$, respectively. Discussion: Considering that environmental factors are known as the most important barrier to non-observance of professional ethics standards, Therefore, it is suggested that health care centers with careful planning and emphasis on principles and standards of care, including environmental factors, The importance of professional ethics in improving patients' Disadvantages of non-compliance with professional ethics, Providing favorable conditions for nurses such as improving the conditions of the wards, Creating a safe and secure physical and psychological environment and meeting their needs, such as rest and adequate income, Arrangement of appropriate shifts, provision of standard equipment, Take effective steps to comply with the best standards of professional ethics.

Keywords: professional ethics, clinical care, nurses

Resumen

Introducción y objetivos: Promover los valores profesionales es un factor importante en el desarrollo de las carreras de enfermería, por lo que cualquier travesura en el cumplimiento del compromiso y la ética profesional puede superar la mejor atención de enfermería. La opinión de la mayoría de las enfermeras es que existen barreras para el funcionamiento ético de su entorno de trabajo, lo que altera su capacidad para brindar una atención adecuada y apropiada. En vista de lo anterior, y considerando que dicho estudio no se llevó a cabo en Bam, este estudio tuvo como objetivo determinar las barreras para el cumplimiento de los estándares de ética profesional en la atención clínica en el Hospital Pasteur en Bam. Métodos: Este estudio descriptivo analítico se realizó con la participación

de enfermeras del Hospital Pasteur Bam en una muestra del censo. Una herramienta para recopilar información es un cuestionario que examina las barreras para observar los estándares de ética profesional en tres dimensiones: gestión, medio ambiente y atención individual. Los datos se analizaron mediante el software SPSS versión 23 utilizando estadísticas descriptivas (distribución de frecuencia, media, desviación estándar) y estadísticas inferenciales (prueba t independiente, ANOVA). Los resultados muestran la relación entre las variables éticas y demográficas que existen en Mnadaramary. La media de las barreras estándares de ética profesional en la atención clínica desde la perspectiva de las enfermeras $56/0 \pm 81/3$ que según el máximo (5), barreras a las normas de ética profesional en

la atención clínica, que tiene barreras promedio en varios campos como sigue : barreras ambientales con un promedio de $66/0 \pm 10/4$, barreras administrativas con un promedio de $64/0 \pm 77/3$ y barreras personales con un promedio de $65/0 \pm 75/3$, respectivamente. Discusión: dado que los factores ambientales como el principal obstáculo en el incumplimiento de los estándares de ética profesional es, por lo tanto, recomendado que los centros de salud: tratamiento con una planificación cuidadosa y un énfasis en los principios y estándares de atención, incluidos los factores ambientales, la importancia de los profesionales mejora de la ética, desventajas del incumplimiento de la ética profesional, proporcionar condiciones favorables para las enfermeras, como mejorar el sector, crear un entorno de confort y seguridad física y psicológica y satisfacer sus necesidades, como descanso e ingresos adecuados, desarrollar turnos en el equipo adecuado Pasos estándar, efectivos para cumplir con los mejores estándares de ética profesional.

Palabras clave: ética profesional, atención clínica, enfermeras.

The approach of today's world can be considered a return to rationality and ethics. Humanity goes through various periods to provide a rational and ethical approach to meeting its needs. Therefore, we can be considered the focal point for developments in the future world. This approach affects most of the disciplines that are leading the service of human beings¹. Although ethics is necessary in all businesses, but, in the nursing profession, this factor is more necessary because of the spiritual coupled with responsibility nurses play an important role in the recovery and return health to them, Therefore, nursing profession is based on ethics². Ethics are an inseparable part of human life and a subset of practical philosophy It includes principles and values Which affects individual and collective behaviors Implies the right and wrong^{3,4}. Ethics in nursing, is very important and It is directly related to clinical care, quality and nursing competence⁵. So that any mischief in honoring professional commitment and ethics can overcome the best nursing care and, conversely, it can play an important role in the professionalization of nursing⁶.

So far in the field of ethics, nurses function largely subsidiary of medical specialties which are due to nursing ethics as an independent subject, less attention has been paid⁷, but the role and responsibilities of the nurse every day definitions of a broader found and Nursing as a profession known independent legal and medical communities⁸. in Nursing Ethics will work of the patient and the health care; and thereby the person committed that his career not do so the patient does not harm the care process to improve patient to have⁹.

In this context, many studies have been done in the world and Iran. Studies have shown that the mean score of moral reasoning for nurses abroad is 51.47 and in Iran 42.16, and ethical principles are not favorable in clinical decision making and nurses are not able to apply ethical knowledge in the real environment¹⁰. The results Torabizadeh et al (2012) suggest that privacy and to the dignity of patients is not well respected, as well as medical and nursing staff little awareness of the importance of privacy and dignity of patients¹¹. The results also mohajjel aghdam et al (2013) suggest that the patients 41/8% of nurses are at high levels, 51/8% on average, and 6/4% in the weak code of ethics for professional nursing Iran has acted¹². A study by Ghobadi Far and colleagues (2013) although showed that most health care providers highly assessed their performance in professional ethics, their performance score was moderate¹³. The findings of the study Sadeghi et al (2011) suggest that doctors and nurses to the patient's wishes and demands of neglect and do not provide enough information and just the patients¹⁴.

Also, Borhani et al. (2011) reviewed nursing students' perceptions of professional ethics barriers And found that the factors underlying the curriculum including the shortage of teachers fluent in ethics, Lack of curriculum, the use of inappropriate methods in teaching ethical issues, evaluation problems and the lack of objective tools To assess students' skills in professional ethics, The weakness of interpersonal communication and the limitations of the clinical environment¹⁵. Study Nouhi et al (2013) to determine the ethical errors of nurses in nursing ethics codes of ethics show is not suitable and planning in this regard is necessary administrative measures¹⁶.

The study of Gourchiani et al. (2012) Evaluating the degree of observance of ethical values in hospitals at a moderate to near-weak level. 47% of nurses as well as their ethical performance levels were adequate, while 38% of patients considered the optimum performance. The higher mean of nurses 'ethical observance from nurses' point of view towards worrying patients because Because it suggests that nurses feel that their current performance is desirable, while they do not feel this way from the perspective of service recipients. As a result, nursing ethics is undesirable in the study¹⁷. The study of Mohammadi et al. (2018) shows that the moderate level of knowledge of nursing and midwifery students and staff members¹⁸.

The study of Khodayari et al. (2012) assessed the level of ethical values in hospitals at a moderate level close to the weak¹⁹, but in the study of Ghobadi Far et al (2012) and Mohajl Aghdam et al. (2012), the observance of ethical standards by Nurses are reported moderately (12 and 13). It seems that there are many different perceptions and practices regarding the observance of ethical values in clinical care appropriate to the diversity of beliefs and cultures. According to the results of the above studies and other studies, in this case, this study aimed to determine barriers to observance of professional ethics standards in clinical care at Pasteur Hospital in Bam.

This is a descriptive-cross-sectional study which aims to determine the barriers to observing professional ethics standards in nursing practice in 2018. The research environment of Pasteur Hospital affiliated to Bam University of Medical Sciences and the research community consisted of 205 nursing staff. Due to the small number samples, in this study sampling was done by census method. Data were collected by questionnaire consists of two parts: the first part includes demographic information such as age, sex, marital status, level of education, experience, location of work, the status of employment nurses and the second part of the questionnaire barriers to compliance standards of professional ethics from the perspective of nurses in the study of peasants and colleagues²⁰ in three aspects: management, environmental and personal care are made. The questionnaire contains 33 questions of professional ethical barriers (14 questions related to management, five questions related to the environment, 14 questions related to personal care) services. Five-point Likert scale items to be answered. Select the option strongly agree (score 5) or agree (score 4) indicates that the item is considered an obstacle to ethical professional. Choosing the Absolutely Opposed Option (Score 1) and Opposition (Score 2) indicates that the item does not impede the observance of professional ethics standards from the perspective of nurses. I do not have the choice to comment. The lack of knowledge of the effect of the variable in question is inadequate to professional ethics. In order to evaluate the content validity of the questionnaire to the 10 professors and PhD students of Nursing University of Medical Sciences were arranged and conducted on the basis of necessary reforms. In order to determine the reliability and internal consistency, Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the questionnaire completed by 20 nurses from $\alpha=0/89$ is obtained²⁰.

Researchers ethical considerations referred to the hospital in Bam and in research from the Department of Science and Technology of the University of Medical Sciences received Bam. After publishing the goals and benefits of this study, hospital authorities were allowed to consult. The questionnaire and consent form by the researcher and visitors at the right time again to be distributed.

The Results: Study as a cross-sectional study, the information of barriers to professional ethical nursing practice is provided. In this study of 184 patients, 152 (82/6%) of women and 32 (17/4%) were men. Among these patients, 35 (19%) were single and 149 (81%) were married. Minimum age of 23 and a maximum of 55 years studied, the average age of $6/67 \pm 32/42$ years. The minimum working experience of the studied samples is 1 year and maximum 25 years, with an average working experience of 8.34 ± 5.88 years. Based on statistical results, 171 (92.9%) had undergraduate degrees and 13 (7.1%) had master's degrees. Among the subjects, 177 (96.2%) nurses, 3 (1.6%) nurses and 4 (2.2%) supervisors were nurses. The results of the study showed that there was no significant relationship between observing ethical criteria with age ($P=0.57$), gender ($P=0.75$), educational level ($P=0.57$), position ($p=0.93$) and marital status ($P=0.38$). Table 1 shows the relationship between ward workplace and professional ethics, which did not show a significant relationship between the ward workplace and ethical standards ($P=0.07$). In the statistical results of Table 2, employment status was not correlated with ethical standards ($P=0.42$). The results of the study indicate that the average barriers to observance of professional ethics standards in clinical care from nurses' point of view was 3.81 ± 0.56 , which, considering the maximum average⁵, has barriers to observing professional ethics standards in clinical care. The average of these barriers in different domains were: environmental barriers with a mean of 4.10 ± 0.66 , management barriers with a mean of 3.77 ± 0.64 , and then individual barriers with an average of 3.75 ± 0.65 .

Table 1 - Comparison of ethical standards in the workplace

Employment type	Management barriers	Environmental barriers	Personal barriers	Barriers to Ethical Criteria
Emergency Depart	3/77 ± 0/56	4/06 ± 0/64	3/51 ± 0/51	3/70 ± 0/53
Medical	3/53 ± 0/53	3/94 ± 0/58	3/57 ± 0/52	3/61 ± 0/55
Surgical	3/82 ± 0/68	4/27 ± 0/71	4 ± 0/70	3/97 ± 0/61
Pediatric	3/92 ± 0/58	4/36 ± 0/67	3/82 ± 0/78	3/94 ± 0/65
Psychiatry	3/73 ± 0/70	4/12 ± 0/68	3/76 ± 0/50	3/80 ± 0/56
ICU	3/50 ± 0/68	3/81 ± 0/79	3/72 ± 0/56	3/64 ± 0/57
CCU	3/96 ± 0/59	4/1 ± 0/65	3/84 ± 0/72	3/93 ± 0/60
Dialysis	4/07	4/40	3/50	3/78
Operation room	4/08 ± 0/46	4/09 ± 0/53	4/04 ± 0/47	4/06 ± 0/40
Administrative	3/64 ± 0/83	3/91 ± 0/68	3/65 ± 0/47	3/68 ± 0/56
Neonatal	4/03 ± 0/43	4/61 ± 0/38	4/04 ± 0/57	4/12 ± 0/41
ANOVA	P= 0/11	P= 0/07	P= 0/05	P= 0/07

Table 2 - Comparison of ethical standards by type of employment

Employment type	Management barriers	Environmental barriers	Personal barriers	Barriers to Ethical Criteria
bespoke	4/06 ± 0/44	3/84 ± 0/54	4/36 ± 0/46	4/1 ± 0/37
Corporate	3/66 ± 0/69	3/70 ± 0/60	3/99 ± 0/71	3/73 ± 0/56
Contractual	3/67 ± 0/61	3/75 ± 0/60	4 /3 ± 0/68	3/76 ± 0/53
Official test	3/76 ± 0/68	3/78 ± 0/69	4/14 ± 0/62	3/83 ± 0/60
Official absolute	3/89 ± 0/58	3/86 ± 0/74	4/16 ± 0/79	3/92 ± 0/61
T independent	P=0/22	P=0/89	P=0/39	P=0/42

In this study, the barriers to observance of professional ethics standards in three areas of management, environment and individual care were examined from nurses' point of view, which in all dimensions of professional ethics standards Which is similar to the Dehghani et al. (2012) study, Ghamari et al. (2014), which could be of interest to health care managers and planners^{9,20}. The results of the present study indicate that the highest average of barriers to observing professional ethics standards was from nurses' perceptions regarding environmental domain (with a mean of 4.10 ± 0.66), which was consistent with the results of dehghani studies²⁰, Ghamari⁹ and elhami¹⁰. Factors associated with this area are: lack of facilities and equipment in the sector, biological and physical changes during night shifts, work on different shifts, crowded sectors, expect the unexpected patients and their nursing staff^{6,10,20}. Therefore, it is suggested that by regulating more regular job shifts, which allow nurses the opportunity to adapt biological time to work, it will help nurses to better observe care standards, including: better observance of professional ethics standards in nursing care practices.

According to the results, after environmental factors, management factors (mean $0/64 \pm 3/77$) the main obstacle in standards of professional ethics in clinical care from the perspective of nurses. Factors related to the field of management include: organizing inappropriate nurses, nurse shortage, heavy workload of nurses, shifts inappropriate and compact, crowded wards, non-use of standard and advanced medical equipment, lack of patient awareness of the duties of nurse, lack of incentive programs by managers, directors inappropriate treatment^{6,9,20-23}.

Improper management of nursing staff is one of the factors that significantly reduces the quality of nursing care and nursing care and nursing professionalism⁶. Although the shortage of nursing personnel has been reported in Iran and the world, But in all countries, the departure of nurses from this profession is high, which will lead to an exacerbation of the shortage of nurses^{24,25}. The shortage of nursing staff leads to an increase in factors associated with dissatisfaction and burnout, such as an increase in workload and unpleasant work shifts²⁶; which, according to the results of the above studies, barriers are to observing professional and ethical standards in nurses.

The results Dehghani et al (2013) suggest that Morning nurses have a better moral performance than nurses of other work routines, While the morning and evening shifting (double-ended) nurses were less responsive to professional ethics than other work routines. Therefore it is necessary to reduce the effects of fatigue caused by long working time, changes in nurses' shifts occur^{27,36}.

Therefore, according to the results of this study and the above studies, the shortage of personnel is a major challenge continuously recognized by medical personnel as a barrier to observing clinical ethics. Seems to be a shortage of personnel in health centers with careful planning and controlled solve. Also, by educating nurses about the principles and standards of care, they can familiarize themselves with the importance of observing professional ethics in improving the quality of patient care and the disadvantages of not adhering to professional ethics. Direct supervision of clinical interventions can also help to remove barriers.

Based on the results of this study, the next important obstacle after the management to observing professional ethics standards in clinical care from the viewpoint of nurses factors is individual factors (with a mean of 3.75 ± 0.65). Factors such as lack of time^{23,34}, failure to meet basic needs such as income or adequate rest, and nurse inherent characteristics such as personality, values are in this area^{20,28}. Considering and solving basic staffing needs, such as income or rest, is an important factor in facilitating the observance of nursing professional ethics standards from nurses' perspective. Therefore, increasing income and reducing workload can lead to promotion of ethical standards of nurses^{29,33}. Therefore, it is necessary to do more effective planning with proper planning to solve nurses' problems Because in this case even if the nurse knows and wants, Due to barriers to professional ethics Again, it can not adequately comply with professional ethics standards in care services.

The results of various studies indicate that there is no relationship between nursing ethics and age^{1,19,29,30,31}, which is consistent with the results of this study; but some other studies indicate that the age of compliance with ethical codes in nurses has decreased^{16,32}, which can be attributed to the severity of nursing work and physical fatigue

resulting from the activity in the clinic. Therefore, it can be argued that several factors that are associated with age can explain the role of age in reducing or increasing. For example, if the number of night shifts and workload is planned for a person of higher age, the number of his errors is reduced or vice versa¹⁶.

There was no significant correlations between the degree of observance of professional ethics and sex^{1,7,19,30}, which is consistent with the results of the present study, but the results of some other studies indicate that there is a significant relationship between gender and the application of ethics^{16,29,31}. As women have better Ethical performance than men. But it seems that due to the women's personality framework on emotional and communication issues, this group of staff is more committed to ethical issues in providing care and treatment.

There was no other study include demographic variables such as marital status, work experience, education level, employment status and service area, with respect to professional and ethical values, which is similar to the results of studies conducted in this area^{16,19,30,31,35}.

Conclusions

Considering that environmental factors are known as the most important barrier to non-observance of professional ethics standards, Therefore, it is suggested that health care centers with careful planning And emphasizing the principles and standards of care, including environmental factors, The importance of observing professional ethics in improving patient conditions, Disadvantages of professional ethics, Providing favorable conditions for nurses such as improving the conditions of the sections, creating a comfortable and safe physical and psychological environment and meeting their needs such as rest and adequate income, Developing appropriate shifts, providing standard equipment, will take effective steps to better meet professional ethics standards.

Study Limitations: One of the limitations of this study was the lack of time from the nursing staff to fill in the questionnaires. In this regard, the questionnaires were tried to filed in mid-shift work. Other limitations can be mentioned in this study, there was only one teaching and medical center. It is suggested in future researches that studies be conducted with a wider statistical community for more reliable generalizations.

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