

An investigation into the role of mothers in the care of hospitalized children as perceived by mothers and nurses in pediatric units of BPKIHS, Dharan, Nepal

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Abstract

Background: Over the last three decades the annual number of deaths among children less than 5 years of age has decreased by almost one third. However, this reduction has not been evenly distributed throughout the world **Objective:** The aim of the present study was to identify the role perception of mothers and nurses in the care of hospitalized children. **Method:** Comparative survey design was adopted for the study. A simple random sampling technique for mothers and purposive sampling for the nurses were used in selecting the subjects. The sample comprised of 50 mothers and 50 nurses. The data was collected by using interview schedule for mothers and semi-structured questionnaire for the nurses. The data obtained was analyzed using the descriptive and inferential statistics. **Result:** The study results showed that, 84% of mothers strongly agreed and 56% of nurses strongly agreed, with the role of mothers in the care of hospitalized children. Regarding comparison of the role of mothers as perceived by mothers and nurses, were found positively significant. As regards to relationship between the perceptions of mothers on her role with the selected background factors, revealed that there was no significant relationship. **Conclusion:** Mother's role in the care of hospitalized children is vital, as all expectations of satisfaction, trust and security of the child are vested in her. Mothers being a primary care provider of child has limited role in hospital but still can contribute in recovery of children.

Keywords: Child care, mother, nurses, perception

Introduction

Over the last three decades the annual number of deaths among children less than 5 years of age has decreased by almost one third.

However, this reduction has not been evenly distributed throughout the world. Every year more than 10 million children die in developing countries before they reach their fifth birthday. Seven in 10 of these deaths are due to acute respiratory infections (mostly Pneumonia),

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diarrhoea, measles, malaria, or malnutrition and often to a combination of these illnesses. Thus it is well understood that children of developing countries frequently get hospitalized.

Children having being fully or various level of dependency on mother before hospitalization need maternal support during hospitalization as well. The results study conducted Beraldi Salgado D 2014 highlighted the key role of nurses in promoting mother-child bonding despite political structures in maternity and pediatric centers. Unfortunately role of mother in caring child during hospitalization is not well defined.

The main aim of the study is to identify the role perception of mothers and nurses in the care of hospitalized children.

Methods

It is hospital based comparative survey study of patient admitted in pediatric wards of BPKIHS. A 50 nurses and mothers were taken for the study. A purposive sampling for the nurses and random sampling for the mothers were used to select the study subjects. A semi-structured questionnaire for the nurses and an

interview schedule for the mothers were used for the data collection. The collected data was entered in MS Excel. The obtained data was analyzed by using statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) software package. Frequency percentage and Chi-square test was used for the study.

Content validity of the tools: To ensure content validity of the tools used in the present study, tools were given to 14 experts (2 Doctors & 12 Nurse Educators), in the fields of Pediatric, Medical as well as Nursing. Percentage of agreement for the interview schedule and questionnaire were 100 percent. However, certain suggestions of experts were incorporated into the tools and modified accordingly. Tools were found valid for the study. English version of the tool was translated into Nepali by language expert and back from Nepali to English to counter check the translation.

Results

Description of sample characteristics of mothers.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of mothers by their sample characteristics (n = 50)

S.N.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age of mother		
	1.1 21-30 years	14	28
	1.2 31- 40 years	29	58
	1.3 > 41 years	7	14
2	Occupation of mother		
	2.1 House wife	41	82
	2.2 Business	5	10
	2.3 Professional	4	8
3	Education of mother		
	3.1 Illiterate	7	14
	3.2 Up to 10 th class	31	62
	3.3 Higher Secondary	12	24
4	Family income in rupees		
	4.1 <5000	9	18
	4.2 >5000	41	82
5	Previous experience of hospitalization		
	5.1 Yes	15	30
	5.2 No	35	70
6	Age of the hospitalized child		
	6.1 1-3 years	40	80
	6.2 3-5 years	10	20

Description of sample characteristics of nursing personnel

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing personnel by their sample characteristics (n = 50)

S.N.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age		
	1.1 21-30 years	22	44
	1.2 31-40 years	23	46
	1.3 41 and above	5	10
2	Marital status		
	2.1 Married	28	56
	2.2 Unmarried	17	34
3	General education		
	3.1 Up to 10 th class	18	36
	3.2 Senior secondary (10+2)	24	48
	3.3 Bachelor Degree	8	16
4	Professional education		
	4.1 General Nursing & Midwifery	25	50
	4.2 Diploma in Nursing Education & Administration	10	20
	4.3 B.Sc. Nursing	15	30
5	Duration of experience		
	5.1 1-10Years	22	44
	5.2 >10 years	28	56
6	Attended short term course in "Pediatric care"		
	6.1 Yes	33	66
	6.2 No	17	34

Table 3: Frequency and percentage distribution of perception scores of mothers regarding her role in the care of hospitalized children (n = 50)

Perception criteria	Class interval of scores	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	40 – 60	0	0
Agree	61- 100	8	16
Strongly Agree	101 -120	42	84
Total		50	100

Table 4: Frequency and percentage distribution of perception scores of nurses regarding Mothers role in the care of hospitalized children (n = 50)

Perception criteria	Class interval of scores	Frequency	Percentage
Disagree	40 – 60	0	0
Agree	61- 100	22	44
Strongly agree	101 -120	28	56
Total		50	100

Table 5: distribution of mean scores of mothers and nurses area wise in the care of hospitalized children (n=50+50)

S.N.	Areas of child care	Mean scores	
		Mothers	Nurses
1	Willingness	2.79	2.58
2	Nutrition	2.75	2.50
3	Hygiene	2.44	2.60
4	Toilet	2.87	2.72
5	Emotion	2.66	2.36
6	Rest & activity	2.61	2.61
7	Medication	2.13	2.39
8	Observation	2.75	2.74
9	General	1.74	1.37

Table 6: Chi- square value showing the relationship between the perceptions of mothers on her role with the selected background factors (n = 50)

Variables	Df	Tabulated value	Calculated chi value	Significant level
Age	2	5.99	0.390	Not significant
Education	3	7.81	0.470	Not significant
Prev. experience of hospital	1	3.84	0.611	Not significant

Not significant $p = > 0.05$

Discussion

Major findings & discussion of the study

Findings related to perception scores of Mothers regarding her role in the care of hospitalized children revealed that 84% strongly agreed, and 16% agreed where as no one disagreed with their roles in the care of hospitalized children. The finding is supported by the finding of the study of Lee RL et.al. (2013) which revealed that Chinese mothers' desire for participation in caring for their hospitalized child. Joshi revealed that only 51.35% of the parents had high level of satisfaction with the paediatric nursing care and most of the subjects were moderately satisfied with the paediatric nursing care.

The study conducted by P. Vasli and M. Salsali, et.al. (2014) on "Parents' participation in taking care of hospitalized children: A concept analysis with hybrid model "showed The clear role of parents in taking care of a hospitalized child is one of the important components of parents' participation in care. The difference between patients' and nurses' perceptions about the behaviors, which are considered as cares, causes conflicts between nurses and parents, lowers the quality of care, and increases dissatisfaction in both sides. Parents should be clearly active in decision-making process concerning their childcare, allocation of the person who takes care of their child, or the level of their own participation. Meanwhile, nurses should determine their clear expectations for the activities they like the

parents to participate in. Similar kind of finding was observed in this study.

The finding of the study conducted by F. Asamoah, L. A. Sarfo et al, (2013) on the role of mothers in the care of children under five years on admission revealed that, mothers performed several roles for their sick children less than five years on admission. While, they enjoyed performing some of the roles, they did not enjoy performing others. Finding of the study is congruent with this study.

Again, the findings support that of Lee RL; Lau VW et.al. (2013) on an interpretive phenomenological study of Chinese mothers' experiences of constant vigilance in caring for a hospitalized sick child. The findings highlight Chinese mothers' desire for participation in caring for their hospitalized child, their unexpressed needs for communication, and concern about being uncared by the busy health professionals, which affect their care for the child's health outcomes.

Finding related to perceptions of nurses on the role of mothers of hospitalized children showed 56% strongly agreed, 44% of nurses agreed with the role of Mothers in the care of hospitalized children where as no one disagreed, with the role of mothers in the care of hospitalized children.

The comparisons of the role of mothers as perceived by mothers and by nurses were found positively significant. It shows that perception scores of mother and nurses in the

care of hospitalized children are interrelated with each other.

In the investigation of the obtained components, the first important and notable element of this concept was open and interactive communication between two sides. This open communication absolutely can help concurrent usage of parents' and nurses' knowledge and their mutual cooperation.

Finding related to relationship between the perceptions of mothers on her role with the selected factors such as; age, and previous experience in the hospital, was not found to be statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance. It indicates that there is no significant relationship between the selected background factors and the perceptions of mothers on her role.

The study conducted by Whaley and Wong et.al. 1989 indicated that, many of the least educated mothers are shy and in order to avoid embarrassment, they tend to leave every aspect of the care of their hospitalized children, including the assessment of pain, to the nurses. From the findings, it is observed that, the ability of mothers to perform more roles in the care of their hospitalized children was dependent on their educational background.

But in this study no significant association was found with the educational background of mothers may be because of small number of sample and in developing country like Nepal where mothers seldom get chance to take care of their children in hospital.

Conclusion

Mother's role in the care of hospitalized children is vital, as all expectations of satisfaction, trust and security of the child are vested in her. Mothers being a primary care provider of child has limited role in hospital but still can contribute in recovery of children.

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