

Awareness Attitude And Role Of Nurses In Community Based Rehabilitation Of Persons With Disabilities

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ABSTRACT

Around 15% of the world population (WHO 2014) is disabled. Around 26.8 million people (Census India 2011) in India have different types of disabilities. Around 2.7% of Kerala people have disabilities (Census India 2011). This article aims to present the awareness attitude and role of community health nurses towards CBR program and to explore the relationship between the awareness attitude and role of community health nurses towards CBR program.

Key words: Awareness, Attitude, Role, Community Health Nurses, CBR

INTRODUCTION

Around 15% of world population (WHO 2014), is disabled in many ways. Around 2.68 million people of Indian population (Census India 2011) have different types of disabilities. Around 2.7% of Kerala population is suffering from different forms of disabilities (Census India 2011).

Rehabilitation became holistic and rehabilitation nursing became a specialization with different roles in practice. Different studies showed that attitude and awareness are important in rendering optimal level of performance. (Peter M. Ten Klooster, Jan-Willem Dannenberg, et al., 2009. Au, King Wai, et al., 2006).

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is a multi sectoral strategy that enabled disabled to reintegrate into the society with maximum cooperation from the community, family, rehabilitation team and the disabled person himself, using the local resources. (SIHFW, 2010).

Nurses are important members of CBR team, who act as direct care giver, co coordinator, researcher, educator counselor etc of a person with disabilities so the researcher, as nurse, wanted to know the awareness, attitude and role of nurses in CBR of persons with disabilities.

Topic

“Awareness, attitude and role of nurses in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) of persons with disabilities (PwDs)”.

Objectives

1. To find out the awareness of community health nurses about CBR of persons with disabilities.
2. To identify the attitude of community health nurses towards CBR of persons with disabilities.
3. To find out the role of community health nurses in CBR of persons with disabilities.
4. To study the relationship between awareness, attitude and role of community health nurses in CBR of persons with disabilities.

Hypotheses

H₁ There is significant relation between the role and awareness of community health nurses about CBR of persons with disabilities.

H₂ There is significant relation between the role and attitude of community health nurses towards CBR of persons with disabilities.

H₃ There is significant relation between awareness and attitude of community health nurses towards CBR of persons with disabilities.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Awareness: Knowledge of community health nurses about various aspects of CBR of persons with disabilities.

Attitude: The feeling and opinion of community health nurses about the CBR of persons with disabilities.

Role: The current activities that a community health nurse actually performs in the CBR of persons with disabilities.

Nurse: A community health nurse working in the community palliative care units/ school health / Community Health Centers / Primary Health Centers / district hospitals of Alappuzha district, Kerala, India and registered under Kerala Nurses and Midwives Council as Nurse Midwife.

CBR - Rehabilitation activities of Community health nurses in the CBR of persons with disabilities, by working in selected Community palliative care centers, school health, Community Health Centers, Primary Health Centers and district hospitals of Alappuzha District, Kerala, India.

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) – Persons with physical or mental impairment who is significantly restricted his/her Activities of daily living either continuously or periodically for extended periods.

Methodology

Approach and Design: Quantitative approach with a descriptive design.

Setting of the study: Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers and district hospitals of Alappuzha district, Kerala, India

Population of the study: community health nurses working in Alappuzha district, Kerala, India

Samples of the study: Junior Public Health Nurses, Staff nurses, School Health Nurses and Palliative care nurses working in the Primary Health Centers of Chettikulangara, Chennithala, Thazhakkara, Pathiyur and Pallipad, Community Health Center of Mannar, and District Hospital Mavelikara, of Alappuzha district, Kerala, India

Sampling technique: convenience sampling.

Sample size: 60.

Inclusion Criteria - Community health nurses working in the Community Health Centers, Primary Health Centers and District hospitals that are willing to participate.

Exclusion criteria - Health workers who are not registered as nurse midwife under Kerala Nurses and Midwives Council.

TOOLS USED AND SCORING CRITERIA.

Awareness Questionnaire -Consists of 30 multiple choice questions with four options in 6 sections. Each section included 5 multiple choice questions each about the nature, aims and principles of CBR, CBR team, Nurses role in CBR and incentives and concessions to persons with disabilities. Each right answer carries one score and wrong answer carries zero score. Total score- 30. According to the scores awareness was classified as,

Inadequate awareness: <50% (15 scores)

Moderate awareness: 50.1- 80% (16-24 scores)

Good awareness : 80.1-100% (25-30 scores)

Attitude Rating Scale- Consists of 30 statements with five alternative responses (strongly agree, Agree, Don't know, disagree and strongly disagree.) in 6 sections. Each section included 5 statements each about the nature, aims and principles of CBR, CBR team, Nurses role in CBR and incentives and concessions to persons with disabilities. For positive statements the responses were assigned values Strongly Agree-5, Agree-4, don't know-3, Disagree-2 and strongly Disagree-1. (Reverse order for negative statements). The possible score range was 30-150. According to scores attitude was grouped as,

- Negative attitude – <50% (<75 scores)
- Neutral attitude – 50.1- 80% (76- 120 scores)
- Positive attitude – 80.1-100% (121- 150 scores)

Role Checklist - consists of 30 items with Yes/No response in 6 groups such as Community health nurse as Coordinator and Facilitator, Practitioner and Referral Agent, Care provider, Counselor and Client advocate, Educator and Change agent and Researcher. Each section had 5 items each. Each right answer carries one score and wrong answer carries zero score. Total score- 30. According to scores performance were classifies as,

- Insufficient role : <40% (12 scores)
- Moderately sufficient role : 40.1- 70% (13- 21 scores)
- Sufficient role :70.1-100% (22-30 scores)

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Awareness Of Community Health Nurses About CBR Of Persons With Disabilities.

Analysis showed that community health nurses have adequate awareness about aims of CBR, CBR team, role of nurse in CBR and incentives and concessions to persons with disabilities. But have inadequate awareness about nature and principles of CBR. Nobody had good awareness about any subcategories of CBR of persons with disabilities.

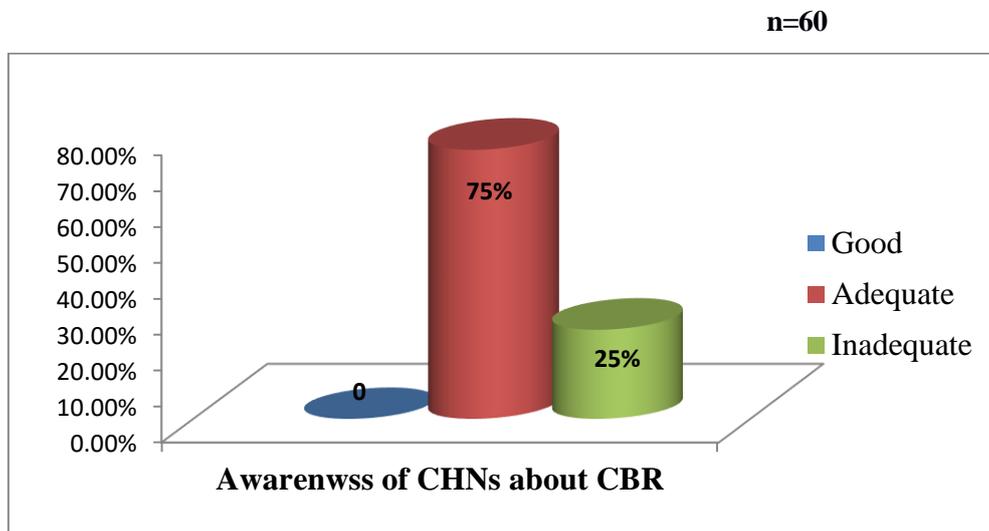


Figure 1 showed that 75% of the samples had adequate awareness about various aspects of CBR, 25% had inadequate awareness about CBR and none had good awareness about CBR

Attitude Of Community Health Nurses Towards CBR Of Persons With Disabilities.

Analysis showed that community health nurses had positive attitude towards nature, aims role of nurse in CBR and incentives and concessions to persons with disabilities. And had neutral attitude

towards principles and CBR team. Nobody had negative attitude towards any subcategories of CBR of persons with disabilities.

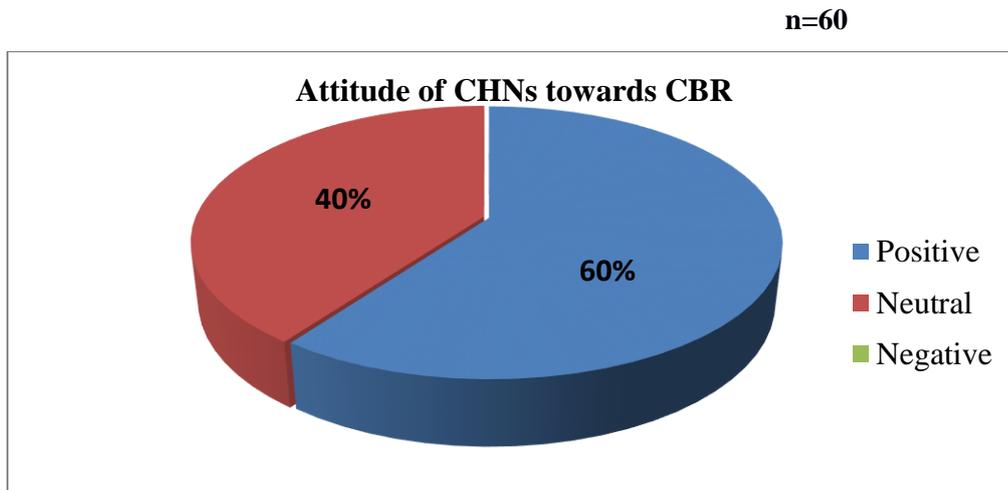


Figure 2 showed that majority of the samples had positive attitude towards various aspects of CBR, 40% had neutral attitude towards CBR and none had negative attitude towards CBR of persons with disabilities.

Role Of Community Health Nurses In CBR Of Persons With Disabilities.

Analysis showed that community health nurses have moderately sufficient role in CBR as care provider, counselor and client advocate and educator. But have insufficient role as coordinator and facilitator, practitioner and referral agent and change agent and researcher. Nobody have sufficient role in CBR of persons with disabilities.

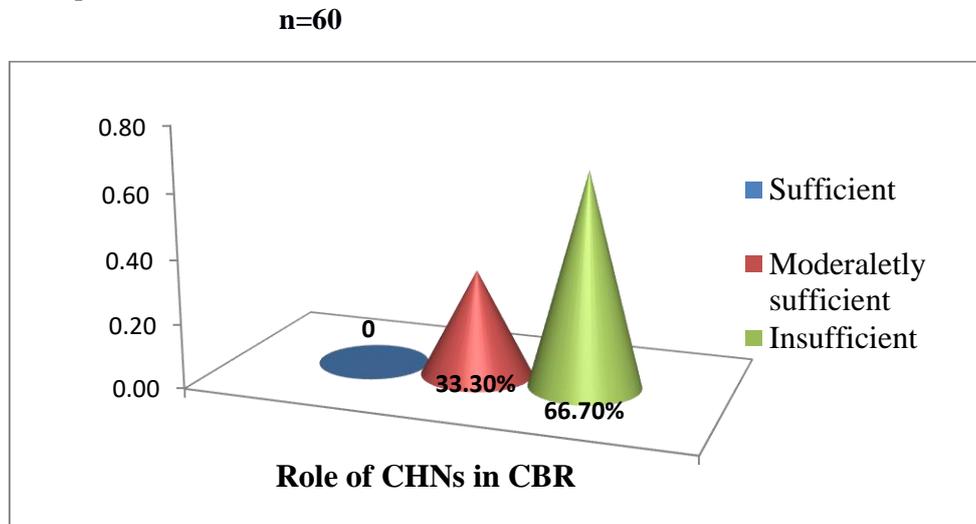


Figure 3 showed that majority of the samples had insufficient role in CBR, only 33.3% had moderately sufficient role and none had sufficient role in CBR of persons with disabilities.

Table 1 Relationship Of The Role Of Community Health Nurses With Awareness

n=60

Role of Community Health Nurses with Awareness	Correlation Coefficient 'rho'
	0.95

Table 1 showed that the correlation coefficient value is 0.95 which indicate a very strong correlation between these two. That means, community health nurses with higher score in awareness were having better role than those who scored lower scores in awareness assessment. Hence the first hypothesis “H₁ There is significant relation between the role and awareness of community health nurses about CBR of persons with disabilities” was accepted.

Table 2 Relationship Of The Role Of Community Health Nurses With Attitude

n=60

Role of Community Health Nurses with Attitude	Correlation Coefficient 'rho'
	0.84

Table 2 showed that the correlation coefficient value is 0.84 which indicated a very strong correlation between role and attitude. It shows that the community nurses who had higher score in attitude, had better role than those who had lower attitude scores. So the second hypothesis “H₂ There is significant relation between the role and attitude of community health nurses towards CBR of persons with disabilities” was accepted.

Table 3 Relationship Of The Awareness Of Community Health Nurses With Attitude

n=60

Awareness of Community Health Nurses with Attitude	Correlation Coefficient 'rho'
	0.91

Table 3 showed that the correlation coefficient value was 0.91 which showed a very strong correlation between awareness and attitude. So when awareness increases attitude also increases and vice-versa. So the third hypothesis “H₃ There is significant relation between awareness and attitude of community health nurses towards CBR of persons with disabilities” was accepted.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that awareness and role of nurses in Community based rehabilitation of persons with disabilities was not adequate and sufficient even though they were having positive attitude. Nurses need more awareness programs, in-service training, autonomy, clear job description, better working conditions, adequate staff and supervision and guidance of rehabilitation nursing experts for proper implementation of their role.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Community health nurses and student nurses should be encouraged to participate in the training and education sections about CBR of persons with disabilities. This will help to develop more positive attitude and good awareness about CBR of persons with disabilities, which intern improve their role and performance in CBR of persons with disabilities.
2. Nurses should inform the authorities about the need of in-service education, regular workshops and seminars, regarding CBR of persons with disabilities to improve their awareness and attitude and thus their role.
3. Community health nurses participation in CBR of persons with disabilities should be improved by increasing the workforce of nurses by recruiting nursing experts in rehabilitation nursing.

4. Utilize the growing work force of highly qualified nurses in the community settings to improve the quality of care.

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