

Nursing Students' Knowledge and Implementation of Nursing Ethics in Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

The nursing code of ethics serves as a guideline governing the professional attitudes and behavior of nurses in providing safe, high-quality, and patient-centered nursing care. Knowledge of the code of ethics is one of the factors influencing nursing students' ability to apply ethical principles during clinical practice (DPP PPNI, 2021). Furthermore, knowledge is a predisposing factor that can influence the formation of an individual's behavior (Notoatmodjo, 2018). This study aims to determine the relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics at Dustira Hospital in Bandung. This study employed a quantitative method with a cross-sectional design. The study population consisted of nursing students undergoing clinical practice at Dustira Hospital in Bandung. The sample was selected using either total sampling or purposive sampling, depending on the study criteria. Data were collected using a questionnaire that had been validated for both validity and reliability, then analyzed using univariate and bivariate analyses with a significance level of $p < 0.05$ (Sugiyono, 2022). The results of the study indicate that the majority of students have a good level of knowledge regarding the nursing code of ethics and are able to adhere to the code of ethics effectively during clinical practice. Bivariate analysis revealed a significant association between nursing students' knowledge and their adherence to the code.



Introduction

Nursing care is an integral part of health care that must be provided professionally and in accordance with ethical principles. The Code of Nursing Ethics serves as a guideline for nurses in providing care, protecting patients' rights and confidentiality, and building professional relationships with patients, families, colleagues, and the community (DPP PPNI, 2021). Nursing students, as future professional nurses, are expected not only to possess clinical competencies but also to understand and apply the code of ethics during their clinical practice in hospitals.

Knowledge is one of the factors that can influence a person's behavior. Students with a solid understanding of the code of ethics are expected to apply it in practice—such as respecting patients' rights, maintaining confidentiality, providing care without discrimination, and taking responsibility for every nursing action (Notoatmodjo, 2018; Potter et al., 2021). However, during clinical practice, students may face various complex situations, so the application of the code of ethics may not always be optimal. Therefore, an evaluation of the relationship between students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics is necessary.

Dustira Hospital in Bandung is one of the clinical practice sites for nursing students, providing them with the opportunity to interact directly with patients and healthcare professionals. This setting requires students to apply the principles of nursing ethics in every action they take. Based on these conditions, this study was conducted to determine the relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics at Dustira Hospital in Bandung. The results of this study are expected to serve as a basis for evaluation by educational institutions and hospitals in improving the understanding and application of nursing ethics. The research hypothesis is that there is a relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics at Dustira Hospital in Bandung.

Method

This study is a quantitative study with an observational analytical design using a cross-sectional approach to determine the relationship between nursing students' knowledge of the nursing code of ethics and their adherence to it. The study was conducted at Dustira Hospital in Bandung from February to March 2026. The study population consisted of nursing students currently undergoing clinical practice, with the sample selected using purposive sampling based on inclusion and exclusion criteria.

The independent variable was the students' knowledge of the nursing code of ethics, while the dependent variable was the implementation of the nursing code of ethics. Data were collected using questionnaires on knowledge and implementation of the code of ethics that had undergone validity and reliability testing.

Results and Discussion

Univariate Analysis

Table 1. Frequency Distribution Based on Knowledge of the Code of Ethics

Knowledge	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Adequate	10	25,6%
Good	29	74,4%
Total	39	100%

The table above shows that of the 39 respondents, nearly all nursing students have knowledge of the nursing code of ethics—specifically, “fair” (25.6%) with a frequency of 10 respondents, and the majority of respondents have “good” knowledge (74.4%) with a frequency of 29 respondents.

Table 2. Frequency Distribution Based on Compliance with the Code of Ethics

Compliance with the Code of Ethics	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Fair	10	25,6%
Good	29	74,4%
Total	39	100%

The table above shows that of the 39 nursing students, a portion of the respondents demonstrated adherence to the nursing code of ethics in the “adequate” category (25.6%) with a frequency of 10 respondents, and the majority of respondents demonstrated adherence in the “good” category (74.4%) with a frequency of 29 respondents.

Bivariate Analysis

Table 3.

Ethics Implementation							Total p-value
Knowledge	Adequate		Good				
	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Adequate	6	60 %	4	40 %	10	25,6%	0,008
Good	4	13,7%	25	86,2%	29	74,3%	
Total	10	25,7%	29	74,3%	39	100%	

The results of the chi-square test for the relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics in hospitals regarding toddlers showed $p = 0.008$. Since $p < 0.005$, H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted, meaning there is a significant relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics in hospitals.

Discussion

The Relationship Between Nursing Students' Knowledge and the Implementation of the Nursing Code of Ethics in Hospitals.

The results of this study indicate that there is a relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics in hospitals. Students with a good understanding of the code of ethics tend to be better able to apply ethical principles in clinical practice, such as respecting patients' rights, maintaining confidentiality, taking responsibility for nursing actions, and providing professional care. Knowledge of the code of ethics serves as the foundation for students to make decisions consistent with the values and standards of the nursing profession. This is because nursing students require not only clinical skills but also the ability to understand the ethical aspects of every nursing intervention.

These findings align with those of Alnajjar and Abou Hashish (2021), who stated that ethical understanding plays a role in enhancing nursing students' moral awareness and ability to address ethical issues during clinical practice. The implementation of the code of ethics is also influenced by other factors, such as practical experience, clinical supervision, and the hospital environment. Therefore, enhancing ethics education during nursing education is necessary so that students can optimally apply the code of ethics in nursing practice.

Conclusion

Based on the results of this study on the relationship between nursing students' knowledge of the nursing code of ethics and its implementation in hospitals, it can be concluded that:

1. Most nursing students have a good understanding of the nursing code of ethics.
2. Most nursing students are able to properly implement the nursing code of ethics during their clinical practice in hospitals.
3. There is a relationship between nursing students' knowledge and the implementation of the nursing code of ethics in hospitals. The better the students' knowledge of the nursing code of ethics, the better its application in nursing practice.

Declarations

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used to assist in language editing, organization, and improvement of the manuscript. The authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, interpretation, and final content of the article.

Author Contribution Statement

All authors contributed to the conception and design of the study, data collection, data analysis, interpretation of results, preparation and revision of the manuscript, and approved the final version for publication.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to the conduct, authorship, or publication of this article.

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