

The Correlation between Nurses' Knowledge and Nurses' Attitudes toward Palliative Care Provided to Patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital

Sri Hartini¹, Arina Hafadhotul Husna², Kefass Ruta Novansa³, Nila Putri Purwandari⁴,
Biyanti Dwi Winarsih⁵

Institut Teknologi Kesehatan Cendekia Utama Kudus, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: arinahafahusna@gmail.com

Abstract. Palliative care is an essential aspect of care for advanced life-threatening illnesses. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the majority of adults require palliative care. It is estimated that palliative care is needed for 40–60% of all deaths. There were many terminal patients suffering from cancer and kidney failure in RSUD RAA Soewondo Pati Hospital. However, the nurses had no specific palliative care knowledge, and the attitude provided to terminal patients was not hospitable. This study examines the nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards palliative care and examines whether there is a correlation between them. This research is quantitative with a cross-sectional study design. The population was 42 nurses from RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital. It used total sampling, while the instrument was a questionnaire that consisted of 21 questions about palliative care knowledge and 30 questions about FATCOD-B. Univariate & bivariate statistical analyses were used to analyze the data. The results found that half respondents (21 nurses) had good knowledge with a good attitude, and 5 respondents had good knowledge with an adequate attitude. 7 respondents had adequate knowledge with a good attitude and 9 respondents had adequate knowledge with an adequate attitude. There was also a close correlation between nurses' knowledge and nurses' attitudes toward palliative care. Nurses' knowledge, skills, and attitudes are crucial parts of providing palliative care for patients. By having them, the nurses can provide optimal palliative care for the patients.

Key words: Palliative care, Nurse's knowledge, Nurse's attitude

INTRODUCTION

Palliative care is defined by the World Health Organization (2020) as an approach that improves the quality of patient's lives and that of their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illnesses. It prevents and relieves suffering through early identification, correct assessment, pain treatment, and other problems. It is the prevention and relief of suffering of any kind—physical, psychological, social, or spiritual—experienced by patients with life-limiting health problems. It promotes dignity, quality of life, and adjustment to progressive illnesses using the best available evidence. The WHO (2020) reported that the majority of adults in need of palliative care have chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease (38.5%), cancer (34%), chronic respiratory disease (10.3%), AIDS (5.7%), and diabetes (4.6%). Other conditions may require palliative care, such as kidney failure, chronic liver disease, rheumatoid arthritis, neurological disease, dementia, congenital anomalies, and drug-resistant tuberculosis. It is estimated that palliative care is needed for 40–60% of all deaths.

Chow & Dahlin (as cited in Yuzar *et al.*, 2021) stated that in the late 1970s, the palliative approach to hospital care was introduced in the US at the Hospice of Connecticut. It has been spread and developed in 136 countries out of 234 countries worldwide by philosophy and palliative care practice (Clark *et al.*, 2019). Each year, 56.8 million people, including 25.7 million, are estimated to need palliative care in the last year of their lives (WHO, 2020). In Indonesia, palliative care has improved since 1992. Although it has developed for a long time, the progress has been slow and varied. Recently, palliative care services have only been available in a few major cities, where most of the facilities for cancer treatment are located. There are also many challenges faced by nurses in providing palliative care, like a lack of palliative care education. Many nurses or health care practitioners do not understand the concept and implementation of palliative care. Palliative attitudes of health care professionals also become the next challenge, then followed by general social conditions in the country (Putranto *et al.*, 2017).

Extensive knowledge, skills, and good attitudes toward palliative care enable nurses to provide high-quality care for chronically ill patients (Aljehani *et al.*, 2021). To assess and evaluate the patient's complaints, nurses' knowledge and attitudes are also needed. The nurses and team members, with their various scientific education backgrounds, can collaborate to develop and implement patients' care plans

effectively and comprehensively to improve the quality of patients' lives (A'yuni *et al.*, 2021). It is also supported by Siagian's research (2020), which stated that the educational qualifications, experience, and training in palliative care received by nurses will influence their attitudes. The higher the nurses' level of knowledge, the better the nurses' attitude towards managing palliative care for patients. It can be concluded that knowledge, skills, and attitudes are crucial parts of providing palliative care for patients. By having them, the nurses can provide optimal palliative care for the patients.

The preliminary study which was conducted on January 18th, 2024 in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital reported that there were 18 nurses in Gading's room and 24 nurses in the hemodialysis room who never received palliative care training or even attended a palliative care seminar. There were many terminal patients suffering from cancer and kidney failure in both rooms. However, the interview results of two nurses in Gading's room summarized that the nurses had no specific palliative care knowledge and had an indifferent attitude toward terminal patients. The nurse was unable to provide for patients' spiritual needs when they were approaching the end of their lives. While the four nurses in the hemodialysis room also had no specific palliative care knowledge, their attitudes toward the terminal patient were not hospitable. When they faced the patients with anxiety, they were unable to help the patients eliminate those feelings. It means that the patient's psychological needs were unable to be provided by the nurse. The nurses have no specific palliative care knowledge. Consequently, the patients cannot receive optimal quality care at the end of their lives. The research regarding knowledge and attitudes toward palliative care was also never conducted in this Hospital. Therefore, the researchers are interested in conducting a research entitled "The Correlation between Nurses' Knowledge and Nurses' Attitudes toward Palliative Care Provided to Patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital".

METHODS

The design of this research is quantitative with a cross-sectional study design. The population and sample were 42 nurses from RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital. Sampling was conducted using total sampling. 18 nurses in Gading's room and 24 nurses in the hemodialysis room were used as samples. The instrument of this research was a questionnaire that consisted of 21 questions about palliative care knowledge and 30 questions about FATCOD-B, used to measure attitudes toward palliative care. Univariate and bivariate statistical analyses were used to analyze the data. Univariate analysis focuses on understanding variables like gender, length of work, educational background, and palliative training & seminar. The frequency and percentage were used to describe the data. While bivariate analysis examines the correlation between two variables, those were nurses' knowledge and nurses' attitudes toward palliative care. The hypothesis of this research was;

Ho; there is no correlation between nurses' knowledge and nurses' attitudes toward palliative provided to patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital.

Ha; there is a correlation between nurses' knowledge and nurses' attitudes toward palliative care provided to patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Characteristic of Respondents

Table 1 shows the respondents' distribution data based on gender, length of work, educational background, and palliative care training & seminar.

Table 1. The Characteristic of Respondents

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	14	33,3
	Female	28	66,7
Length of work	< 10 Years	12	28,6
	11-20 Years	18	42,9
	> 21 Years	12	28,6
Educational Background	A Professional Nurse (Ners)	14	33,3
	A Bachelor's Degree (S1)	9	21,4
	An Associate's Degree (D3)	19	45,2

Palliative Training & Seminar	Once	5	11.9
	Never	37	88.1

The gender of female respondents (28 R) is much more than males (14 R). Their educational background is A Professional Nurse (Ners) (14 R), A Bachelor's Degree (S1) (9 R), and An Associate's Degree (D3) (19 R). 12 respondents had worked less than 10 years, 18 respondents had worked about 11-20 years, and 12 of them had worked more than 21 years. 5 respondents stated that they participated in palliative training & seminars, while, 37 respondents never participated in such training & seminars.

Univariate Analysis Nurses' Knowledge

Table 2 shows that 26 respondents had good knowledge, and 16 respondents with adequate knowledge.

Table 2. Nurses' Knowledge

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Good	26	61.9
Adequate	16	38.1
TOTAL	42	100

26 respondents with good knowledge had A Professional Nurse (12 R), A Bachelor's Degree (9 R), and An Associate Degree (5 R) educational background. While the 16 respondents with adequate knowledge had A Professional Nurse (2 R) and An Associate's Degree (14 R) educational background. In line with Napitu's research (2023) which found that the majority of the respondents had a good knowledge. This research result shows that more than half of the respondents also have good knowledge, even though there were still some respondents who had adequate knowledge. Knowledge is experience or learning obtained from facts, truth, or information obtained through the five senses (Suharjito, 2020). A person's knowledge is influenced by various factors like age, experience, education, work, information, environment, and socio-culture (Notoatmodjo, 2014). It can be stated that knowledge can be obtained through various ways. Besides the educational background, work experiences also influence knowledge. Giarti & Purwanti (2018) stated that the nurses' knowledge is influenced by the length of work and work experience they have.

In this research, 6 respondents who had good knowledge were working for less than 10 years, 10 respondents (11 – 20 years), and 10 respondents (> 21 years). Then, 6 respondents who had adequate knowledge were working for less than 10 years, 8 respondents (10 – 20 years), and 2 respondents (> 21 years). It can be seen that their length of work influences their knowledge. Their length of work as well as their work experience improved their knowledge. Here, the Associate's Degree respondents who had working experience for more than 21 years had good knowledge, while other Associate's Degree respondents who had working experience for about 10 – 20 years had adequate knowledge. Therefore, their working experience also improved their knowledge as well.

Nurses' Attitudes

Table 3 below shows that there were 28 respondents had good attitudes and 14 respondents had adequate attitudes.

Table 3. Nurses' Attitudes

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Good	28	61.9
Adequate	14	38.1
TOTAL	42	100

28 respondents with good attitudes had A Professional Nurse (11 R), A Bachelor's Degree (6 R), and An Associate Degree (11 R) educational background. While, 14 respondents with adequate attitudes had A Professional Nurse (3 R), A Bachelor's Degree (3 R), and An Associate's Degree (8 R) educational background. This result shows that nurses' educational background also influenced their attitudes toward palliative care. It is supported by Wilson's research (2016) which stated that nurses' educational background could improve their attitudes toward palliative care. Education is one of the

factors that can affect a person's attitude (Notoatmodjo, 2014). Attitudes form directly as a result of personal experience with people, situations, objects, and ideologies (Cherry, 2024). It can be concluded that attitudes can be affected through education as well as previous experiences. The more experiences go through, the better a person's attitude will be.

The result shows that 3 respondents who had good attitudes were working for less than 10 years, 14 respondents (11 – 20 years), and 11 respondents (> 21 years) had good attitudes. While 9 respondents who had adequate attitudes were working for less than 10 years, 4 respondents (10 – 20 years), and 1 respondent (> 21 years). Nurses' working experience was significantly associated with better attitudes toward palliative care (Ajisegiri *et al.*, 2019). It can be seen that besides educational background, work experiences also influenced nurses' attitudes. Therefore, nurses with An Associate's Degree (D3) had a good attitude in providing palliative care because they had working experience of about 11 - 20 or even more years.

Bivariate Analysis

Cross-tabulation data shown in Table 4 stated that there were 21 respondents had good knowledge and good attitudes, 5 respondents had good knowledge, 7 respondents had adequate knowledge with good attitudes, and 9 respondents had adequate knowledge with adequate attitudes toward palliative care.

Table 4. Cross-tabulation Data of Nurses' Knowledge & Attitudes

	Category	The Nurses' Attitude Category				TOTAL		α	P-Value
		Good		Adequate		F	(%)		
		F	%	F	%				
The Nurses' Knowledge	Good	21	80,8	5	19,2	26	100	0.05	0.013
	Adequate	7	43,8	9	56,2	16	100		
TOTAL		28	66,7	14	33,3	42	100		

The results of the Chi-Square test seen from Pearson Chi-Square found that the probability value (P-Value) = 0.013 (<0.05). This score is smaller than 0.05, which means that H_0 is rejected and H_a is accepted. This research result shows that there is a relationship between the nurses' knowledge and the nurses' attitudes toward palliative care for palliative patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital.

Similarly, Doloksaribu & Perangin-angin (2020) on their research found that there was a close relationship between knowledge and attitude. Good knowledge impacted a good attitude. Knowledge plays an important role in determining a complete attitude (total attitude). Attitudes can be changed by increasing knowledge. The level of knowledge will decrease negative attitudes (Notoatmodjo, 2010). Yuzar's research (2021) found that their respondents have a high level of knowledge and the majority of them have positive attitudes about palliative. There is a relationship between the levels of education of nurses' attitudes towards palliative care.

Work experience also influences the nurses' knowledge and attitudes toward palliative care for their patients. The nurses' knowledge is influenced by the length of work and experience they have (Giarti & Purwanti, 2018). The educational background, palliative care training, length of work, and working experiences were associated with nurses' knowledge. The better knowledge, the better attitudes toward palliative care will be provided to the patients (Ilham, 2019). The level of knowledge and good attitudes can also be obtained from experience and training. The nurses' good knowledge then impacted their attitudes. The quality of care received by the patient is determined by the nurses' attitudes toward palliative care (Aljehani *et al.*, 2021). Therefore, the nurses must have good knowledge and provide good attitudes toward palliative care. Both of them are crucial parts of providing optimal palliative care for palliative patients.

CONCLUSION

This research showed that half respondents (21 nurses) had good knowledge with a good attitude, and 5 respondents had good knowledge with an adequate attitude. 7 respondents had adequate knowledge with a good attitude and 9 respondents had adequate knowledge with an adequate attitude. There was also a close relationship between nurses' knowledge and nurses' attitudes toward palliative care services given to the patients in RSUD RAA Soewondo Hospital. The nurses can upgrade their knowledge not only from formal educational study. Palliative care training & seminars, as well as working experience, can utilized to upgrade nurses' palliative care knowledge. Then, their length of work also will give them good experience. This good experience will impact nurses' attitudes toward managing palliative care for the patients. Nurses' knowledge, skills, and attitudes are crucial parts of providing palliative care for patients. By having them, the nurses can provide optimal palliative care for the patients.

REFERENCES

- Aljehani, N. M., Mersal, N. A., & Alsharif, F. (2021). A scoping review on palliative care: knowledge and attitude of nurses. *Journal of Biomedical Science*, 3 (2). <https://dx.doi.org/10.38125/OAJBS.000259>.
- Ajiseigiri, W. S., Abubakar, A. A., Gobir, A. A., Balogun, M. S., & Sabitu, K. (2019). Palliative care for people living with HIV / AIDS: Factors influencing healthcare workers' knowledge, attitude and practice in public health facilities, Abuja, *Nigeria. PloS One*, 14 (2).
- A'yuni, Q., Utama. T. A., & Maiyulis. (2021). Identification of nurse knowledge and attitude towards palliative care in RSUD Dr.M.Yunus Bengkulu. *Jurnal Vokasi Keperawatan (JVK)*, 4 (1): 241 – 251. <http://ejournal.unib.ac.id/index.php/JurnalVokasiKeperawatan>
- Cherry, K. (2024). *The Components of Attitudes; Formation of An Attitude and How It Can Be Changed*. Verywell Mind. Accessed from: <https://www.verywellmind.com/attitudes-how-they-form-change-shape-behavior-2795897>
- Clark J., Barnes, A., Campbell, M., & Gardiner, C. (2019). A life or “good death” situation? S worldwide ecological study of the national contexts of countries that have and have not implemented palliative care. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 57 (4): 793 – 801. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.12.007>
- Doloksaribu, K. P. M & Perangin-angin, M. A. (2020). Tingkat sikap dan pengetahuan tim medis tentang keperawatan paliatif di RSUD Lagita. *Community of Publishing in Nursing (COPING)*, 8 (4): 336. <https://doi.org/10.24843/coping.2020.v08.i04.p01>
- Giarti, A. T., & Purwanti, O. S. (2018). *Gambaran Pengetahuan Perawat tentang Perawatan Paliatif pada Pasien Kanker di RSUD Dr. Moewardi*. Skripsi thesis. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.
- Ilham, R., Mohammad, S., & Yusuf, M. N. S. (2019). Hubungan tingkat pengetahuan dengan sikap perawat tentang perawatan paliatif. *Jambura Nursing Journal*, 1 (2): 96-102. <https://doi.org/10.37311/jnj.v1i2.2515>
- Napitu, F. H. (2023). Gambaran pengetahuan perawat tentang perawatan paliatif pada pasien kanker di rumah sakit santa elisabeth medan. *Jurnal Cakrawala Ilmiah*, 3(2).
- Notoadmodjo, S. (2010). *Pendidikan dan Perilaku Kesehatan*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta
- Notoadmodjo, S. (2014). *Health Behavioral Science*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- Putranto, R., Mudjaddid, E., Shatri, H., Adli, M., & Martina, D. (2017). Development and challenges of palliative care in indonesia: role of psychosomatic medicine. *BioPsychoSocial Medicine*, 11 (29). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13030-017-0114-8>
- Siagian, E. (2020). Hubungan pengetahuan dan sikap tenaga kesehatan terhadap kematian tentang keperawatan palliative. *CHMK Nursing Scientific Journal*, 4 (2): 278 – 284. <http://cyber-chmk.net/ojs/index.php/ners/article/view/814>
- Suharjito. (2020). *Pengetahuan (Knowledge)*. Binus Online. Accessed from: <https://onlinelearning.binus.ac.id/computerscience/post/pengetahuanknowledge>
- Wilson, O., Avalos, G., & Dowling, M. (2016). Knowledge of palliative care and attitudes towards nursing the dying patient. *British J Nursing (BJN)*, 25 (11).
- World Health Organization. (2020). *Palliative care*. <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/fact-sheets/item/palliative-care>

Yuzar, M., Hasballah, K., Tahlil, T., Saputra, I., & Wardani, E. (2021). Nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards palliative care: a study in a western province in Indonesia. *International Journal of Nursing Education*, 13 (4): 109 – 117. <http://dx.doi.org/10.37506/ijone.v13i4.16597>