



**A Study to Assess Effectiveness of Self Instructional manual (SIM) on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster in terms of Knowledge and Practice of Staff Nurses working in the Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat State**

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## ABSTRACT

A study to assess the effectiveness of self instructional module related to Triage Assessment in case of disaster in terms of Knowledge and Practice among Staff nurses working in tertiary care hospitals, Gujarat State was conducted with an objective to assess the knowledge and practice on Triage Assessment before and after administration of SIM to staff nurses working in Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat State.

Quasi experimental approach was used with one group pre-test post-test design. The study was conducted in the area of Tertiary care Hospitals attached with Govt. Medical college of Gujarat state. The samples of 40 staff nurses were selected through multistage random sampling technique. A Structured Knowledge Questionnaire and Express Structured practice Questionnaire were prepared to assess the knowledge and the practice of the Samples. Content validity of the developed tools and SIM were established by 9 experts and necessary modifications were made as suggested by them. Reliability of the tool was ascertained by split half method using Spearman Brown formula. The reliability coefficient of the Quasi experimental approach was used with one group pre-test post-test design. The SIM related to Triage Assessment in case of disaster. The study was conducted in the area of Tertiary care Hospitals attached with Govt. Medical college of Gujarat state. The samples of 40 staff nurses were selected through multistage random sampling technique. A Structured Knowledge Questionnaire and Express Structured practice Questionnaire were prepared to assess the knowledge and the practice of the Samples.

Content validity of the developed tools and SIM were established by 9 experts and necessary modifications were made as suggested by them. Reliability of the tool was ascertained by split half method using Spearman Brown formula.

The reliability coefficient of the questionnaire was 0.81 and for structured practice questions it was 0.77. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. The mean pre test knowledge score was 16.30 and the mean post test knowledge score was 24.43. The mean pre test practice score was 7.25 and the mean post test practice score was 13.38. Significance of the difference between pre test and post test knowledge and practice was statistically tested using paired 't' test and it was found significant at 0.05 level ( $t=12.7$ ,  $t=13.69$  respectively). There was significant increase in the knowledge and practice of the samples after the administration of the SIM on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster. Hence it is concluded that SIM was effective in improving the knowledge and practice of the staff nurses of Tertiary Care Hospital attached with Government Medical College of Gujarat State

## KEYWORDS

*Disaster, Triage, SIM (Self Instructional Manual) ,Staff Nurse, Knowledge, Practice, Effectiveness, Tertiary care Hospital*

## INTRODUCTION

“Disasters typically results in **large numbers of casualties which has a big**

**number of people** who are **injured in different levels of severity.**”

In disasters, —Injuries of **moderate severity should be given more**



**importance rather than greatest severity to save the maximum number of people.**

It is essential to emphasize on segregation of clients at the disaster site before the arrival in the hospital setting, So it is mandatory to perform **triage first at outside sites** before allowing them to Inundate the hospital.

Disasters have always been mankind's constant companion. Generations of people have had to withstand disasters. They suffered from the consequences and recovered from them and life continued. But somehow, over the ages, the scenario has changed quite a bit. Of course, there has not been much reduction in the traditional disaster threat. Natural disasters like flood, earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis etc. continue to strike. So do their basic man-made counterparts, such as major accidents, fire etc. While we have learned to cope with these problems to a certain extent, we have neither eliminated nor contained them. So, whilst their effects may have been modified, they continue to inflict unacceptable pressure on a world population, which is already finding it difficult to make ends meet. The largest sufferers are the least developed nations and economically weaker sections of the society.

Ninety percent of the natural disasters and ninety five percent of the total disaster

related deaths worldwide occur in developing countries:

The richness of our country in terms of its resources, culture and society has been affected by different disasters time and again.

## **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

A Study to Assess Effectiveness of Self Instructional manual (SIM) on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster in terms of Knowledge

And Practice of Staff Nurses working in the Tertiary

Care Hospitals of Gujarat State.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To assess the knowledge on Triage Assessment before and after administration of SIM on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster for staff nurses working in Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat State.
2. To assess the practice on Triage Assessment before and after administration of SIM on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster for staff nurses working in Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat State.

## **HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY**

**H1:** The mean post test knowledge scores on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster of staff nurses working in the selected Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat will be significantly higher than their mean pre test



knowledge scores after the administration of the SIM as evident from the structured knowledge questionnaire at 0.05 levels of significances.

**H2:** The mean post test practice scores on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster of staff nurses working in the selected Tertiary Care Hospitals of Gujarat will be significantly higher than their mean pre test knowledge scores after the administration of the SIM as evident from the structured expressed Practice Questionnaire at 0.05 levels of significances.

### **NEED OF THE STUDY:**

Hardly a day now passes without news about a major or painful emergency happening in some part of the world. Disaster continues to strike and cause destruction in developing and developed countries alike, raising people's concern about their vulnerability to occurrences that can gravely affect their day to day life and their future.

Prevention is done through awareness, knowledge and appropriate use of such technologies. We may not be able to eliminate the occurrence of such disasters but certainly, action can be taken to contain the damage. Such actions are termed as mitigation.

Community awareness is the key to community participation. Well informed

and well aware people will have more role-clarity in disaster reduction and preparedness programme. Disaster awareness/management should be a part of the educational curriculum.

Knowledge and awareness, therefore, prove to be important strategy for disaster preparedness and mitigation. The more extensively this strategy is used, better will be the level of preparedness among nursing personnel. It's preferable to expend energy on these activities before the disaster. Nurses in any location will be on the front line as caregivers and managers in the event of a damaging, disaster. Having read the views of various authors the investigator is able to visualize that disaster situations are very different from routine nursing care situation. Nurses need to have adequate knowledge and training to work in such a unique, chaotic, stressful situation and to identify and meet the complex, multi various health needs of victims of disaster. [Mckney (1991)]

A study revealed that a self- instruction module is an effective and acceptable method of learning. No institution can provide education, which is everlasting. There is always need to have continuing education, which can be in various forms. Various studies indicate that written self-learning material was a suitable media of



instruction for in-service education or continuing education. [Ghose (1998)]

The nursing journal of India focused on training in preparedness, assessment of health needs information, communication and planning for post disaster activities. It further emphasized the need of —pre disasters plans and first aid training at the grass root level especially in disaster prone areas because, in real life situations, it is often the only way to save lives. [T.N.A.I., Nursing Journal of India, March (2001)]

A study revealed that all subject received higher scores in post test than in pretest suggesting the knowledge gained by subjects after the administration of Informational Booklet. Disasters are as old as human history but the dramatic increase and the damage caused by them in the recent past have become a cause of national and international concern. Over the past decade, the number of natural and manmade disasters has climbed inexorably. [Poonam, R. (2005)]

## METHODS

Quasi experimental approach was used with one group pre-test post-test design. The SIM related to Triage Assessment in case of disaster. The study was conducted in the area of Tertiary care Hospitals attached with Govt. Medical college of Gujarat state. The samples of 40 staff

nurses were selected through multistage random sampling technique. A Structured Knowledge Questionnaire and Express Structured practice Questionnaire were prepared to assess the knowledge and the practice of the Samples.

## RESULTS

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. The mean pre test knowledge score was 16.30 and the mean post test knowledge score was 24.43. The mean pre test practice score was 7.25 and the mean post test practice score was 13.38. Significance of the difference between pre test and post test knowledge and practice was statistically tested using paired 't' test and it was found significant at 0.05 level ( $t=12.7$ ,  $t=13.69$  respectively). There was significant increase in the knowledge and practice of the samples after the administration of the SIM on Triage Assessment in case of Disaster. Hence it is concluded that SIM was effective in improving the knowledge and practice of the staff nurses of Tertiary Care Hospital attached with Government Medical College of Gujarat State.

## RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the findings of present study.



1. A study can be replicated on large samples to validate the findings and make generalization.
2. A follow up study can be conducted to evaluate effectiveness of SIM in retention of knowledge.
3. Similar SIM can be prepared for ward Triage/Hospital Triage i.e. Natural and Man-made disaster.
4. Case study approach or Activity analysis may be undertaken to determine the role of nurses in disasters.
5. Similar study can be replicated using different teaching strategies viz. SIM, Pamphlet on Triage Assessment
6. A study may be conducted to assess the skill and Practice of nursing personnel in Triage Assessment who are exposed to the Self Instructional Manual.



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