

## **Knowledge and Attitude of Nurses about Nursing Ethical Principles at the Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital Banggai Regency Central Sulawesi Province**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** The ethical principles of nursing consist of autonomy, beneficial, justice, non maleficence, veracity, fidelity, confidentiality and accountability. Based on observations made by researchers at the hospital, that there were 6 nurses who leaked the patient's identity, then the researcher asked 6 nurses whether it was necessary to explain to the patient when taking action the nurse said it was not necessary. The purpose of this study was to determine the knowledge and attitudes of nurses about the principles of nursing ethics at the Trikora Salakan General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency, Central Sulawesi Province.

**Method:** This type of research is descriptive which aims to determine the knowledge and attitudes of nurses about the ethical principles of nursing. This type of data uses primary data and secondary data. Collecting data using a questionnaire with 25 assessment items with knowledge and attitudes. Data analysis used univariate analysis. The population in this study were nurses in the inpatient room of the Trikora General Hospital, Salakan. The sample in this study were all implementing nurses in the inpatient room at Trikora General Hospital Salakan with a total sample of 52 respondents.

**Result:** Showed that the knowledge of good by 82, 7 %, enough knowledge as much as 17.3%, while as much as 76.9% good attitude, the attitude of quite as much as 23.1%. It is hoped that nurses can maintain the application of ethical principles to patients so that they feel comfortable in the hospital.

**Keywords :** *Knowledge; Attitude; Principles of Nursing Ethics*

## **Introduction**

Nurses in providing nursing care either in the hospital or directly in the community always strive to the maximum. Good and bad quality of nursing care is very dependent on the performance of nurses. In providing nursing care, nurses must face many challenges, therefore nurses must be able to account for every action they take. To avoid negligence that can harm patients or nurses themselves, so that in carrying out nursing care practices, they must be guided by the principles of nursing ethics (Febriyanti, 2020).

Nursing ethics are the values and principles that are believed by the nursing profession in carrying out its duties related to patients, the community, colleagues, as well as with professional organizations and also in the setting of nursing practice itself. There are 8 ethical principles of nursing that must be applied by nurses in carrying out nursing care practices, including: Autonomy (freedom), namely the principle of respecting the client's autonomy, where the client and family are free and have the right to choose and decide what the nurse will do with him. Beneficence (doing good) is that every action taken by the nurse must have benefits for the client and the client's family. Justice, namely the actions of nurses in providing services are prohibited from discriminating between one client and another. Nonmaleficence (not detrimental), namely the nurse's actions must be in accordance with procedures so that there are no errors or omissions that can harm the client and family. Veracity (honesty) is that nurses are required to be honest and clear about what they will do to the client and the client's family. Fidelity (keep promises), namely nurses in providing services must be loyal to clients and have a commitment to provide good service. Confidentiality, namely the nurse must keep the secret of each client, both when the client is alive or dead. Accountability (responsible), namely nurses must be responsible for the actions taken against clients and families (Hasyim M & Prasetyo J, 2015)

Based on the results of research by Ilkafah, Tyas, & Haryanto (2021), regarding "*Factors related to the implementation of nursing care ethical principles in Indonesian*" states that in general the application of nursing ethical principles has been very good, it's just that some goals have not been implemented, due to ignorance and lack of information, regarding what to do to apply ethical principles in nursing care. The

application of ethical principles is important to do so as not to cause harm to patients and nurses. Nurses who know about nursing ethical principles and apply them to patients will increase patient satisfaction, maintain relationships between nurses, patients and other health workers. While nurses who do not apply the principles of nursing ethics can cause injury or physical harm, emotional hazards such as feelings of dissatisfaction, disability and even death and finally the goal of service in the form of patient safety will never be realized. In addition, it has a negative impact on the image of nurses and hospital income.

Based on international data reports from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) it is estimated that around 44,000 - 98,000 patients die each year due to medical errors, and suffer financial losses of US \$ 17 - 29 billion. Based on data from the Indonesian National Nurses Association, in 2010 – 2015 it is estimated that there were about 485 cases of malpractice of the nursing profession in Indonesia, consisting of 357 cases of administrative malpractice, 82 cases of civil malpractice, and 46 cases of criminal malpractice with elements of negligence (Noviani, 2016).

In the case of ethical violations that occurred at Mount Sinai Hospital, USA, the nurse was late in detecting the presence of apnea in the baby. So that the baby experiences severe hypoxia to the brain which results in permanent brain injury (RIKO, 2015). There was also a case in Indonesia on October 19, 2018 at around 23.55 WIB at the Cut NyakDhienMeulaboh Regional General Hospital Jl. Gajah Mada, Kec. Johan Pahlawan, West Aceh Regency. health workers made negligence, namely giving the wrong medicine to Alfareza (11 years old) which resulted in the patient's death. Health workers E and D were proven guilty of committing gross negligence which resulted in the patient's death, so that the health workers were sentenced to imprisonment for 2 (two) years and 6 (six) months each (Salwa, 2021)

From the cases above, it shows that some nurses have not applied the principles of nursing ethics properly. According to Ulfa & Sarzuli, (2016), one of the factors that influence nursing ethics is knowledge and attitude. Knowledge or cognitive is a very important domain in shaping one's actions while attitude is a reaction or response that is still closed from someone to a stimulus or object (Notoatmodjo, 2012). Based on previous research by Mudayana, (2015), on " The Role of Medical Personnel Ethical Aspects in the Application of Patient Safety Culture in Hospitals" said that in the

application of patient safety programs there are several aspects that affect the running of patient safety programs, namely organizational climate, level of knowledge, communication and ethics. The level of knowledge of nurses is very important in carrying out nursing care, high knowledge will affect the performance of nurses so that nursing care will be carried out properly and the possibility of malpractice or negligence is low. This happens because nurses have been equipped with knowledge of nursing ethics.

Based on the results of initial observations made by researchers at Trikora Hospital Salakan on April 30, 2021 to 10 nurses, 4 nurses applied one of the ethical principles of nursing fidelity keep their promises, while 6 other nurses had not implemented one of the principles of nursing ethics, namely confidentiality because they patient identities outside the context of nursing care.

The results of the initial data conducted by researchers at Trikora Hospital Salakan on April 30, 2021 to 10 nurses, 2 patients in Class I and 2 patients in class III, the researcher asked 10 nurses, "According to kaka, before taking nursing care actions need to be given explanation to the patient and family or not?" 6 nurses answered that every nursing care action did not need to be explained because the patient / family did not ask. 4 nurses answered that every act of nursing care needed to be given because the patient/family had the right to get an explanation for each action to be taken. From the questions above, 6 nurses are still wrong in one application of nursing ethics, namely Veracity (honesty) because nurses are required to speak honestly and clearly about what they will do to patients and families. The researcher asked 2 patients in Class I and 2 patients in class III "As long as you are treated here, is there a difference in the services provided by nurses to patients in class I and class III rooms?" Patients in class I said that while they were being treated here, they did not see any difference in the services provided by the nurses because when they served them the nurses were always friendly. And class III patients said that while they were being treated here, they saw that there was a difference in the services provided by the nurses, namely when they gave services, the nurses looked dirty to the patients in class III, while the patients in class I looked friendly.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in researching "Knowledge and Attitude of nurses about the principles of nursing ethics at the

TrikoraSalakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency, Central Sulawesi Province".

## Method

This type of this research using descriptive research, the research that describes the phenomenon of the variables studied (Notoatmodjo, 2012). This research aims to describe the knowledge and attitude of nurses about ethical principles of nursing. The research was carried out on 16/21 July 2021 at the Trikora Salakan General Hospital. The population in this study were nurses implementing in patient Regional General Hospital Trikora Salakan, Banggai Islands, Central Sulawesi province, amounting to 52 people. The sample in this study was the entire population as a sample in the inpatient room of the Trikora Regional General Hospital, Salakan, Banggai Islands Regency, Central Sulawesi Province, amounting to 52 people. The sampling technique is the Saturated Sampling technique.

## Result

### 1. Nurses knowledge of nursing ethical principles

Knowledge in Research is divided into 3 categories according to the Knowledge of Good when the correct answer 76% - 100%, Enough knowledge if the correct answer 56% - 75%, less knowledge if the correct answer <56%

Table 1 Distribution of Nurse Knowledge Frequency at Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency

No	Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Good	43	82.7%
2	Enough	9	17.3%
3	Less	0	0%
	Amount	52	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2021

Table 1 shows that of the 52 respondents, 82.7% had good knowledge, 17.3% had sufficient knowledge and none had less knowledge (0%). When viewed from the frequency distribution of knowledge, most of the respondents have good knowledge about the provision of nursing ethical principles.

## 2. Attitudes of nurses about the principles of nursing ethics

The attitude in the study is divided into 3 categories according to (Nursalam, 2016) is Good if the correct answer 76% - 100%, please, if the correct answer 56% - 75%, less if the correct answer <56% .

Table 2 Frequency Distribution of Nurses' Attitudes at the TrikoraSalakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency

No	Attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Good	40	76.9%
2	Enough	12	23.1%
3	Less	0	0%
Amount		52	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2021

Table 4.6 shows that of the 52 respondents, 76.9% had a good attitude, 23.1% had a sufficient attitude and no lack of attitude (0%). When viewed from the frequency distribution of the attitudes of respondents, most of them have a good attitude about giving nursing ethical principles.

## Discussion

The results of this study will be discussed based on the research variables studied, namely knowledge, attitudes and actions.

### 1. Nurse's knowledge about the principles of nursing ethics at the Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency

The results showed 52 respondents whose knowledge of both categories more with the number of 43 respondents (82,7 %) as compared with that knowledge quite 9 respondents (17.3%). Based on the data, the majority of nurses' knowledge already understands the principles of nursing ethics which consist of autonomy, beneficial, justice, non maleficence, veracity, fidelity, confidentiality and accountability.

The majority of early adult respondents, namely 43 nurses, had good knowledge of the ethical principles of nursing. While the age of adulthood ahirrie 9 nurses have sufficient knowledge of the ethical principles of nursing. According to the researcher's assumptions, early adulthood is a productive age for a person because the process of sharing experiences and knowledge is in line with one's age. According to the Ministry of Health (2009) which states that the age category of 26-35 years is an early adult category, it means that in that category the calculation of age is included in a person's

biological and mental maturity group. This study is in line with Chairul Huda and Said Usman (2017) which shows that the average age of implementing nurses as respondents is 26-35 (early adults).

The majority of respondents have DIII education and the NERS profession who have good knowledge of the ethical principles of nursing. According to the researcher's assumptions, education is a factor that affects knowledge because the higher a person's education, the more knowledge he has, especially regarding the ethical principles of nursing. According to Notoatmodjo(2014), one of the goals of education is to develop potential and improve individual intelligence better. The higher the level of education of a person, the more knowledge gained so that it can affect awareness and desire to try new things. This study is in line with the research conducted by HenyMarliani, (2010) on the nurses of RSUD Tasik Malaya about ethical principles, where the majority of nurses who work in inpatient rooms are DIII graduates.

The majority of adult respondents have good knowledge. According to the assumption of the researcher, the length of work can affect a person's knowledge, as well as his work environment. According to (Notoatmodjo, 2014) nurses who work with long tenures have more experience than those who work with recent tenures. A long working period will make nurses have more work experience so they are familiar with the threats that exist, this can reduce or reduce the risk of nurses' anxiety in providing nursing care. This research is also the same as that conducted by HenyMarliani, (2010) on nurses at the Tasik Malaya Hospital regarding ethical principles, where the majority of implementing nurses who work in inpatient rooms have worked for more than 5 years.

According to Notoatmodjo (2014), Knowledge is the result of knowing, and this occurs after people have sensed a certain object. Sensing occurs through the human senses, namely the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Knowledge is a very important domain in shaping one's actions.

This study is in line with research conducted by Huda (2017), about "Knowledge of implementing nurses in the Indonesian nursing code of ethics in the inpatient room of the Banda Aceh Mental Hospital" that the level of knowledge of the implementing nurse in the BLUD inpatient room of the Mental Hospital Banda Aceh on the application of the code of ethics and ethical principles of nursing in the good category.

## 2. Nurses' Attitudes About the principles of nursing ethics at the TrikoraSalakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency

The results showed 52 respondents attitude of both categories more with the number of 40 respondents (76,9 %), compared to the attitude quite 12 respondents (23.1%). Based on the data, the majority of nurses' attitudes strongly agree about nurses not discriminating between patients according to customs and customs, the majority of nurses' attitudes strongly disagree about client information that anyone can know, the majority of nurses' attitudes agree that every client's actions and responses must be recorded, the majority of nurses' attitudes disagree about there is no need to explain every action that will be given to the patient and family, the majority of nurses attitudes strongly agree to make an action plan according to the client's problem, the majority of nurses' attitudes strongly disagree about being kind to clients is the most difficult thing to do, the majority of nurses' attitudes are very do not agree not to keep promises when providing nursing care, the majority of nurses' attitudes strongly agree to provide opportunities for patients or families to choose actions for their own treatment, the majority of nurses' attitudes strongly disagree about discriminating between class 1 and VIP patients, mayo The attitude of nurses strongly agrees that maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for patients is the nurse's responsibility.

The majority of late adult respondents have a good attitude compared to early adults about the ethical principles of nursing. According to the researcher's assumptions, late adulthood is a mature age in taking and deciding an action. According to (Notoatmodjo, 2014) a person who lives a normal life can be assumed that the longer a person lives, the better the experience in decision-making and action.

The majority of respondents with DII and NERS education have good attitudes. According to the researcher's assumption, To make the patient comfortable while being cared for in the hospital, it is necessary to have a good, friendly, and greeting nurse before giving action. The level of education can measure the attitude of the nurse. According to Sadiman (2002), educational status affects the opportunity to obtain information about disease management.

The majority of respondents with a longer working period have a good attitude than those who have enough. According to the researcher's assumptions, nurses with long tenures have a good attitude because they have a lot of experience while being a



nurse compared to those with new tenure. According to Notoatmodjo(2014), nurses who work with long tenures have more experience than those who work with recent tenures. A long working period will make nurses have more work experience so they are familiar with the threats that exist, this can reduce or reduce the risk of nurses' anxiety in providing nursing care. Attitude is a person's closed response to a stimulus or object, both internal and external so that its manifestations cannot be directly seen, but can only be interpreted beforehand from the closed behavior. Attitudes in reality indicate the suitability of the response to a particular stimulus.

This is in line with the research conducted by(Firmansyah, 2020), regarding the "Overview of Nurse Knowledge and Nurse Attitudes About the Nursing Code of Ethics at the Kalisat Hospital, Jember Regency" that nurses' attitudes about the nursing code of ethics were in the good category, namely 69 (84.1 %) nurse.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded:

1. Nurses' knowledge about the principles of nursing ethics at the Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency is mostly in the good category.
2. Nurses' attitudes about nursing ethical principles at the Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital, Banggai Islands Regency are mostly in the good category

## **Suggestions**

1. For nurses at the Trikora Salakan Regional General Hospital

It is expected that nurses can maintain the application of nursing ethical principles to patients so that they feel comfortable in the hospital.

2. For STIK Indonesia Jaya Palu

It is hoped that STIK Indonesia Jaya Palu will further optimize teaching on the principles of nursing ethics and enrich library materials to make it easier for students, especially nursing students, to obtain references about the principles of nursing ethics.

3. For Further Researchers

It is hoped that further research can be developed to increase knowledge and attitudes related to the principles of nursing ethics.

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