



Role of librarians in Capacity Building of Nurses in Public Health Sector

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Abstract:

The healthcare system is increasingly becoming technology dependent; and Nursing in that is not exceptional. Nurses in all regions of the world are expected to develop their information and communication technology (ICT) skills, the skills in using computers and internet technologies for academic and professional purposes. The nursing community needs to be acquainted with the newer technology for their routine activities like to gather data, access information, to implement the actions and to record the results. New medical technologies can help not only in making life easier for medical professionals but also to serve the patients in most competent way. It also compensates the shortage of Nursing staff in an organisation.

The study focuses on the role of librarians in Capacity Building of Nurses in Digital Environment in Public Health sectors. This is an area that has rarely been given research attention. Information skill training in other settings than library and in a Public Health sector has mainly been concerned with and focused on information skill training and Capacity Building of Nurses working for it and building the bridge between 'Self' and the 'world'.

Keywords: *Health Professionals, Nurse Training, Information Literacy, Skill Training, Capacity Building, Public Health Sector*

Introduction:

Health science is an important component of knowledge which keeps expanding to infinite horizon with all the new inventions, thereby adding content to the vast literature available. The people who are serving in the Health Organisation need to pace with the growth. Nursing is one such important community of Health Organisation. The value of nursing is seen to be dependent on cultural change, globalization, and advancement in technology and medicine. These factors have become decisive in providing greater job satisfaction among health care providers, their better retention and enhanced patient care within a supportive and harmonious organization. But the threat of being marginalized by the lack of

skills for internet based information services and information gathering habits is the concern of Nurse Community . Training and capacity building is today's urge and which further helps to achieve, their individual as well as goals of the organisation. The findings of this review have implications for policy makers in recruitment and retention in determining the global value of nursing.

Objectives:

Some broad research objectives are:

- To study the access to and use of ICTs by Nurse community in terms of access to health information.
- To assess learning experience with their usage of the Library
- To know the experience and motivation to use e-learning;

Methodology:

For the study, data is collected from using a mixed method approach where quantitative methods such as survey and qualitative methods such as interviews and focus group discussion techniques are used.

Similarly, in-depth interviews were conducted with Nurses working in these Public Health sectors to their perceptions on most preferred information sources and services, obstructions faced by them in accessing the same, major factors that influence the usage of information.

Focus Group discussions are used to understand the present awareness levels of information services, sources in diverse formats and how health professionals especially nurses apply information seeking in their work place.

Review of Literature:

The reviews of research are done on the information literacy, skill development and capacity building of health care providers around the world. It focuses on one type of professionals in the medical field such as nursing Profession. According to Ojo I et al, the introduction of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in healthcare has positively influenced how healthcare professionals including nurses, serve the patients especially in developing countries where they are still facing challenges influencing against effective integration of ICT into patient care. Therefore, the need to identify factors influencing the adoption and use of ICT among nurses.

Dominguez-Flores, and Wang (2011) executed study to investigate "the effectiveness of online learning communities (OLC) on enhancing the undergraduate students' acquisition of information skills. Authors state that "OLC was compared with online tutorials and one-shot face-to-face sessions designed to facilitate students' information skill acquisition. Data were gathered through multiple sources: a pre-test and a post-test, focus groups, course discussion postings, and course emails. The ANOVA on the post-test revealed that there was significant statistical difference among different formats. The ad-hoc Tukey test revealed that the OLC was the most effective delivery format in terms of student's acquisition of information skills".

Chu and Chow (2011) revealed that "Information literacy and information technology, skills have

become increasingly important in today's knowledge society. Many studies have shown that students from primary school to postgraduate lack crucial information literacy and IT skills, hence there is a need for an effective pedagogical approach that will develop these skills. This study investigated the effect of combining a collaborative teaching approach with inquiry project-based learning on the development of primary students' information literacy and IT skills". Similarly, Corral and Keates (2011) revealed the prevalence of virtual learning environments (VLEs) in higher education. Rubin, et.al. (2011) described "trends in health literacy that leads toward development of health literacy as social practice. This study examines this information-exchange component of health literacy. Results revealed that indices derived from the Measure of Interactive Health Literacy do contribute unique variance-apart from document-based health-literacy-on several criterion measures such as satisfaction with health care services". In a similar study, Schonlau, et.al. (2011) described how limited literacy contributes to suboptimal care and outcomes for patients.

Carr et. al. (2011) explained that "medical practitioners need the skills to find relevant information and evaluate its authenticity, validity, and reliability. Author states that "the purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the enhanced information literacy program. The Australian and New Zealand Information Literacy (ANZIIL) Standards were used to define the information literacy skills required by medical students, and the Information Skills Survey for Assessment of Information Literacy in Higher Education (ISS) was used to determine students' self-perception of information skills. Two cohorts of students were evaluated - one that had teachers who had been coached by librarians and one that had no teacher coaching". Thompson and Paul (2016) had explored "digital inclusion issues beyond physical access to digital information technology. Their research was based on a series of in-depth interviews with women in Kerala, India, who have had access to digital information technologies for at least 5 years. The data was analyzed for evidence of factors beyond physical access to technology and basic literacy skills that affect information and communication technology access and use".

Role of Librarians:

Libraries are the natural place of community members to get access to the wide range of information available, and to seek assistance from librarians to support lifelong learning and skill development. Librarians if they know the needs of the readers(Nurses), they can engage with the person and connect them to the resources. Moreover, with a development of Information Technology and increase in access to freely available databases and websites, today the information environment of dependency on libraries and librarians has shifted to self information seeking. But because of information abundance and lack of skills, Health professionals are finding it difficult to get authoritative information . Now the libraries and Librarians have different role to play, as always, being a responsive member for the needs of the community, and to improve the quality of service towards the public, Librarians can take an initiation in training or capacity building of Health Professionals especially Nursing community who come more in picture with the patient care concept, through Information Literacy programmes and skill development aspects.

Skill Training and capacity Building

Capacity building in a public Health sector is a process to understand the existing capacity of a sector and there upon improving the capability of Nurses working for the same, through proper training, by which the person can become more strengthened and effective participatory at all levels- individually, for the organisation he is working for and for an institution as a whole and further for the broader system context in an ICT environment.

To know about the existing capacity of Health Professionals and thrust to information and its resources for updating of Knowledge, the nurses were asked if they visit any library and resource centre nearby and its frequency, amount of time spent in the Library, the motivating factors to seek information regularly, their information gathering habits and the problems faced while seeking information on internet or databases and about provision of a Library or a Documentation centre at the sector can help them.

Findings:

- 1 The Nurses lacked professional skills and competencies in using internet effectively for information seeking.
2. The most highly motivating factor for the to seek information is the research interest in their field and for some it is a need to qualify for higher profession
3. They need information for solving day to day problems they face in the profession, and some gave the response as that they need information to know about the background of the patients.
4. The main barrier for the nurses to have good technological knowledge and skills is the absence of library in the premises, Professional guide, skill development training and the lack of infrastructure facility which is hindering.

Conclusion:

Establishing a library and appointing a library professional to train the nurses in better usage of information is the new concept to primary Health Centres, To offer library and information services to hospitals and networking all into library service consortia offering mutually accessible facilities and Capacity Building trainings was regarded as a feasible solution

The need to keep oneself updated about latest information in the domain, the nurses must be supported to bridge this information gap by having a comprehensive approach like providing infrastructure like internet access and laptop/desktop, well stocked library and the services of a qualified librarian who can support ably the health professionals.

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