



Patient Safety: Nursing Students' Knowledge and their Attitude



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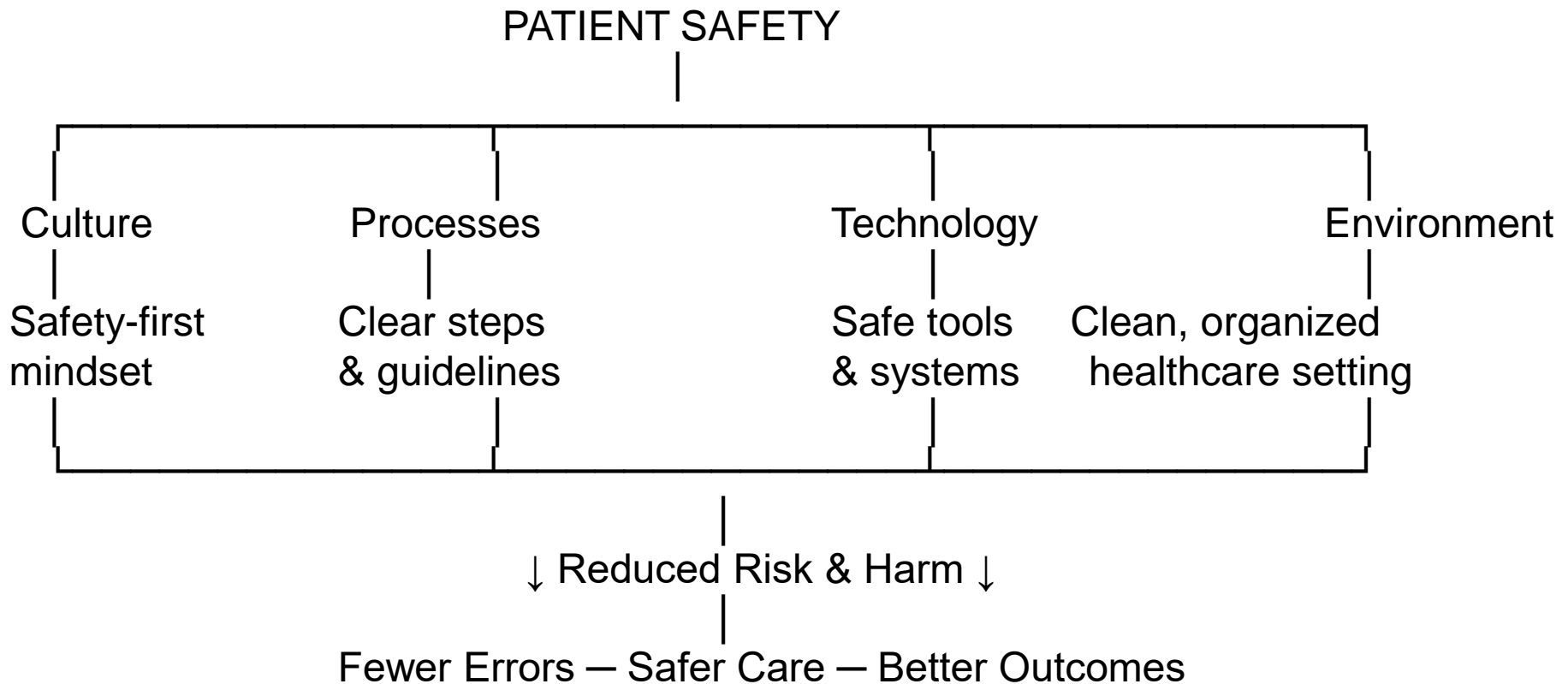
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Background

Patient safety is about making healthcare safer for everyone patients, families, and healthcare workers. It focuses on creating a system where mistakes are less likely to happen.



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It is a fundamental provision in all health care settings. Avoidable adverse events, errors and risks associated with health care remain major challenges globally².

The development of policies, strategies, action plans, and programs for patient safety is still in its early stages³.





Annually, 134 million health care-associated adverse events, contributing to 2.6 million deaths in hospitals.⁴

In the developing countries, overcrowding, shortage of equipment and supplies, shortage of staffs, poor hygiene and sanitation, disinterested leadership and flawed process of care have contributed to unsafe patient care.⁵



Nurses as the **largest group of healthcare providers** are in the best position to improve patient safety.



Nurse



In preparing future nurses, nurse educators have an important role in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes among nursing students related to patient safety.⁶



Lack of Patient's safety can pose serious health risks, like worsening of the patient's condition, infection. So, this study is conducted to assess patient safety: nursing students' knowledge and their attitude.

Objectives



General Objective

To assess patient safety: nursing students' knowledge and their attitude

Specific Objectives

To find out the patient safety: nursing students' level of knowledge and their attitude

To identify the association between patient safety: nursing students' level of knowledge and their attitude and selected variables

Methodology

Design: Quantitative study,
A cross sectional analytical study design

Setting: There are two nursing colleges which are affiliated to Purbanchal University in Chitwan.

The researcher select undergraduate nursing students in College of Bharatpur, Chitwan, to assess whether the they were aware about Patient Safety or not.



Study Population: Undergraduate nursing students of College in Bharatpur, Chitwan.



Sampling Technique: Two nursing colleges which are affiliated to Purbanchal University in Chitwan.



Probability simple random technique



Lottery method



Select one college for data collection among undergraduate nursing students



Sample size: 131 undergraduate nursing students

Research Instrument

A semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire

Instruments consists of three parts:

- Socio-demographic information
- Knowledge related questionnaire
- Likert scale for attitude



▶ Patient safety among undergraduate nursing students

Validity and Reliability

Validity

Seeking consultation with the subject experts and by reviewing related literature.

The instrument was developed in english language and translated into nepali version and back translation was done by seeking the help of english, nepali and subject expert.



Reliability

Pretesting of the instrument among the 10% (14) of the total population.

Reliability score is 0.7 regarding knowledge and 0.65 regarding attitude towards patient safety among undergraduate nursing students



Ethical consideration

Ethical approval - Ref: 20240210-02.



Written informed consent was obtained.

Respondents was explained about the objectives of the study in the clear and understandable term.

Confidentiality was maintained by not disclosing the information given by them, use lock code for saving data in computer and using the information for research purpose only.

Respondents was able to withdraw their participation at any time during data collection.

Anonymity was maintained by using code number instead of name of the respondents.

Data Collection

Semi structured self-administered questionnaire

Asking and taking time from the year coordinator

Data was collected during free time



Students had given 20-25 minutes to complete the questionnaire

Check for completeness then after it was collected.

The researchers made every possible attempt to reduce bias in data collection.

Data Analysis



Data was collected within 2024-02-18 to 2024-03-01.

Checked, reviewed and organized for its accuracy, completeness and consistency.

Coded and entered in Excel and analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS IBM version 22.0).

The collected data was analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive statistics in terms of frequency, percentage, mean, median and standard deviation and by using inferential statistics (Pearson Chi-square, Likelihood ratio) in 95% confidence interval.

Results

Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of the respondents. (n=131)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age (In Years)		
15-25	112	85.5
25-35	17	13
35-45	2	1.5
Mean±SD Minimum (Maximum)	21.97±3.770,17(40)	
Level of education		
BSN 1st year	60	45.8
BSN 2nd Year	11	8.4
PBNS 1st year	23	17.5
PBNS 2nd year	20	15.3
PBNS 3rd year	17	13
Experience of clinical practice (in Years)		
0-3	122	93.1
3-6	5	3.8
>6	4	3.1

Table 2: Respondent's level of knowledge and attitude regarding patient safety. (n=131)

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Level of Knowledge		
Good	68	51.9%
Poor	63	48.1%
Mean±S.D, Minimum(maximum)	18.82±3.741, 12(26)	
Level of Attitude		
Good	63	48.1%
Poor	68	51.9%
Mean±S.D, Minimum(Maximum)	41.5±4.92,26(55)	

Table 3 Association between knowledge regarding patient safety and selected variables. (n=131)

Variables	Level of knowledge		Chi-square	P-value
	Good	Poor		
Age (In Years)			23.09	0.001*
<20	20(30.8%)	45(69.2%)		
≥20	48(51.9%)	18(48.1%)		
Level of education			33.7	0.001*
BSN 1st	17(28.3%)	43(71.7%)		
BSN 2 nd	4(36%)	7(63.6%)		
PBNS 1 st	16(69.6%)	7(30.4%)		
PBNS 2 nd	15(75%)	5(25%)		
PBNS 3 rd	16(94.1%)	1(5.9%)		
Experience of clinical practice			32.18	0.001*
<1 Year	24(31.2%)	53(18.8%)		
≥1 Year	44(81.5%)	10(18.5%)		

Pearson Chi-square* Significant level at 0.05

Table 4 Association between attitude regarding patient safety and selected variables. (n=131)

Variables	Level of Attitude		Chi-square	P-value
	Good	Poor		
Age(years)				
<20	50(44.6%)	62(55.4%)	3.194	0.029*
≥20	13(76.5%)	4(23.5%)		
Level of education				
BSN 1st	23(38.3%)	37(61.7%)	4.99	0.288*
BSN 2nd	5(45.5%)	5(54.5%)		
PBNS 1st	14(60.9%)	9(39.1%)		
PBNS 2nd	11(55%)	9(45%)		
PBNS 3rd	10(58.8%)	7(41.5%)		
Experience of clinical practice				
<1Year	32(41.6%)	45(58.4%)	4.793	0.074*
≥1 Year	31(57.4%)	23(42.6%)		

Pearson Chi-square* Significant level at 0.05

Conclusion

About half of the respondents had poor knowledge regarding patient safety and more than half of the respondents had negative attitude.

Age and experience of clinical practice is significantly associated with knowledge regarding patient safety where age is significantly associated with attitude regarding patient safety.

There is still need to do more focus on the concepts and skills on patient safety among nursing students.

If nurses have high patient safety skill then that will improve patient satisfaction.



Takeaway messages



The time to act is now to ensure a safer healthcare environment for everyone.

Urgent Call to Action: Bridging the Patient Safety Gap in Nursing Education

Our recent study reveals a critical need for intervention in how we teach patient safety to future nurses. The findings are clear and demand immediate attention:

Knowledge Deficit: Nearly half of the undergraduate nursing students surveyed demonstrated poor knowledge regarding essential patient safety practices.

Attitude Problem: More than half of the respondents held a negative attitude towards patient safety protocols.

The Solution: We must intensify our focus on integrating practical patient safety concepts and skills into the nursing curriculum.

The Ultimate Goal: Equipping nurses with high-level safety skills is a direct path to significantly improving patient satisfaction and care quality.

Acknowledgment

All the nursing students for their valuable time and information.

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Professional Profile: Babita Ghimire

Academic Background: Master in Nursing (Adult Nursing) from Chitwan Medical College, affiliated with the prestigious Tribhuvan University.

Current Academic Leadership: Assistant Professor at Shree College of Technology. Vice-principal and Head of the Department of Nursing at Shree College of Technology.

Research & Ethics Leadership: Chairperson of the Institutional Review Committee (SCoT-IRC) at Shree College of Technology.

Professional Advocacy: Current Vice President of the Nursing Association of Nepal (NAN).

Research & Grants: Author of multiple publications in the field of nursing and healthcare. Recipient of a provincial research grant from the Nepal Health Research Council.

Conference & Future Initiatives: Presented a poster at the National NAN Conference 2024 and Nepal Health Research Council in 2025.

I'm extremely grateful

