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# Nurses' awareness about children's health rights

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**Abstract**---Background: Non-discrimination, right to life and the right to dignity through mental and physical integrity recognized as basic children health rights. The study was conducted to assess the nurses' awareness about children's health rights in Kerbala Teaching Hospital for Children Method: A descriptive quantitative study design, which is used the assessing the nurses awareness about child's health rights in Karbala during the period from 16 June 2020 to 1 August 2021. The study was conducted in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children. Results: The findings of the current study reveal that the highest percentage (70%) 35 nurses were the female. Conclusion: The study concludes that the total mean of score for nurses' awareness about child's health rights is good level. Recommendations: The study recommends that need for increase number of nurses who hold bachelor's degree in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children. Adequate therapeutic rooms must be provided for children.

**Keywords**---Nurses', Awareness, children health rights.

**Introduction**

Human rights are principles that acknowledge and preserve everyone's dignity. Individual human rights determine how people interact in society and with one

another, as well as their relationship with the state and the obligations that the State have towards them. Human rights law obliges governments to do some things, and prevents them from doing others. Individuals also have responsibilities: They must respect the rights of others when exercising their human rights. No government, group, or individual has the authority to act in a way that infringes the rights of others (Beitz, 2011). Children are an essential element of our civilization. However, because of their immaturity, lack of power and fragility, nature handed over children under the supervision of adults. Childhood experiences shape adult behavior and social roles. As a result, it is critical to satisfy and fulfill all of a child's basic needs and rights. Children have legal rights. However, in most parts of the world, their rights are not honored due to their fragility or compromised status. Their rights abuses, inadequate services, gender inequalities, and discrimination are caused by the absence of alertness and poverty all over the world

The goals of these wide-ranging explanations are to underline the requirement of viewing the health of children from a child-rights viewpoint, which identifies that all children have the right to survival, growth, and development in the context of physical, emotional, and social well-being. Any person under the age of 18 is referred to as a "Child" in this public comment. Although extraordinary progress has been made in recent years in realizing the health rights of children from the time when the establishment of the Convention, significant obstacles remain (Raja, 2018). Nurses can build located knowledge needed for special cultural problems experienced when delivering care for Iraqi patients through studying and personal experiences. According to the statistics, nurses felt unprepared for the cultural components of nursing care, validating previous study and expanding understanding about nursing care in other cultures. Learning to give nurses with cultural knowledge of Iraqi people's habits and beliefs, on the other hand, will increase quality nursing care and optimal health outcomes (Jonsen, A. R. 2003).

Nurses maintain their positions as competent, honorable professionals amidst a storm of change. By following the ten principles outlined below, nursing practitioners can make professional and personal decisions that improve individual and social well-being. Nurse able to interact with child and peers develops over time as a result of this ongoing dedication and effort. Nurses should be recognizing the importance of treating child's patients as individuals, beginning with admissions and continuing throughout service delivery. This necessitates concentration and a distraction-free environment so that nurses may precisely articulate the requirements and concerns of children (Raja, 2018). The nurses should be having effective communication through establishing excellent rapport with child and be sensitive and transparent communication. This includes determining the impact of a patient's cultural and societal beliefs on their medical conditions and treatment plans.

## **Method**

A descriptive quantitative study design, which is used the assessing the nurses awareness about child's health rights in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children. In order to meet the aims stated before, the current investigation was carried out on June, 2020, and end on July 2021. Convenience sample of 50 nurses was

participated from Karbala teaching hospital for children. The study instrument consisting of two parts: An assessment tool was developed by the researchers to assess the nurses' awareness about the child health rights in Karbala pediatric teaching hospital. The part one of this tool consists of (4) defends patients' cultural values throughout the delivery of health care services in the spirit of the code. Another child health right is diversity in the workplace is promoted by actively recruiting and employing multicultural employees (Nejad, et al., 2011) that's includes: the nurse's age, gender, study levels, years of experiences. The part two is related to nurses' awareness about child's health rights. Data was collected using a questionnaire prepared by the researchers and a structured interview technique with the nurses they works in the Karbala teaching hospital for children, by using the Arabic version of the questionnaire, and they were interviewed in a similar way, by the same questionnaire for all those nurses who were included in the study sample. Each nurse spends approximately (4–10) minutes to complete the interview. Both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis were used to analyze the study results under the application of the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) Version (22.0). The participants were thoroughly informed about the current investigation and its objectives before giving their verbal agreement to be involved in this study. The information will be maintained with confidentiality and is being considered by the ethical committee of research at the Faculty of Nursing/University of Karbala gave its clearance.

## Result

Table 1  
Shows the distribution of the study groups based on socio-demographic characteristics

| SDCv.                                                    | Classes            | Study |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|------|
|                                                          |                    | F     | P%   |
| Gender                                                   | Male               | 15    | 30.0 |
|                                                          | Female             | 35    | 70.0 |
| Age Groups<br>Yrs.                                       | 20 – 25            | 33    | 66.0 |
|                                                          | 25-30              | 7     | 14.0 |
|                                                          | 30-35              | 3     | 6.0  |
|                                                          | 35-40              | 7     | 14.0 |
| Educational level                                        | Nursing School     | 28    | 56.0 |
|                                                          | Institute Graduate | 18    | 36.0 |
|                                                          | College Graduate   | 4     | 8.0  |
| Number of years<br>of experience in<br>the nursing field | 1-5                | 36    | 72.0 |
|                                                          | 5 – 10             | 5     | 10.0 |
|                                                          | 10- 15             | 4     | 8.0  |
|                                                          | 15 – 20            | 5     | 10.0 |
| Marital Status                                           | Married            | 26    | 52.0 |
|                                                          | Unmarried          | 24    | 48.0 |
| Number of<br>children                                    | 1-5                | 18    | 36.0 |
|                                                          | No child           | 32    | 64.0 |

Table (2)  
Overall Nurses' awareness about child's health rights.

| Nurses' awareness<br>about child's health<br>rights. | N  | Mean  | Std.<br>Deviation | Ass. |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|-------|-------------------|------|
| Total                                                | 50 | .8810 | .07752            | Good |

Table (3)  
Relationships between nurses' awareness of about child's health rights and some  
demographic data

| Group | Source of Variations | Sum of Squares | d.f. | Mean<br>Square | F<br>Statistic |
|-------|----------------------|----------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Study | Gender               | .049           | 1    | .049           | 9.509          |
|       | Age Groups           | .036           | 3    | .012           | 2.141          |
|       | Educational level    | .030           | 2    | 0.15           | 2.691          |
|       | No. of yrs. Service  | .027           | 3    | .009           | 1.521          |
|       | Marital status.      | .001           | 1    | .001           | .147           |

## Discussion

Table (1) shows the highest percentage (70%) 35 of nurses were females, and the lower percentage (66.0 %) 33 were male, this result agrees with the study done by Nejad, et al., (2011) reported the majority of the nurses were females (76.28%) (Rabiei, et al., 2014). In addition, this result disagrees with the finding of the study that was conducted by Rabiei, et al., (2014) to assess the awareness and willingness to perform children's oral health care among primary health care nurses, the study finding exposed that the majority of the nurses were male (Al-Bardah, 2012). The result of the present study concerning the age revealed that the majority of participants is located in the age group (20-25 years), this result agrees with the result of the study conducted by Al-Bardah, (2012) to assess nurses' awareness concerning mother and child rights at Al-Sabaeen Hospital in Sana'a-Yemen (Abedian, et al., 2015).

Furthermore, the finding of the present study revealed that the highest percentage nurses were from the intermediate level of education (nursing school) (56.0%), this finding was agrees with (Nejad, et al) (Al-Bardah, 2012) assess the awareness and willingness of primary care nurses to perform children's oral health care, that reported educational status most of the nurses (4.4) (1.8%) were Nursing school students. And disagree with (Abedian, et al., 2015) the awareness of nurses about patients' rights in a teaching hospital that reported educational status most of nurses (91.02%) were nursing college students. Regard the years' of the experience the study found the half Participates was within (1-5 years) experience in nursing field (72.0%), this study agrees with (Perrin, et al., 2017)

asses of pediatric doctors and nurses about awareness regarding child rights in tertiary hospitals, at Lahore, which mentions the majority of the study sample (83.5%) having 1-5 years of experience in hospitals. In the other hand the results disagreed with Al-Bardah (Abedian, et al., 2015), which revealed that the highest percentage are (46.79%) between (6-10) years of experience in general nursing. In addition to the result of the present study shows 26 nurses (52.0%) were married this result agrees with Al-Bardah (Abedian, et al., 2015) nurses awareness of patients' rights in teaching hospital, reported that the majority of nurses 98 (62.82%) were married. Also this result disagrees with (Yoder and Jones) (Perrin, et al., 2017) assess of pediatric doctors and nurses about awareness regarding child rights in tertiary hospitals, at Lahore, reported that the majority of nurses 88 (83.8%) were unmarried.

Table (2) shows the levels of "nurse's awareness about child's health rights in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children " that nurses have good level of awareness about child's health rights, good= (076-1). These results of current study agrees with the study by (Fraley, et al., 2018) in Iran, reported that the rate of observance of the patients' rights charter was 84.24%, as a good level. Also the result of the current study disagree with the study by (Eckroth-Bucher, 2010) reported that the level of nurse's awareness about patients' rights was poor in (81.9%).

Table (3) Shows that there is significant relationship between nurses' awareness of about child's health rights and their gender variable, this agrees with Fraley(Eckroth-Bucher, 2010) revealed that among the demographic characteristics, only gender was significantly correlated with the nurses knowledge and practice regarding the observance of patient ('39) rights ( $P < 0.05$ ) and disagrees with (Al-Bardah, 2012) which indicated there is no significant relationship between awareness of patients' rights and gender. Also the result in table (3) shows that there is no significant relationship between Nurses' awareness of about child's health rights and their age variable, this agrees with (Yoder, & Jones, 1982) reported that are no statistically significance differences among different age groups and level of awareness and this disagrees with study by Perrin (Fraley, et al., 2018) shows a statistical significant association that are found between the total awareness and attitude of nurses with their age, the level of nurses knowledge will increase as when the age increase.

Also the table (3) Shows that there is significant relationship between nurses' awareness about child's health s' and their Education level Variable, this agrees with (Perrin, et al., 2017), stated significant differences at p-value of ( $<0.05$ ) was found between education and level of awareness about child rights and disagrees with (Fraley, et al., 2018), which reported there is no significant relationship between awareness of patients' rights and their educational level. In addition, the table shows that there is no significant relationship between nurses' awareness about child's health with their years of experience, this agrees with (Eckroth-Bucher, 2010) mention there was no statistical differences between nurses years of experience and their awareness about child rights ( $\chi^2=1.08$ ,  $p=0.583$ ) and disagrees (Raja, 2018). Which indicated there were a significant association between nurse's awareness and their years of experience. The table (3) shows that there is no significant relationship between nurses' marital status and their

awareness about child's health rights, this agrees with Eckroth-Bucher (Hillis, et al., 2016), reported there were no association between the marital status and nurses' knowledge about patient rights. And disagrees with Hillis (Hillis, et al., 2016). a significance differences was present between life satisfaction with marital status between nursing staff and job burnout at p-value of ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## **Conclusion**

The most gender of the nurses was female (70%) and There is significant association among awareness of nurses and socio- demographic characteristics such as (occupation, level of education and socio-economic status. The study concludes that the total mean of score for nurses' awareness about child's health rights is good level

## **Recommendations**

Educational programs and monitoring are needed to ensure that the old and new nurses stay aware of children's health rights .There is a need to increase the percentage of nurses with bachelor's degree in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children. Adequate therapeutic rooms must be provided for children to enable them to rest, with ventilation systems and outlets for fresh air to enter into their rooms in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children .There is a need for a balance between number of male and female workers in Karbala Teaching Hospital for Children.

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**Ethical Clearance:** An approval was attained from the Scientific Research Ethical Committee from the University of Kerbala/ Nursing College. Informed consent was obtained from each participant to be enrolled in this study. Furthermore, each participant is given the right to be withdrawn from the study at any time. This work was Under supervisionby College of nursing /University of baghdad

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