

Assessment of Participation in Continuous Nursing Education among Nurses Working in National Hospital of Sri Lanka

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Nurses as healthcare professionals who should always upgrade their knowledge and practices by attending activities of Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Continuous Nursing Education (CNE) is now recognized as an essential element if nursing is to develop as a profession. The purpose of this study was to assess the nurses' involvement in CNE and the extent of participation in individual CPD activities in the last two years. A descriptive cross-sectional study was performed with 337 registered nurses working in the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL). Convenient sampling technique was performed and a self-administered questionnaire was used to assess nurses' extent of participation in a variety of CNE. A descriptive analysis was performed using SPSS version 22. Among the participants (n= 337) 86.1 % of nurses have participated in CNE and were undergraduate students (32.2 %) for either Bachelor's or Master's degree. Tiredness due to working hours was found as the major obstacle by the respondents who did not participate in CNE (51 %). Respondent rate on participation on individual CNE during the examined two years was 78.3 %. Among them 9.8 % had not attended any kind of CNE activities. The majority of them (64.4 %) have participated in workshops whereas the smallest minority (1.9 %) participated as a publication reviewer, editor or referee of an editorial board. Overall participation in CNE was at an excellent level. Comparatively low respondent rate (78.3 %) in the participation in individual CPD activities reflects the unavailability of a proper method to measure the participation in individual Continuous Education (CE) hours of an individual nurse.

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