



2nd Annual Students' Research Session - 2020

"Enhancing Healthcare Through Innovative Research"

BOOK OF ABSTRACT

**ASRS
2020**

10th December 2020

Association of socio demographic factors and health education on awareness of palliative care among student nurses in the Eastern Province

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Abstract

Back ground: Palliative care is a multidisciplinary approach to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness. As a part of the healthcare team, nurses have an important role in providing palliative care. Therefore, this study aimed to assess the associations of sociodemographic factors and awareness of palliative care among student nurses in the Eastern Province.

Method: A descriptive, cross-sectional study was carried out among nursing students of college of nursing, Batticaloa, college of nursing Ampara and Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Eastern University Sri Lanka started from 2018 October to 2019 August. A self-administered questionnaire in three languages was used to collect the data. Data analysis was done using SPSS 21 and p-value < 0.05 was considered significant for association. Ethical approval was obtained from Ethic Review Committee, FHCS, EUSL.

Result: A total of 141 students nurses who are in their second, third and fourth year were participated. Among them majority were female (90.8%), Sinhalese (65.2%) and were from nuclear family (85.1%). Among the participants 56% identified palliative care as geriatric medicine. Nearly 72.3% of the participants correctly responded the questions related to pain medicine and 55.3% had correctly identified

dying is a normal active process. 16.3% of the participants stated that they have visited to palliative care organization.

There was no association between the socio demographic factors and the participant's awareness level of palliative care. Significant association was noted between the factors related to medical education and awareness of palliative care. eg: gyn and obs appointment and awareness of palliative care $p = 0.003$.

Conclusion: Comparing the socio demographic factors of the participants, there is a significant association between gender, family history of palliative care, type of family and health related occupation. Positive statistical significant on palliative care's awareness level was observed among the third year and fourth year students, the students who visited any palliative care organization and the students who have finished the clinical appointments such as medicine, surgery, psychiatrics obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics.