ORIGINAL ARTICLE

NURSE´S DUTIES IN A COMMUNITY´S POINT OF VIEW
O FAZER DO ENFERMEIRO SOB A ÓTICA DE UMA COMUNIDADE
EL HACER DEL ENFERMERO SOBRE LA ÓPTICA DE UNA COMUNIDAD

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to analyze the knowledge of people of a community about the role of the nurse. Method: descriptive and exploratory study with a qualitative approach. The subjects of the research were 90 residents of a community, living next to a university center, interior of Rio de Janeiro. The data were collected in the first semester of 2013 with the application of a questionnaire and undergoing to categorization. The research project has been approved by the Ethics Committee in Research, CAAE nº 12724513.4.0000.5243. Results: most of the subjects were female, average age of 39 years old, with complete high school. With regard to the categorization process, a central category has emerged << Ignorance of the activities of the nurse >>. Conclusion: the nursing profession is little known by the community of the university center with regard to some important activities of nurses which carries in a loss of visibility of the profession by the community. Descriptors: Nurse; Knowledge; Population.

RESUMO


RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar el conocimiento de personas de una comunidad acerca del papel del enfermero. Método: estudio descriptivo y exploratorio con enfoque cualitativo. Los sujetos de la investigación fueron 90 habitantes de una comunidad, residente próximo a un polo universitario, interior de Rio de Janeiro. Los datos fueron recogidos en el primer semestre de 2013 con la aplicación de un cuestionario y sometidos a categorización. El proyecto de investigación fue aprobado por el Comité de Ética en Investigación, CAAE nº 12724513.4.0000.5243. Resultados: la mayoría de los sujetos pertenecen al sexo femenino, media de edad de 39 años, con enseñanza secundaria completa. Refrente al proceso de categorización, surgió una categoría central << Desconocimiento de las actividades del enfermero >>. Conclusión: la profesión de Enfermería es poco conocida por la comunidad del polo universitario en lo referente a algunas importantes actividades del enfermero lo que lleva a una disminución de la visibilidad de la profesión por la comunidad. Descriptores: Enfermero; Conocimiento; Populación.

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INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a profession that deals directly with human lives, applying their own skills and competences for the implementation of care, and/or indirectly, by providing support and providing means for all those who will act on the re-establishment of imbalance people in the health-disease process. Thus, it aims the human being’s care, which is considered by many researchers as the reason for the existence of the profession.

Along the evolutionary process, nursing has conquered its space and occupied various scenarios in a process of appreciation of its work. This can be observed from the insertion of nurses in different sectors, acting in the leadership and direction of groups, in the area of teaching, research, assistance and administration.

It is worth noting that the nursing profession, according to law 25 7,498 of July, 25 1986¹, is developed in a private character by four professionals. The nurse is responsible for the supervision, leadership, direction and coordination of nursing services and leadership of other team members of his profession. The other members that of nursing would be: the nursing technician, nursing assistant and the midwife.

In Brazil, data from 2011 published by the Federal Council of Nursing point out that there are a total of 1,856,683 nursing professionals, of which 18.69% are nurses.² Total data of this profession if they are compared with statistics from other health professionals from Brazil, it will be shown that nursing is a little more than 70% of the total healthcare professionals.³

It should be noted that the nursing staff has technical and legal support to develop their labor activities in various contexts and scenarios that require direct or indirect care to human beings, whether they are: kindergartens, schools, companies, health clinics, hospitals, community, research center, offices, among others. In these scenarios, from the experience of researchers, not always service users and staff members of health and nursing, know the actions that the nurse is legally enabled to develop.

It is in this context that the present research deals with a clipping of the project entitled: “Legislation and management of nursing and health services”, whose object of investigation was the knowledge of a surrounding community to a university center regarding activities that may be developed by the nurse. This proposal is part of the Group of Studies and Research in Education, Management, and Ethics in Nursing (GEPEGENF) of the Interdisciplinary Department of the University center of Rio das Ostras (PURO)/Fluminense Federal University (UFF).

Initially, it is justified by the shortage of literary searches in databases of Bireme and Portal Capes, in particular, about publications that have as a focus of research knowledge/perception of communities/population about the professional practice of the nurse. As regards the research, the few studies found were about perceptions of the role of the nurse in the great members of the own nursing staff. And work on perceptions of users had focused their condition of being in possession of some morbidity or perception of their assistance.

Related to this, it is justified also by the opportunity to know how the population living close to the university center, which offers undergraduate program in nursing, realizes some of the activities that the nurse can develop in the context of health services. From the implementation of this research, it aims to contribute with reflections concerning the delineation of strategies with a view to providing more visibility to the nursing profession, specially, to the professional nurse in respect of their legal abilities.

Thus, this study is:
- To analyze the knowledge of people of a community about the role of the nurse.

METHOD

It is a qualitative research of descriptive and exploratory in nature. The option for qualitative research is based on researchers⁴ which clarify that this kind of approach is related to the pursuit of the meanings that people attach to their social world experiences and the way they understand the world. As to the nature of the research, it is worth noting that the exploratory research aimed at developing, clarify and modify concepts and ideas, with views on the formulation of more precise issues or hypotheses for further studies are searchable minor stiffness in planning and often constitute the first stage in a broader investigation.⁵

As regards the descriptive in nature, they have as their primary objective the description of the characteristics of a particular population or phenomenon, or the establishment of relationships between variables. However, some of these researches go beyond simple identification of the existence of relations between variables, to determine the nature of this relationship.⁶ ⁷
The subjects were 90 residents in 12 streets next to a university center. From the help of maps on internet sites, the streets names were found with reference to a university center and it was established three streets on the right, three streets ahead, three streets on the left and three streets behind the university center. Sample inclusion criteria were: to accept to participate in the study, being over 18 years old, being a resident of one of the 12 streets located next to university center.

The production data were collected during the first half of 2013, with a questionnaire. Regarding the questionnaire, it is important to highlight that a questionnaire is an investigative instrument which aims to collect information usually on the basis of an inquisition representative group of the population under study. To this end, there were a series of questions covering a topic of interest for researchers.

This instrument, enabled to collect data to characterize the study subjects as gender, age, education, time in which they reside near the university center and occupation. In the issues to raise the awareness of the community and the work of nurses, activities of the nurse were listed and for each one of them, it was asked if the nurse could or not accomplish them.

With the instruments collected, they underwent the categorization process. It should be noted that, in view of the legal and ethical issues, recommended by Resolution 196/96, term of free and informed consent was given to each participant, in order to protect the anonymity and other specifics required by the National Health Council. This research has the approval of the Ethics Committee of the University Hospital Antônio Pedro as CAAE 12724513.4.0000.5243, having received the approval according to paragraph 242,736/2013.

RESULTS

From the analysis of the 90 instruments, there was female predominance (48 subject), corresponding to 53.33%. Regarding age, 36 participants were between 18 to 29 years old, followed by 18 subjects between 30 and 39 years old. There were 12 participants over 60 years old. The average age was 39 years old.

With regard to education, 16 subjects have the complete higher education and most of them, 30 in total, have complete high school. There was participation of two people who reported illiteracy. In relation to occupation, 14 are students, 20 self-identified as “housewives”, 12 trader, 10 retired, four are public servants, mason, mechanic and salesman (four of each one) and two are speech therapist, dentists, psychologists, teachers, cooks, Tax representative, industry workers, drivers, technicians in buildings. In relation to the time they reside near the university center there is: 14 residing less than 1 year, two 1-2 years of residing, 42 resided less than 2-5 years and 32 residing more than 10 years in the region.

With regard to the categorization process, there was the following central category emerging: “Ignorance of the activities of the nurse”, followed by the subcategories, whose percentage expressed that the population believes that the nurse cannot do it. They are: nurse cannot perform delivery from the perspective of the community (75 subjects, 83.33%); nurses cannot apply for exams from the perspective of the community (85 subjects, 94.44%) nurses cannot prescribe medicine from the perspective of the community (85 subjects, 94.44%); nurses cannot perform consultations from the perspective of the community (80 subjects, 88.89%); and nurses cannot manage health units from the perspective of the community (80 subjects, 88.89%)

DISCUSSION

Nursing is a profession that has a very well-defined legal basis, with more than 200 normative documents that clarify and protect the professional practice of the profession. From the responses of a population, a significant quantitative subject is unaware of activities that can be carried out by a nurse once this professional has technical, scientific and legal support.

According to the Law of the Professional Practice of Nursing, Ordinary Law, signed by the President of the Republic, in its article 11, the activities of the professional nurse are presented, highlighting the duties of this professional in private character and as member of the nursing staff. Thus, it is possible to verify that the nurse has legal backing, to carry out nursing consultation, prescription of medicines in public health programs established and approved by the introduction of routine healthcare, nursing care to pregnant, parturient and who has recently given birth, monitoring of the evolution and of labor, execution of childbirth without dystocia, episiotomy and episiorrhaphy and application of local anesthesia when required, among other activities.

Regarding the legal basis on the expectant mother/mother/who has recently given...
birth, it is also cited that there are other legal provisions of nursing, published by the Federal Council of Nursing. There are documents of the COFEN that guide about running birthing homes, as well as elucidate on the gravid-puerperal cycle nursing.8

It should be noted that, not just people of a community are unaware of the role of the nurse in performing deliveries, as well as in a study which interviewed the medical professional, showed the ignorance of these professionals about legislation that protect the profession of nurses in normal childbirth without dystocia. Respondents reported difficulties in recognizing and defining the role/actuation of these professionals in assistance to parturients.9

Among the various roles of the nurse, he has to give a humanized assistance, focusing on the actions of health education, health promotion and disease prevention. The “applying a systematic nursing care is the only possibility to reach its autonomy and professional nurse constitutes the essence of his professional practice.”10:36

It is worth noting that there are studies that recognize the importance of the work of nurses. However, there is ignorance of the hierarchical division of the profession, confused with other elements of the nursing staff. It is considered from the multidisciplinary team, despite sometimes being cited as estranged from the team of health.11

Regarding the nursing consultation, it was found that only 11.11% recognizes that the nurse can perform this practice. Resolution No. 159/9312 of the Federal Council of Nursing in its article 1 - “At all levels of health care, whether in public or private institution, the nursing consultation must be developed on nursing care.” It is worth mentioning that the nursing consultation is a private activity of the nurse as described in the Law of the Professional Practice of Nursing.

A study13 that has investigated the perception of escorts from children who frequented the nursing consultation in a basic health unit in the municipality of Canoas/RS, pointed out that the consultation provides guidance and humanized assistance, where the professional nurse is able to develop activities of disease prevention and health promotion, contributing to an improvement in the quality of life of the individual.

Regarding the prescription of medicines and the request of examinations by nurses, only 5.56% claim that the nurse is trained to these practices. Researchers:14:760 claim that “[…] the verb used in the nursing legislation is prescribing and not transcribing, which would indicate submission, excessive dependence in relation to the medical professional, confusing nurses with mere freight forwarder of prescriptions and medications.”

The Resolution nº 195/9715, in its article 1 - “The nurse may request routine and supplementary examinations when in the exercise of their professional activities.” It is observed that both the prescription and the request of examinations by the nurse are provided for in the law and that if necessary, must be performed in the programs of the Ministry of Health, as “STD/AIDS/COAS”, “Viva Mulher”, “control of communicable diseases”, among others, so that the nurse is legally bound to carry out these activities. Despite being backed by the law of professional practice “it is essential that there is an investment of training institutions, the representative entities of class, health establishments and nurse, in order to get a professional qualification”16:143 and in this way be excelling in the development of such activities.

The direction of health units, also was not recognized as a professional nurse assignment. Under the nursing and health services, the nurse is responsible for the direction of privately nursing agency member of the basic structure of the health institution, public or private, and heads of service and Nursing unit; as well as for the organization and direction of Nursing services and their technical and auxiliary activities in the companies providing these services1. It is worth noting that, according to the Decree 94406of June 08, 198717 the nurse is the only professional who may exercise within the nursing, the “(c) planning, organization, coordination, implementation and evaluation of nursing care services”.

The Art. 66 of the Cofen Resolution 31118 of February 8, 2007, which deals with the reformulation of the Code of Ethics of Nursing Professionals and other arrangements, states that it is the right of the professional nursing “To exercise positions of direction, management and coordination in the area of their professional practice and the health sector”.

Given this important managerial competence and in order to revalidate the preparation and legal competence of nurses in health services administration, the Federal Council of Nursing Care (COFEN) publishes in February 18, 2007, the COFEN Resolution 194/199719, which rules on the Management of Health Units by Nurses. In the first article of this resolution it is elucidated that “Art. 1 - Nurse’s duties in a community’s point...
institutions and even privately, the direction of the Nursing services“.

Before the results, it is realized that the community resident in the surroundings of a university center, which offers the course of nursing, lacks of greater investment in the face of visibility for the profession. Reflecting on the visibility, it is highlighted:

[…]Visibility of nurses with skills in abilities with the evidence of technical, scientific and relational level, which competes for the social representation of the profession. Professional status is built from individual attitudes that form the collective and that are reflected in the expansion of social interventions, more significantly, in the occupation of spaces that give margin and recognition of nursing as the protagonist of a new know and do.

Considering the ignorance of most of the population investigated, about activities that the nurse can perform, it is suggested to conduct extension projects aimed at the dissemination of the undergraduate courses of the center, especially of nursing, with an emphasis on activities that nurses perform in private character and as a member of the health team, addressed by this study. It is believed that, with this measure, it will be possible to contribute not only to the disclosure of the nursing profession, but the other offered by the center, with the intention of disseminating to the resident population in the surroundings, the free and quality graduations, enabling by the Federal Government, in this region.

The nurse is little known by the community of the university center of Rio das Ostras regarding some of their important functions, which carries on a decrease in visibility of the profession by the community.

It is up to the nursing to search strategies, such as the development of extension projects, to raise awareness in order that it may be more prized assignments of nursing professionals and nurses can strive for such activities and develop them. In this respect, the authors of this research have undergone extension projects, having been approved, which will count with the participation of three scholars of extension to raise demands regarding the activities of nursing and, therefore, to hold workshops, courses and construction of teaching material about nursing to be implemented from the second half of 2013, aiming to contribute to the visibility of the profession in the region and related also, through lectures and publications of results and events and scientific journals.

CONCLUSION

It is worth noting that in some health institutions, it is verified that the nurse has forbidden activities, through ignorance of third, although they are of their technical and legal competence. Some of them were addressed by this research, from the perspective of the community. However, it is worth noting that, in addition to the activities dealt here, there are many others that the community health team and the nursing do not know. In reference to some of them, there are: insertion of an arterial catheter for blood gas and invasive blood pressure monitoring, the fact that the ambulances/emergency medical calls and hospital stay cannot be made with only nursing technicians, but rather with the direct presence of the professional nurse, and, finally, considering the newest legal device of nursing, that does not fit the nursing conducting stretchers and wheelchairs, routine situation, also in many health institutions.

It is suggested to conduct studies that may characterize the knowledge of health team about the activities that these nurses can perform, in particular, the nurse. Scientific studies conducted in this optic, aiming at awareness raising and dissemination of professional activities, contribute to better visibility and elucidation of the professional practice of the nurse/nursing.

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