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Safety Practices of Nurses in the Labor and Delivery Room: Basis for Program Development

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ABSTRACT

This study examined safety practices among the nurses in the labor room and determined if selected profile variables were significantly related to the nature of these practices. In particular, it evaluated nurses' compliance with infection control, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation requirements. The quantitative descriptive-correlational study used an "ex-post facto" design and involved 100 nurses assigned to the labor room of Maimbung District Hospital. The researcher-made questionnaire was validated and analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and the Pearson correlation coefficient. The results indicated that nurses consistently had an extremely high mean score across all dimensions, especially in infection control. Correlation analysis revealed no significant relationship between age and overall safety practices, or between years of professional experience and overall safety practices, but there was a significant positive correlation between professional training and patient monitoring and participation in overall safety practices. The study emphasizes the need for continuous professional development to enhance nurses' skills and ensure high standards of care for the mother and newborn. The study was conducted at a single health care institution, but the results could serve as a foundation for future research and the development of competency-based training programs to improve patient safety in the labor and delivery room.

Keywords: Safety practices, labor and delivery room, nurses, infection control, patient monitoring

INTRODUCTION

The labor and delivery room is a critical area where nurses play an important role in ensuring the safety of mothers and newborns. Through proper infection control, monitoring, communication, and documentation, nurses help provide quality and safe care during childbirth. This study assessed the safety practices of nurses in the labor and delivery room of Maimbung District Hospital to inform the development of programs that strengthen nursing competency and promote patient safety.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to assess the safety practices of nurses in the labor and delivery room of Laum Maimbung, Maimbung, Sulu as a basis for program development.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the nurses in terms of age, years of experience, and training received?

2. What is the level of nurses' safety practices in terms of infection control, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the nurses' profile and their level of safety practices?
4. What program may be developed to enhance the safety practices of nurses in the labor and delivery room based on the study findings?

Scope and Delimitations

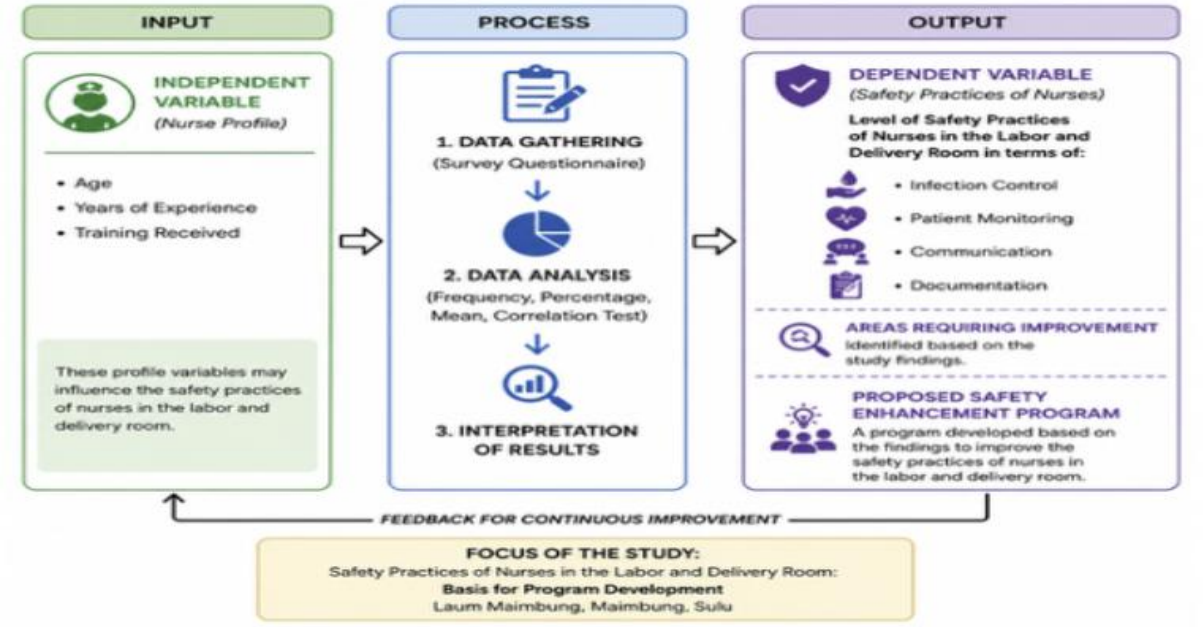
This study examined nurses' safety practices in the labor room of Maimbung District Hospital in terms of infection control, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation, and their association with age, years of professional experience, and training attended. The findings were limited to the selected hospital.

Review of Related Literature

Patient safety is a primary goal of quality healthcare, with nurses playing a vital role in ensuring safe maternal and newborn care in the labor room. The WHO and DOH emphasize adherence to clinical guidelines on infection prevention, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation to reduce medical errors and improve maternal outcomes. Studies have shown that effective infection control reduces healthcare-associated infections (Abalkhail & Alslamah, 2022), while standardized safety systems and effective communication improve patient safety (Hibbert et al., 2023). Furthermore, continuous professional training enhances nurses' clinical competence and compliance with patient safety practices (Alsaqer et al., 2025).

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on Patricia Benner's Novice to Expert Theory, which states that nurses develop clinical competence and decision-making through education, training, and experience. The theory emphasizes continuous learning as essential to safe and effective nursing practice, particularly in labor and delivery settings.



Conceptual Framework

The study utilized the Input–Process–Output (IPO) Model. The input included the respondents' profile and safety practices. The process involved data collection and statistical analysis. The output was the assessment of nurses' safety practices and a proposed patient safety enhancement program.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design to determine the level of nurses' safety practices in the labor and delivery room and examine the relationship between selected profile variables and their safety practices.

Research Design

A quantitative descriptive-correlational design was utilized to assess nurses' safety practices in infection control, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation, and to determine whether age, years of professional experience, and trainings attended were significantly associated with these practices.

Research Steps

The study began with a review of related literature, followed by the development and validation of the research instrument. After obtaining the necessary approvals, the researchers administered questionnaires to the respondents. The collected data were organized, analyzed, interpreted, and used to develop a proposed program.

Data Collection and Sample Selection

Purposive sampling was used to select nurses from the labor and delivery rooms of the selected government hospitals in Sulu. Data were collected using a validated researcher-made questionnaire on safety practices.

Data Analysis Methods

Frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were used to describe the respondents' profile and level of safety practices. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was employed to determine the relationship between respondents' profile variables and their safety practices.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

The study tested the null hypothesis that no significant relationship exists between the respondents' profile variables and their safety practices. The research instrument underwent expert validation and pilot testing to ensure its validity and reliability before data collection.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations -

Ethical standards were strictly observed by obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, and allowing respondents to withdraw from the study at any time. The study was limited to nurses assigned to the labor and delivery room of Maimbung District Hospital.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nurses in the labor and delivery room demonstrated a very high level of safety practices (M = 4.79), particularly in infection control, patient monitoring, communication, and documentation. Age and years of experience were not significantly related to safety practices, while training attended showed a significant positive relationship with patient monitoring and overall safety practices.

SUMMARY

Nurses consistently demonstrated very high safety practices in the labor and delivery room. Age and years of experience were not significantly associated with safety practices, whereas professional training positively influenced patient monitoring and overall safety practices.

CONCLUSIONS

Nurses consistently maintained high safety standards in the labor and delivery room. While age and experience did not influence safety practices, professional training enhanced patient monitoring and supported the delivery of quality maternal and newborn care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Safety measures in the labor and delivery room should be further reinforced in healthcare institutions.
2. Administrators of hospitals should conduct competency-based training programs regularly to improve patient monitoring and communication skills.
3. Nurses should be promoted to undertake continuing professional development in order to keep patient safety at a high level.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

This research discloses the restricted application of artificial intelligence tools solely for literature review and initial drafting. No sensitive participant data was used, and every piece of AI-generated content was manually reviewed to ensure accuracy and adherence to ethical standards.

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