

Title: Attitudes of psychiatric nurses towards the use of physical restraint in severe mental handicap patients in an acute hospital in Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

There was linking between injuries and physical restraint from resting device and the enforced immobility on the patient (Evans, Wood and Lambert, 2003). And reports showed that the effects of restraint are associated with numerous adverse physical and / or psychological aspects (Molasiotis, 1995). But there was raising conflicting feeling to use physical restraint on patients (Karlsson, Bucht & Sandman, 1998 and Marangos-Frost & Mells, 2000). The main objectives of this quantitative research study were to explore the knowledge, practice and attitudes of psychiatric nurses towards the use of physical restraints. It also examined their relationship with demographic data. Total population was used as the sampling method because of small sample size. The sample subjects included all qualified psychiatric nurses working in 3 mental handicap wards of an acute hospital in Hong Kong. Ward managers, psychiatric nursing officers, registered psychiatric nurses and enrolled psychiatric nurses were included except Department Operation Manager (DOM) as DOM was an administrative staff that was not required to work in frontline. A modified questionnaire "Questionnaire for Physical Restraints" was used as research instrument that was originally developed by Janelli, Kanski, Scherer, Neay & Marht (1991) and was further modified by Scherer, Janelli, Wu and Kuhn (1993).

The questionnaire was composed of two sections and was designed to elicit information regarding demographic and professional characteristics, nursing knowledge, practice and attitudes towards the use of restraints. The data was collected and then analyzed with the aid of "Statistical Package for Social Science" for Windows (Student Version 9.05) by using descriptive statistics such as means, frequency distribution and standard deviation. The results indicated that respondents had a statistical significant negative relationship between knowledge scores and practice scores ($r = -.395$, $p = .031$) towards the use of physical restraint on mental handicap patients. There was no significant relationship between the knowledge, practice and attitude scores with year of service as well as the post-basic professional qualification. The findings of the study had important implications for nurse education, manpower planning and policy making on restraint of mental handicap patients.