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Violence towards nurses working at North West Armed Forces Hospital Tabuk: Prevalence and predictors

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Introduction: Violence at work has become an alarming phenomenon worldwide. It is one of the most complex and dangerous occupational hazards facing medical staff. The International Labor Organization (ILO) (2002) stated that “while workplace violence affects practically all sectors and all categories of workers, the health sector is a major risk”.

Objective: To estimate the prevalence, identify causes and

characteristics and to explore the sources of workplace violence among nurses working at NWAFFH, Tabuk.

Methodology & Theoretical

Orientation: It was a cross-sectional study. A total of 224 nurses working in the different departments of King Salman Armed Forces Hospital, Tabuk were included in the study. Data collection was done with the help of a predesigned self-administered questionnaire. The used questionnaire was mainly developed from the WHO survey questionnaire about violence in health care settings. It is in Arabic and previously validated and tested for reliability. The questionnaire includes demographic data of the respondents, workplace characteristics, the prevalence of violence events during the previous

12 months, risk factors contributing to workplace violence, personal opinions, perceptions, attitudes, experiences, and recommendations concerning the subjects’ workplace violence.

Results: A total of 224 nurses responded. Mean age of nurses was 33.91±6.03 years (Range:23-52 years). Majority of the nurses were females 82.1%. About 12.5% of nurses reported that they had experienced workplace violence during the past 12 months. Verbal abuse (57.14%), violence by hand (28.57%) and sexual harassment (14.29%) were the most common forms of assault experienced by the staff. Patients were involved in 57.14% violence incidents while attendants were involved in 42.86%.

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