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Health related quality of life of children with Leukemia: Mixed approach

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Children and adolescents when confronted with a chronic and debilitating disease as leukemia, it leaves them up the creek in lack of comprehensive care. Thereby, Health Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) serves as an essential measure in evaluating this impact which is essential in care of these patients. An embedded mixed method design was adopted for this study to assess the HRQOL of children with leukemia in B. P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPKMCH), Bharatpur. A descriptive cross-sectional design was used for quantitative and in qualitative, case study was done. The Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory (PedsQL) generic core scale was used to collect the quantitative data from 43 children and their parent via interview schedule. Among the respondents of quantitative study, concurrently 3 were purposively chosen for case study to elicit narrative accounts focusing on the subscales of HRQOL. Majority of the respondents were male (72.1%) and aged 13-18 years (44.2%). Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (81.4%) was the most common type of leukemia. In generic scale, both child and their parents reported that the emotional functioning was the most affected subscale. There was significant correlation between child and parent scores. Though none of the variables were significantly associated with subscales of generic scale, in triangulation, qualitative findings explored the quantitative findings. Emotional aspects is most affected, so psychological health services are required to serve these physically challenged pediatric population.

Biography

Anu V K is currently working as a lecture in Shree Medical and Technical College, Chitwan, Nepal since 2014. She is the first person in dalit community (disadvantage group) to complete Master in Nursing in Child Health Nursing (2012-2014) from country's renowned nursing college, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Nepal. She has published an article entitled "Quality of life of patients undergoing hemodialysis in BPKIHS" in Journal of Manmohan Institute of Health Sciences in 2013. As a researcher, she is also involved in Nepal Academy for Reproductive Health organization. She has participated in different conferences and trainings.

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The case for an undergraduate nursing research class

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The Institute of Medicine's (IOM, 2001) report set in motion sweeping quality initiatives for reform of the healthcare system. The nursing profession responded by including core competencies of utilizing research and incorporating evidence-based practice in undergraduate baccalaureate nursing education. Yet, nursing students often struggle to recognize the importance of EBP/research and faculty struggle to engage and facilitate learning. The purpose of this pilot study was to determine whether an undergraduate nursing research class increases students' confidence in their ability to understand evidence based practice and research. Secondly, student learning was compared to see if there was a difference between content delivered in a traditional course management format or in a game-based format. One class received content through Blackboard and the other in 3D Game lab. Participants in this study filled out a short demographic questionnaire, pre/post Nursing Research Self-Efficacy Scale (NURSES), and a pre/post EBP survey (EBP-COQ). Preliminary results demonstrate that student confidence did increase from pre to post test score. Students using 3D Game lab struggled to access course information; however, preliminary results show that there were no significant differences in assignment scores. There is evidence to show that an undergraduate research course gives nursing students the skills to more effectively utilize research findings in their practice thus meeting the competencies set forth in the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (2008) and the call by the IOM (2001). Gaming is useful in K-12 education; however, the benefits may not translate to an undergraduate research class.

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