Abstract Reference Number

Perception of Shared Governance Among Registered Nurses in Ambulatory Care Center at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Saudi Arabia

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Background

Healthcare organizations have developed several professional practice models to direct disciplines' clinical practice, empowering and authorizing health staff, and improve provided quality of care. The nursing profession has encouraged and supported nursing involvement in nursing practice models such as shared governance. Shared governance is considered a model for mounting autonomous decision making in nursing profession and practice.

Objectives

This study aimed to assess how registered nurses in an outpatient department in a tertiary care hospital perceive shared governance.

Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess perceptions of shared governance levels among nurses. A self-administered, Index of Professional Nursing Governance (IPNG) questionnaire was used. The IPNG scale includes 86-questions measuring the perceptions of shared governance on a continuum from traditional, to shared, and to self-governance. A descriptive analysis was used to describe nurses' characteristics and study outcomes.

Conclusion

The results showed that the studied setting lacks a shared governance model in place to engage nurses in decision-making which can enable them to control their professional practice. The findings of our study showed a traditional management governance type in the study setting.

Results

A total of 186 nurses completed the questionnaire. Of whom, 151 (92.1%) were female, and 78 (47.3%) were aged between 20 and 30 years.

Table 1 displays the descriptive statistics for the six scales of the IPNG scale. Regarding the "Control" scale, the results showed that slightly more than two-thirds (68.5%) of the nurses (n=126) perceived traditional decision making and 54 (29.3%) had indicated a shared decision making. Furthermore, 122 (65.6%) of the nurses perceived traditional decision making in the "Influence" scale compared to 59 (31.7%) who perceived a shared decision making.

Only 54 (29.3%) and 59 (31.7%) had indicated a shared decision in terms of controls and influence scales, respectively. The majority of the nurses indicated traditional shared across shared governance scales except in the access information scale.

Factor scales	Traditional (management) decision making (86–172) n(%)	Shared decision making (173–344) n(%)	Nurses are the decision maker (345-430) n(%)
Controls	126 (68.5)	54 (29.3)	4 (2.2)
Influence	122 (65.6)	59 (31.7)	5 (2.7)
Official authority	124 (67)	56 (30.3)	5 (2.7)
Participation	100 (54.1)	81 (43.8)	4 (2.1)
Access information	74 (40.2)	105 (57.1)	5 (2.7)
Ability	110 (59.5)	72 (39.9)	3 (1.6)

Table 1. The descriptive statistics for the six scales of the IPNG scale.