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FACTORS INFLUENCING PEDIATRIC NURSES' PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUSPECTING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN HUSM

by

GRETE KUPPUSAMY

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HUSM	Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia
SPSS	Statistical Package Social Science
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
SD	Standard Deviation
f	Frequency
p	Significant value
n	Number

FACTORS INFLUENCING PEDIATRIC NURSES' PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUSPECTING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN HUSM

ABSTRACT

Pediatric nurses plays a very important role in suspecting and reporting child abuse cases in pediatric wards. Personal attributes such as age, nursing education level, marital status, years of working experience and child abuse training course experience will be the factors that influences nurses perception, knowledge and attitudes towards suspecting and reporting child abuse cases. Thus this cross-sectional study was conducted to examine the association between personal attributes of nurses with their perception, knowledge and attitudes towards child abuse. This study questionnaire consists of 11 demographic characteristic questions and 35 Likert-type questionnaires. The questionnaire for this study compromised of four parts which is the purpose to measure pediatric nurses' perceptions, knowledge and attitude towards child abuse and neglect. The data for this study was collected by using self-administered questionnaire. Targeted group were pediatric nurses working in all pediatric wards in HUSM. Fourty-eight pediatric nurses voluntarily become participants for this study. Statistical analysis carried out using SPSS version 18.0 and data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, independent t-test and one way ANOVA. Results shows that there were only association between education level ($p=0.007$) and years of working experience ($p=0.010$) with pediatric nurses perception ($p<0.05$). There were also 2 factors that influenced the attitudes of nurses which were, education level ($p=0.030$) and the experience of attending child abuse training ($p=0.031$), ($p<0.05$). Whereas, there were no association between all factors with nurses' knowledge towards suspecting and reporting ($p>0.05$).

FAKTOR-FAKTOR MEMPENGARUHI PERSEPSI, PENGETAHUAN DAN PENDIRIANJURURAWAT PEDIATRIK TERHADAP MENGSYAKI DAN MELAPOR KES PENDERITAAN KANAK-KANAK DI HUSM

ABSTRAK

Jururawat pediatrik memainkan peranan yang penting dalam mengsyaki dan melaporkan kes penderitaan kanak-kanak di wad pediatrik. Faktor keperibadian jururawat sendiri seperti umur, tahap pendidikan, status perkhawinan, pengalaman berkerja, pengalaman menghadiri kursus kes penderitaan kanak-kanak dapat mempengaruhi persepsi, pengetahuan dan pendirian jururawat pediatrik terhadap mengsyaki dan melapor kes penderitaan kanak-kanak. Oleh itu, kajian berbentuk keratin lintang dilakukan untuk mengkaji hubungkait di antara factor keperibadian dengan persepsi, pengetahuan dan pendirian jururawat pediatrik terhadap mengsyaki dan melapor kes penderitaan kanak-kanak. *Questionnaire* ini merangkumi 11 soalan mengenai sifat keperibadian dan 35 jenis *Likert-scale*. Terdapat empat bahagian dalam questionnaire ini yang bertujuan untuk mengkaji persepsi, pengetahuan dan pendirian terhapad mengsyaki dan melaporkan kes penderitaan kanak-kanak. Data dikumpul dengan menggunakan boring soal selidik. Kumpulan yang disasarkan dalam kajian ini, merupakan semua pediatrik nurses yang menjawab dengan suka rela hati. Empat puluh lapan jururawat pediatrik dengan suka relanya melibatkan diri dengan kajian ini. Analisis statistik dilakukan dengan menggunakan SPPS versi 18.0 dan data dianalisis dengan statistic deskriptif, *independent t- test* dan *one way ANOVA*. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungkait hanya antara tahap pendidikan jururawat ($p=0.007$) dan pengalaman berkerja ($p=0.010$) dengan persepsi jururawat, ($p<0.05$). Selain itu terdapat dua factor mempengaruhi kelakuan jururawat iaitu tahap pendidikan jururawat ($p=0.030$) and pengalaman menghadiri latihan ($p=0.031$), ($p<0.05$). Selain itu, keputusan juga menunjukkan bahawa tiada hubungkait antara sifat keperibadian dengan pengetahuan jururawat mengenai melapor dan mengsyaki kes penderitaan kanak-kanak ($p>0.05$).

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1) Background

Child Abuse is an international problem seriously threatening the health and welfare of children and adolescents (World Health Organization, 1999). According to World Health Organization (WHO) also, globally some 40 million children aged 0-14 years suffer from of abuse and neglect requiring health and social care.

According to Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act cited in a study done by Padera (2010), a child is defined as any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results death, seriously physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

Mostly child abuse occurs in home, compare occurring in other places such as organizations, schools and communities. It is crucial to understand the causes of child abuse. One of the factor that can contribute to cases of child abuse are parents themselves who physically abuse their children. Parental risk factor which could be the reason for child abuse are such as young and single parents, those who are poor and with low education level. Parents with the attitude and behavior of alcoholic, or a drug abuser most likely also to abuse or mistreat their own children. Besides that family members could be causes towards child abuse.

Child abuse which could either be physically, sexually or emotionally abuse. Another form of abuse is by neglecting and providing for child's needs. There are several

categories of child abuse, including neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse which all are equally dangerous to the child's health and safety as well as potentially damaging to the child's emotional wellbeing (Padera, 2010).

Physical abuse is an act of aggression towards a child that might causes injuries, pain or impairment. Act of aggression which can cause injuries are such as punching, beating, kicking, burning or anything that causes physical pain or discomfort. Physical abuse is one of form of abuse and refers to action that causes pain and temporary or permanent damage to the child's physical function (Paavilainen, Astedt-Kurki, Pauninen-Ilmonen, and Pekka, 2002).

Sexual abuse defines as inappropriate sexual behavior towards a child. Child who is sexually abuse is usually being forced or persuaded into sexual acts by others. Whereas emotional abuse is either a verbal abuse or an attitude that degrades a child. Forms of emotional abuse acts are constantly criticized, blamed, sworn, shouted at, or rejected by others. In Nursing 2004 cited in Padera (2010), sexual abuse is defined as an adult using a child for sexual gratification with or without physical contact. Sexual offenses that involves physical contact include fondling, forcing a child to touch an adults genitals, and penetrating a child's vagina or anus, no matter how slight-with a penis or any other object that doesn't have a valid medical purpose (Padera, 2010).

Emotionally abuse child can have long lasting impact on social and mental development of the particular child. According to American humane society cited in a study in Padera (2010), emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior by parents or caregivers that can seriously interfere with a child's cognitive, emotional, psychological or social development.

Whereas neglect on the other hand is the withdrawal or failure to provide child basic needs for physical growth and development. Inappropriate clothing, unhealthy food, lack of supervision, denial of medical care to sick or injured child and denial of love and affection could be forms of neglect towards a child. Neglect is defined the persistent failure to impairment of the child's health or development (Padera, 2010).

Base on the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect which was released in September 1996, following up on previous studies conducted in 1980 and 1986, study found that child abuse and neglect were seriously worsening (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Child Maltreatment, 2007). Between 1986 and 1993 the number of cases doubled, going from 1.4 million to 2.8 million. In United States, year 2006 more than half (61 percent) of the children (771,700 children) were victims of neglect, meaning a parent or guardian failed to provide for the child's basic needs. Forms of neglect include educational neglect (360,500 children), physical neglect (295,300 children), and emotional neglect (193,400). Another 44 percent were victims of abuse (553,300 children), including physical abuse (325,000 children), sexual abuse (135,000 children), and emotional abuse (148,500 children). An average of nearly four children dies every day as a result of child abuse or neglect (1,760 in 2007).

Multidisciplinary collaboration is crucial to avoid the worst outcome of child abuse and neglect through sufficient and appropriate management of such cases. The complexity of child abuse requires multidisciplinary collaboration to provide appropriate care (Feng, Fetzer, Chen, Yeh and Huang, 2010). Health care, social service, and education disciplines plays important role in child protection.

There are advantages of all health professional to work together as team in order to suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse and reporting as well because they may

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receive victimized child in hospital that they may more on focus on laboratory test , physical symptoms of child abuse and education representatives might detect through stress behavioral of child abuse. In Finland, the Child Welfare Act (1984) cited in study done by Paavilainen et al.,(2002), obligates nurses, doctors and other authorities dealing with children to make a report to child welfare authorities if a child's wellbeing or health is being threatened. A study done by Vehvilainen-Juknen (1999) cited in Paavilainen et al., (2002), stated that nurses and doctors are the key position to identify and treat child abuse, because all Finnish children use child welfare services.

Among all health professional, pediatric nurses especially will be those in frontline who will be providing care and give proper management for child in pediatric ward. In order, for child abuse victim and families receive best possible care, pediatric nurses especially must be able to suspect and report cases of child abuse and neglect found in wards. This could be only been done if nurses utilizes their knowledge on child abuse and neglect, have proper attitude and perception to identify such cases in ward.

It is essential for nurses to have adequate knowledge on child abuse collaborating with ethical issues and legalization act towards child abuse and neglect to suspect and report child abuse cases. Many studies had been done, for example study done by Beverly, Reiko, and Masaki (2003), proposed that improving knowledge on child abuse and neglect could improve reporting practices. Posses several attitudes among pediatric nurses is also necessary as well as having right perception on reporting child abuse cases. Nurses' perception is a key element in successful reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect. Nurses attitudes toward child abuse and neglect also play an important role in the decision making process of reporting, (Lee, Fraser, and Chou, 2007). Nurses especially pediatric nurses should achieve awareness in them, and be more alert in

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suspecting and reporting child abuse as well as overcoming the fear of reporting and to be more confidents.

1.2) Problem Statements

According to Article 30 of the Taiwanese Children and Youth Welfare Act (2003) cited in Lee, Fraser, and Chou (2007), child abuse and neglect is conceptualized as children and young people less than 18 years of age being injured or suffering negligent treatment such as abandonment, physical and mental mistreatment, abduction, kidnapping, trade, seduction, and supplying of sexual videotapes or pictures that are harmful to physical and mental health. Therefore multi-professional collaboration such as doctor, nurse, social worker, clinical psychiatrist, educator, child protector and police should take responsibility to report events of child abuse and neglect to the social affairs bureau or local police office.

According to the Children's Bureau report in 2003 cited from Lee, Fraser, and Chou (2007), one quarter of abused were reported by social workers, second largest proportion of child abuse and neglect reported by police and other cases were mainly by relatives and neighbors and nurses seem not to have played an appropriate role in treating and reporting Child abuse and neglect cases despite they are the frontline role in taking care of children.

Many studies were conducted in order to investigate the factors that affect the reporting behaviors of child abuse and neglect cases of health professionals. A study done by Blakely and Riberio (1997), which aim to examine pediatric and community health nurses knowledge, attitudes, practices and degree of confidence concerning child sexual assault, results that nurses require and request education to improve knowledge and skills for identifying, referring and treating victims of child sexual assault. In Taiwan

also, a study done by Feng and Levine (2005), the aim is to determine the experiences of Taiwanese nurses with new child abuse reporting laws, which resulted as most nurses never received education on child abuse and neglect nor reporting laws.

From the studies stated as above, it's clearly seen that nurses play major role in suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect. Unfortunately in many studies done in previous year and in variety of places, all resulting nurses have poor knowledge, perception and attitudes towards child abuse which influences suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect cases. The factors include insufficiency in specialist training, specialists' personal background, and specialists' attitudes for the service effect of child protection and specialists' knowledge and reporting experience (Lee, Fraser, and Chou, 2007).

Little is known regarding effects of suspecting and reporting which is essential for prevention of child abuse and neglect. There is a need for further research in this area to determine if compulsory mandatory reporting education would affect outcomes. Since there is no study done regarding factors influencing perception, knowledge and attitudes of nurses towards suspecting and reporting child abuse among pediatric nurses in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM), hence this study is necessary in order to study an investigate the influences of personal attributes toward pediatric nurses perception, knowledge as well as attitude towards suspecting and repotting cases.

There were also lack of training and courses provided in HUSM regarding child abuse and neglect, and nurses' responsibilities towards child abuse and neglect. Through this study, is to identify factors influencing nurses' perception, knowledge and attitude in order for nurses to suspect and report cases of child abuse and neglect in pediatric ward HUSM.

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1.2.1) Conceptual Framework

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┌──────────────┐              ┌──────────────┐
│  Personal    │         ┌────┤  Perception  ├────┐
│  Attributes  │         │    └──────────────┘    │
│              │         │                         │   ┌──────────────────┐
│ (gender, age,│         │    ┌──────────────┐    │   │  Suspecting and  │
│  education   ├─────────┼───►│  Knowledge   ├────┼──►│ reporting behavior│
│ level, working│        │    └──────────────┘    │   │                  │
│ and training,│         │                         │   │  1. Physical     │
│ experience)  │         │    ┌──────────────┐    │   │     abuse        │
│              │         └────┤  Attitude    ├────┘   │  2. Sexual abuse │
└──────────────┘              └──────────────┘        │  3. Emotional    │
                                                       │     Abuse        │
                                                       │  4. neglect      │
                                                       └──────────────────┘
```
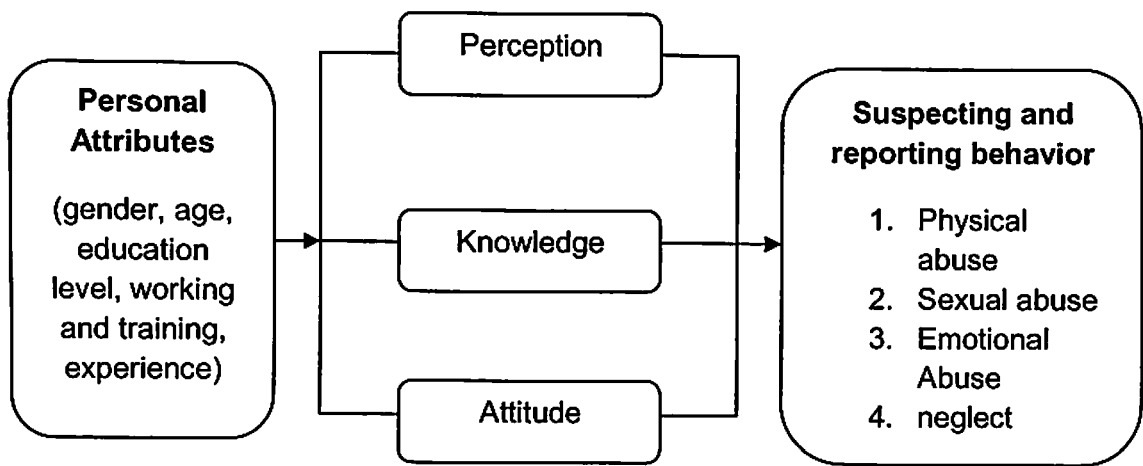
Figure 1.2.1: Conceptual framework: Influences of Nurses' Perception, Knowledge and Attitude on suspecting and reporting of child abuse and neglect cases adapted from Lee, Fraser, and Chou (2007).

The above figure explains conceptual framework used in this study. Conceptual framework is usually use in research to outline possible courses of action or to present a preferred approach to an idea or thought. Personal attributes which consist of gender, age, nursing education level, marital status, length of working experience and child abuse training course experience. According to the list of demographic characteristics influences pediatric nurses' perception, knowledge and attitude are the potentials personal influences of suspecting and reporting of child abuse cases.

According to Bandura (1986) cited in Lee (2008), theory which was suitable to apply in this study was the self-efficacy theory. The core principle of this theory was that individual expectations performance (efficacy-expectation) and success (outcome-

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expectation) affect whether they will perform a specific behavior Since nurses are the most competent in their actions, self efficacy theory can be useful to examine nurses' behaviors in reporting child abuse and neglect. Bandura in 1977, cited in Lee (2008), a systemic development of the concept of self efficacy in the psychological literature, defining it using the notions of belief in one's own ability to interact with the environment, confidence in acting to achieve a specific outcome and execution behavior

Bandura's Social Cognition Theory self-efficacy varies intrinsically with environmental and individual factors. Each person has unique feelings, logical thinking processes and behavioral patterns, and all human behavior is affected by complicated environmental factors.

1.3) Objective of Study

1.3.1) General Objective

The research objective is to identify the factors influences of pediatric nurses' perception, knowledge and attitude towards suspecting and reporting child abuse in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM).

1.3.2) Specific Objectives

I.   To determine influences of selected factors from demographic data with pediatric nurses' perception on suspecting and reporting child abuse in HUSM

II. To determine influences of selected factors from demographic data with pediatric nurses' knowledge on suspecting and reporting child abuse in HUSM

III. To determine influences of selected factors from demographic data pediatric nurses' attitude on suspecting and reporting child abuse in HUSM

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IV. To determine the association of selected of factors from demographic data of pediatric nurses with their perception, knowledge and attitude towards suspecting and reporting child abuse in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM).

1.4) Research Questions

i. What are the factors influencing pediatric nurses' perception towards suspecting and reporting child abuse cases in HUSM?

ii. What are factors influencing pediatric nurses' knowledge towards suspecting and reporting child abuse in HUSM?

iii. What are the factors influencing pediatric nurses' attitude towards suspecting and reporting child abuse cases in HUSM?

1.5) Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1:

H_O: There is no significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their perception on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

H_A: There is significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their perception on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

Hypothesis 2:

H_O: There is no significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their knowledge on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

H_A: There is significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their knowledge on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

<u>Hypothesis 3:</u>

H_O: There is no significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their attitudes on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

H_A: There is significant association between pediatric nurses' demographic status with their attitudes on suspecting and reporting cases of child abuse in HUSM

1.6) Definition of Terms (Conceptual/ Operational)

There are five important terms which will be extensively being used in this study. Definition of each important term is stated like below:-

i. Pediatric Nurse

Pediatric nurses, consisting of medical professional trained nurses in the care of infants and children who provides the care for treatment of children including performing basic medical procedures. Pediatric nursing basically requires knowledge of normal psychomotor, psychosocial, and cognitive growth and development, as well as of the health problems and needs of people in this age group. Preventive care and anticipatory guidance are integral to the practice of pediatric nursing (Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 2009)

In this study, pediatric nurses are referring to all registered nurses currently working in pediatric wards in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM). Basically in HUSM consists of 3 pediatric wards which are 6 Selatan (Medical Pediatric Ward), 6 Utara (Oncology Pediatric Ward) and 2 Selatan (Surgical Pediatric Ward)

ii. Perception

Perception refers to the process of interpreting and organizes sensation in order to produce a meaningful experience of the world. Perception is also well describe as an ultimate experience by a person and involves further processing of sensory input.

In this study, nurses' perception will be a key element in successful reporting of child abuse and neglect. Nurses' perception towards suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect in pediatric ward will be investigated through questionnaire provided. Nurses will be able to identify and report cases if nurses is aware of child abuse and neglect in wards and based on previous experience in identifying child abuse and neglect, nurses will be able to handle such cases.

iii. Knowledge

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, knowledge is defined (i) expertise, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject; (ii) what is known in a particular field or in total; facts and information; or (iii) awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or situation. Overall knowledge involves cognitive processes such as perception, learning, communication, association and reasoning. Besides that the term knowledge refers also to mean of understanding a subject with the ability to use it for a specific purpose.

In this study, knowledge of nurses will be evaluated through ways of nurses suspecting sign and symptoms of victimized child. For a successful reporting of child abuse and neglect cases, nurses must be able to utilize their

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knowledge in identifying sign and symptoms of abused child and reporting cases as well.

iv. Attitudes

Attitudes usually refer to manner, feeling, disposition, position, and so on by regarding to a person or thing for tendency or orientation especially to the mind. Attitudes plays an important role in decision making process (Lee, Fraser, and Chou, 2007), where nurses must be aware and alert towards child abuse and neglect cases as well as overcoming their fear of potential harm from abusers.

In this study, nurses' attitudes will be evaluate in order to know the influences of nurses attitude towards suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect cases in pediatric ward. Some nurses might have fear or lack of confidence in reporting child abuse and neglect cases.

v. Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse is define as doing something or failing to do something which results as bringing harm to a child or puts a child at risk of harm. Child abuse could be either physically, sexually or emotionally abuse. Another form of abuse is by neglecting and providing for child's needs. Mostly child abuse occurs in home, compare occurring in other places such as organizations, schools, communities and communities.

Whereas neglect on the other hand is the withdrawal or failure to provide child basic needs for physical growth and development. Inappropriate clothing, unhealthy food, lack of supervision, denial of medical care to sick or

injured child and denial of love and affection could be forms of neglect towards a child.

1.7)   Significance of the Study

The significant of this study was to investigate further on factors such as personal attributes that influences pediatric nurses' perception, knowledge and attitudes towards child abuse and neglect which gradually influences suspecting and reporting of child abuse and neglect cases.

Perception plays a key role in decision making. For a successful reporting child abuse and neglect, nurses' perception is essential. According to a study done, perceptions of child abuse and neglect are likely to affect the general public's reporting of child abuse to the authorities (Price, Islarn, Gruhler, 2001).

In many previous studies done such as (Beverly, Reiko, Masaki, 2003; Krisann , Maureen, Brad et al. 2004; Terri and Barbara, 1992) cited in Lee, Fraser, and Chou (2007), have proposed that improving knowledge of child abuse and neglect could basically improving suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect cases. Knowledge of nurses especially working in pediatric ward need to been assessed in order to identify influences of suspecting and reporting of child abuse and neglect cases.

Whereas the attitudes of pediatric nurses plays important role in the decision making process of reporting. Many studies done in various country, resulted that nurses had fear or afraid reporting child abuse and neglect cases.

This study was mainly to identify factors that influence nurses' perception, knowledge and attitude towards suspecting and reporting child abuse cases. Factors that will be indentify are nurses personal attributes such as age, marital status, parental

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status, years of working experience and so on. Targeted group for this study focuses on pediatric nurses who are currently working in all pediatric wards in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia since they are the frontline workers who provide the care for treatment of children including performing basic medical procedures. It is crucial for pediatric nurses to fully utilize their knowledge as well as to have proper perception and attitudes towards child abuse and neglect cases. By identifying factors influencing pediatric nurses' perception, knowledge and attitudes towards suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect, nurses will be more alert and aware on such cases in pediatric ward. This will hopefully encourage them to attend more courses or training regarding child abuse and neglect in order to improve their skills in suspecting and reporting child abuse and neglect cases.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1) Introduction

Child abuse is an international problem seriously threatening the health and welfare of children and adolescents (World Health Organization, 1999). According to World Health Organization (WHO) also, globally some 40 million children aged 0-14 years suffer from of abuse and neglect requiring health and social care. Child abuse and neglect is also an issue that affects individuals, families, and communities.

The responsibility of caring for children's physical and psychological wellbeing should be a national and international priority. Health care givers especially nurse plays an important role in the process of child protection. Recognizing child abuse and understanding the proper ways to respond suspected maltreatment of a minor are important first step toward protecting children (Padera, 2010). Nurses who are one of the occupational groups usually selected to report known and suspected cases where they need to work with children and their families are in ideal situation to help address this problem by identifying and reporting cases of child abuse and intervening appropriately (Feng and Wu, 2005). In order to help children from harm; nurses have frequent professional dealings with children, which involve inherent opportunity to observe injuries to a child either on an isolated occasion or over a period of time, and even to gain strong evidence about the nature of those injuries (Fraser et al, 2010).

2.1.1) Definition of Child Abuse and Neglect

Under federal law, a child is defines as anyone under age of 18 years old (Padera, 2010). Child abuse is defined by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, who results in death, serious physical and emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or any act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm (Padera, 2010).

2.1.2) Influences of Nurses Perception on suspecting and reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Nurses' perception is a key element in a successful reporting of child abuse and neglect. In previous studies done by Tilden, Schmidt, Limandrl, et al. (1997) cited in Lee, Fraser, and Chou (2007), 44.4% nurses thought that they did not have a responsibility to report child abuse and neglect cases involving family violence and 39% nurses thought that mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect was not useful. According to Price et al (2001) found that respondent's perception and knowledge of child abuse was significantly deficient.

2.1.3) Influences of Nurses knowledge on suspecting and reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

In a study done by Vehvilainen-Julkunen (1999), nurses and doctors are in the key of position to identify and treat child abuse. The recognition and reporting of child abuse depends greatly on Nurses' knowledge of child abuse and neglect. Several studies done to indentify nurses' knowledge level on child abuse and neglect such as (Smith 2006; Feng and Levine 2005, Crisp and Lister, 2004; Blakeley and Riberio, 1997), studies found that nurses had limited knowledge particularly emotional abuse and neglect.

2.1.4) Influences of Nurses attitude on suspecting and reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Nurses' perception and knowledge on child abuse and neglect is not sufficient to explain child abuse suspecting and reporting behavior. Therefore, nurses' attitude toward child abuse and neglect also play an important role in the decision making process of reporting (Lee, Fraser and Chou, 2007). Nurses fail to suspect and report child abuse due to lack of awareness of child abuse and neglect cases or even fear of potential harm to them. In a study done by Zellman (1990) cited in Feng and Levine (2005) found that one-third professional had reported child abuse at some time in their careers, but they also had failed to report at other times despite awareness of the reporting law. Nurses also fear reporting cases of child abuse and neglect due to potential to reporter's family and aggressive behavior from the abuser (Needham, Abderhalden, Halfens, et al. 2005).

2.2) Child abuse and Neglect in Malaysia

In Malaysia, generally child abuse and neglect cases are cause by severe emotional pressures, pressures arising from poverty, marital relationship problems, poor housing conditions, negative employment situations, drug abuse, and absence of supportive extended family members, fanatical religious or superstitious beliefs.

Malaysian's statistics suggest that there is a correlation between child abuse, neglect and poverty in Malaysia. Parents who have to struggle to make a living in negative employment situations often hold more than one job and have little time to supervise their children. Poor families who are living in crowded and unhealthy conditions is very stressful and mental health problems occur, which are manifested in marital conflicts, alcoholism and drug abuse. These marginalized families are also less likely to

have access to social and recreational facilities and services such as counseling and family support. Abuse and neglect of children also takes place in affluent families. These involve adults with emotional problems who lack parental skills or have low levels of tolerance and unrealistic expectations of the children they abuse.

A factor which can be linked to the increase of child abuse and neglect is the lack of avenues for children to articulate their grievances against adults who abuse and neglect them. The cultural and social environment which instills the value of unquestioned obedience to adults suggests to children that even in cases of abuse and neglect, they are expected to submit to the adult perpetrator and keep silent. Also, factors like the hierarchal structure of a family, with the parents or guardian having the final say in matters concerning the care and upbringing of a child, can thwart the attempts of a child to draw attention to abuse and neglect (UNICEF Malaysia Communications, December 2009).

2.2.1) Incidence and Prevalence of cases in Malaysia

Statistics of the Malaysia Royal Police (PDRM) show that child abuse, molestation and rape are on the increase, fro 2,236 cases in 2005 to 5,744 in 2008, where for the seven months of 2009, 2,193 cases were reported to PDRM (UNICEF Malaysia Communications, December 2009).

	CHILD ABUSE		INCEST	
	Total	Ave Month	Total	Ave Month
2001	150	12.5	246	21
2002	123	10	306	26
2003	119	10	254	21
2004	148	12	335	28
2005	189	16	295	25
2006	108	18	209	35
Total	837		1,645	

Table 2.2.1: Child Abuse and Incest in Malaysia, reported to the Malaysian Royal Police, Source: Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development

The difficulties of definition and the convert nature of child abuse (especially abuse in the privacy of the home involving family members) make is extremely difficult to make accurate assessments of the incidence of child abuse and neglect. This compounded by the absence of proper institutional mechanisms and managing such cases in Malaysia. Cases reported to and officially recorded by the Social Welfare Department are normally the more severe instances and are estimated to represent only about 10% of the actual incidence in Malaysia (Social Welfare Department 1995).

2.2.2) Child Act 2001 in Malaysia

Like in other countries, Malaysia also have legalization and law for protection child's right, which is Child Act 2001. Child Act 2001 (Act 611) is to fulfill its obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Act 611's provides every child is entitled to protection and assistance in all circumstances without regard to distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, social origin or physical, mental or emotional disabilities or any status. The provisions of Act 611 are based on the four core principles of the CRC that is, non-discrimination, best interest of the child, the right to life, survival and development and respect for the views of the child.

In 2001, the Act also established the National Council for the Protection of Children, which advises the Government on child protection issues while the National Advisory and Consultative Council for Children acts as a national focal point for children's wellbeing and development. Act 611 also requires the setting up of Child Protection Teams and Child Activity Centers at both state and district levels which aimed at mobilizing community participation in the implementation of preventive and rehabilitative programs, these initiatives are targeted for children at risk or children vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitation.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1) Research Design

This research was based on cross sectional study, quantitative study and with descriptive statistics by using the right questionnaire survey on Pediatric nurses working in 6 Selatan, 6 Utara and 2 Selatan (Pediatric Wards) in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia. The questionnaire used in this study was useful in order to identify pediatric nurses' perception, knowledge and attitude towards reporting cases of child abuse and neglect.

Cross sectional study was used for the purpose to estimate the relationship between an outcome of interest and population variables as they exist at one particular time. Descriptive statistics was also used to describe the basic features of the data in this study. For a manageable form and to get quantitative analysis data, this study applies descriptive statistics in order to provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures.

3.2) Population and Setting

The population of this study were pediatric nurses who currently working in all pediatric wards in Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM).

There were 3 pediatric wards in HUSM which consist of 2 Selatan (Pediatric Surgical Ward), 6 Selatan (Pediatric Medical Ward) and 6 Utara (Pediatric Oncology Ward). The total of nurses in each ward was 19, 19 and 17 staff nurses respectively.

3.3) Sample

The sample in this study consists of pediatric nurses who are currently working in all pediatric wards in HUSM.

3.3.1) Sample Size

Single Mean Formula was used to calculate the sample size as below:

$$n = [z (\delta) / \Delta]^2$$

where,   n= sample size

z= confidence level (1.96)

δ= sample standard deviation

Δ= sample precision/ δ×0.3

	Sample standard deviation, δ	Sample precision, Δ= δ×0.3	$n = [z (\delta) / \Delta]^2$
Perception	0.62	0.186	43
Knowledge	0.72	0.216	43
Attitude	0.61	0.183	43

Table 3.3.1: Sample size using single mean formula

Since sample size was calculated using simple mean formula, this study only need 43 pediatric nurses working pediatric ward in HUSM. Questionnaires were distributed equally to all pediatric wards, and all nurses were encouraged to answer questionnaires. Questionnaires were collected and there were 48 answered questionnaires. Therefore this study will be using 48 pediatric nurses.

3.3.2) Sampling Method

The sample recruited was purposive sample. Targeted population for this consist of all pediatric registered staff nurses with experiences working in pediatric ward HUSM for at least 3 months which are 55 pediatric nurses currently total. Consent was sent to Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia regarding the study and allowing researcher to proceed distributing questionnaire to nurses administers of all pediatric wards.

3.3.3) Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria of respondent:

1. Registered nurses currently working in pediatric ward HUSM with at least 3 months experiences

2. Literate in English / Bahasa Malaysia

3. Registered nurses must be willing to participate in this study

The exclusion criteria of respondent

1. Registered nurses who are not working in pediatric wards, HUSM

2. Registered nurses who are in maternal leave

3. Registered nurses who had to go for further studies

4. Registered nurses who refuse to complete the questionnaire

3.4) Instrumentation

This was quantitative study, thus the data was basically been collected by self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire was adapted from Lee (2008), which consist of 5 parts with 70 Likert-type questions. Unfortunately, this study will taking only 4 part which are appropriate for the aim and objective of study. Therefore this study questionnaire consists of 11 demographic characteristic questions and 35 Likert-type questionnaires which were being selected from adapted questionnaire. The questionnaire for the this study compromises four parts that are demographic characteristics, perception on child abuse and neglect, knowledge on child abuse and neglect, and attitude on child abuse and neglect.

3.4.1) Instrument

The questionnaire for this study compromised of four parts which was the purpose to measure pediatric nurses' perceptions, knowledge and attitude towards child abuse and neglect.

The first part was the demographic characteristics which consist of gender, age, work years, education level, marital status, work unit, job position and child abuse and neglect training course experience were included in the questionnaire.

The second part of the questionnaire was question based on perception of child abuse and neglect. According to Price, Islarn and Gruhler (2001) cited in Lee (2008), each of the 17-items relating to perception of child abuse developed by was used in the present study.

The third part consists of 11 questions on knowledge of child abuse and neglect. The questions were adapted from the study of Hibbard and Zollinger (1990), which were