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Time Management Program and Its Effect on Work Stress among Head Nurses

Thesis

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of Doctorate Degree in Nursing Sciences (Nursing Administration)

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Ain Shams University
2021

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List of Abbreviations

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Abb.	Full Term
NIOSH	The National Institute for Occupational Safety and
	Health

Time Management Program and Its Effect on Work Stress among Head Nurses

Abstract

Background: Effective time management has become increasingly important for head nurses to accomplish the health care organizations' objectives. Learning how to manage nursing time at work will reduce work stress, burnout and gain control over work. Aim: the aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of time management program for the head nurses on their work stress. Design: Quasi-experimental design (intervention and control group) used in this study. Setting: The study was conducted at Ain-Shams University Hospitals. Sample: The subjects of the study included 115 head nurses working in Ain Shams University hospitals. The subjects were divided into two groups, intervention (61 HN) and control group (54 HN) the groups were selected randomly. Tools: Three tools were used for data collection, Time management knowledge questionnaire, Time management assessment questionnaire and Expanded nursing stress scale. **Result:** The results indicated that there was a highly statistical significant difference between pre /post, pre / follow up results regarding time management knowledge level, time management skills, time wasters and work stress in favor of the intervention group p-value <0.001, whereas there was no statistically significant difference or improvement in the control group (p > .05). Conclusion: the study revealed that the head nurses work stress decreased markedly after implementing the time management program in the intervention group than the control group. Recommendations: conduct time management training programs for nurse managers in various levels at different health care settings. Train nurses to eliminate time wasters, especially nurses who tolerate more problems and stresses.

Keywords: Management; Nurse; Program; Stress; Time; Work.

Introduction

Time is one of the most valuable assets for everyone in everyday life, which is something that can be lost but cannot be found back. Nursing is a profession which requires skills in performing different tasks during the day for coping with time limitations and pressures. Effective time management is considered an important factor for the nurse managers to achieve the goals in an organization and accomplish the tasks on time; also it is a process of exercising the moral sense in performing a responsibility and control over the amount of time spent to accomplish a task and increase effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity (*Barua et al., 2019*).

Changing the work environment with huge activities where nurse managers are carrying a lot of responsibilities, make it imperative to manage time to achieve these activities. Besides, the dynamics of healthcare systems and the necessity of permanent interaction with outside environments present the significance of time management skills for the nurses in all nursing categories (*Marquis and Huston*, 2019).

Time management is defined as an accomplishment of specified activities by making optimal use of available time (Marquis and Huston, 2019). It is the use of personal and professional management tools and strategies to assure that investment in activities leads toward achieving a desired high-priority goal, enhance effectiveness of organizational performance and increase productivity (Wise, 2015).

Head nurses are commonly facing time wasters. Time waster is any activity that has fewer benefits and usually prevents a person from accomplishing the job or achieving the goal. The two general categories of time wasters are internal which generated from the person or external imposed from the external environment (Cherry and The Jacob, 2019). consequences related poor manipulation of time wasters and ineffective time management are potentially serious not only for head nurses but also their clients, colleagues, families and the entire organizations where they are worked (Zakaria, 2016).

The commitment to change is very essential for time management. Good time management techniques and skills are essential for functioning more effectively and focusing on results. Effective time management benefits in several ways including greater productivity, less stress, improved efficiency, more opportunities for

professional advancement and greater opportunities to achieve career and life goals. In contrast, if the time is not managed effectively it may lead into several consequences such as missed deadlines, poor work quality, negative influence on career path and high stress level (*Nayak*, 2019).

Head nurses experience unique work stresses associated with their leadership role. Head nurses encounter several kinds of stress that will not be found in other non-health sectors; they are working in a unique environment; full of noise, pollution, and they are susceptible to infections (*Goldsby et al.*, 2020). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) defines work stress as the emotional and physical responses of the worker when the capabilities, resources and needs do not match with the job demands (*Kumar and Bhalla*, 2019).

The major source of work stress resulted from ineffective time management is the time pressure when it is coupled with too much to do. Under intense time pressure, individuals tend to escalate information processing, hinder decision-making quality, and experience information overload (*Goldsby et al.*, 2020).

Moreover, developing effective skills for managing time is essential to treat the conflicting demands of time for