

A study to assess the Attitude of the Staff Nurses working in ICU and PCU towards euthanasia in selected Hospital

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ABSTRACT

Euthanasia is one of the most debated topics in the world. Euthanasia literally means good death but in this contest it means mercy killing. The debate regarding the legalization of Euthanasia. The debate about euthanasia value debate among people weigh values differently and who also see the nature of the world and the place of humans in that world differently. Attitude toward the ethics and legality of physician assisted death, especially voluntary euthanasia (V E), have gradually been changing over the past decade .The science of miracles taking place. The technological advancement taking place all around the globe we could have cure for disease like AIDS, Cancer etc.

KEYWORDS: Attitude, Euthanasia, ICU , PCU, Staff nurses.

INTRODUCTION

Euthanasia, derived from the Greek word means “good death”: (Well or good)+(Death) refers to the practice of ending a life in a manner which relieves pain and suffering. According to medical ethics, the precise definition of euthanasia is “a deliberate intervention undertaken with the express intention of ending a life, to relieve intractable suffering. The word “euthanasia” was first used in a medical context by Francis Bacon in the 17th century, to refer to an easy, painless, Happy Death, during which it was a physician’s responsibility to alleviate the physical sufferings of the body.

A basic distinction is made between two kinds of euthanasia mainly passive and active (Gillete 1994) active euthanasia is identically mercy killing and involves direct action to end a life example intentionally giving a person lethal dose of a drug. Passive Euthanasia is allowing the patient to die when she/he could have been kept alive appropriate medical procedures.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study were to

- ✓ assess the attitude of the staff nurses working in the intensive care unit regarding Euthanasia in selected hospitals at Andhrapradesh.
- ✓ assess the attitude of the staff nurses working in the palliative care unit regarding Euthanasia in selected hospitals at Andhrapradesh.
- ✓ compare the attitude of the staff nurses working in the Intensive care unit and palliative care unit regarding Euthanasia in selected hospitals at Andhrapradesh.
- ✓ find out the association between the attitude of the staff nurses working in the Intensive care unit and palliative care unit regarding Euthanasia in selected hospitals at Andhrapradesh.

- ✓ find out the association between the attitude of the staff nurses working in the Intensive care unit and palliative care unit regarding euthanasia with selected socio demographic factors in selected hospitals at Andhrapradesh

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There was a significant difference between the attitudes of the staff nurses working in the intensive care unit and palliative care ward regarding euthanasia.

H₂: There was association between the attitudes of the staff nurses working in the intensive care unit and palliative care ward regarding euthanasia with selected socio demographic factors.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The study was conducted on “Flemish palliative care nurses attitudes towards euthanasia” Belgium. The result of the study shows that the majority of the nurses were not prior for or against euthanasia and their view were largely depended on the situation. What counted was the degree of suffering and available palliative options. The nurses commented that working in palliative care considerable influence on one’s opinion about euthanasia.

A Survey conducted on End of life care in paediatric intensive care unit, Italy, Nurses were asked to recall the last child in their child whose treatment involved and end of life decision and to describe anonymously their involvement in the decision. Attitude was ascertained by means of statement and Likert scale. The result shows that 89% nurses favoured adapting the Law, making life termination of children legally possible in certain cases.

The study was conducted in "Dutch nurses attitude towards euthanasia and physician – assisted suicide" the result shows that majority of the nurses stated that preparing euthanatics (62.9%) and inserting and infusion needle to administered the euthanatics (54.1%) should not be accepted as nursing tasks.

METHODS

The researchers used descriptive comparative design. The data were obtained by using attitude scale from 100 nurses selected simple random sampling technique. Data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

The results of the study shows that majority (16.66%) of the ICU staff nurses had favourable attitude towards euthanasia as compared to PCU staff nurses (10%) were as 20.66% of PCU staff nurses had unfavourable attitude as compared to ICU staff nurses 14% towards euthanasia. The computer 't' Value was higher than the table value($t=4.604, p<0.05$). Hence the null hypothesis was rejected and the research hypothesis was accepted. It was inferred that there was significant difference between the mean attitude score of staff nurses working in ICU and PCU towards euthanasia.

DATA ANAYSIS & INTERPRETATION

Comparison of attitude of staff nurses working in ICU & PCU towards euthanasia

Area	ICU		PCU		Mean difference	't' Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Attitude	95.66	15.28	91.08	16.19	4.58	4.60

Table-1 depicts that the computer t value was higher than the table value($t=4.604, p<0.05$) hence the null hypothesis was rejected the research hypothesis was accepted. It was inferred that there was significant difference between the mean attitude score of staff nurses working in the ICU and PCU towards euthanasia.

Association between the attitude of staff nurses working in ICU & PCU towards euthanasia

Variables	ICU		PCU		'r' Value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Attitude	95.66	15.28	91.08	16.19	0.0938

Table -2 depicts that the computer 't' value was higher than the table value($t=4.604, p<0.05$) hence the null hypothesis was rejected. It was inferred that there was positive co- relation

between the attitude of staff nurses working in ICU and PCU ($r=0.0938$).

SUMMARY

According to the data collected on attitude of 100 staff nurses working in ICU and PCU towards euthanasia. According to the objectives of the study, descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. The comparison was done using unpaired 't' test, relationship between attitude of the staff nurse working in ICU and PCU done by karl pearson correlation coefficient. The result showed there was significant difference between attitude of the staff nurse working in ICU and PCU towards euthanasia.

CONCLUSION

The study thus concludes that there is need to impact information regarding euthanasia, which would enhance awareness in the nursing students and they could disseminate this information in the society, which would maintain the human plea to right to live.

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