

Abstract

Original Article

Nurses and Midwives Opinions about Spirituality and Spiritual Care

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Abstract

Background: The concept of spirituality cannot be understood well enough by midwives and nurses because it is an abstract and complex concept and so spiritual care is less included in nursing practice.

Aim: This descriptive study was conducted to determine the opinions of nurses and midwives on spirituality and spiritual care.

Methods: The study sample consisted of 243 nurses and midwives working at the Health Practice and Research Centre of a University in Turkey. Data were collected from a personal information form and “The Spirituality and Spiritual Care Rating Scale”.

Results: It was found that 28.8% of nurses and midwives had received information about spiritual care, and 46.5% had provided spiritual care to patients. Nurses and midwives who received information about spiritual care and gave spiritual care to their patients had higher perceptions of spiritual care ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: It was found that nurses’ and midwives’ knowledge of spirituality and spiritual care was insufficient and that those who received information about spirituality and spiritual care and gave spiritual care had higher perceptions of spirituality and spiritual care. It is important that spirituality and spiritual care subjects be included in nursing and midwifery education curricula and in-service training programmes after graduation.

Key words: Midwife, nurse, spirituality, spiritual care