

ORIGINAL PAPER

Paediatric Patients and Primary Care Givers' Perception of Nurse-Caring Behaviour in South Western Nigeria

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Abstract

Background: Nursing actions are expected to meet patients' needs in order to conclude that the patient has received quality care. Studies in Nigeria have not examined what constitutes nurse caring for children or what the primary care givers perceived of nurse caring.

Aims : This study examined the nurse caring behaviours that are most important to paediatric patients (PPs) and their primary care givers (PCGs) in providing a sense of caring.

Methodology: Utilizing a descriptive design, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, Ile-Ife and Ladoké Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Osogbo in Osun state, South-west Nigeria were the study settings. A total of 114 PPs and 114 PCGs selected by convenient sampling method participated in the study. A modified Caring Behaviour Assessment (CBA) tool was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, t- test and linear regression.

Results: The nurse-caring behaviours mostly perceived as caring by the PPs was "be cheerful and gentle with me" (94.7%; 4.55±0.80) while the behaviour mostly perceived by the PCGs was "call child by real name and not a nick name" (96.5%; 4.66±0.68). Age ($p = 0.07$), education ($p = 0.06$), number of siblings ($p = 0.66$), and position in the family ($p = 0.66$) did not have influence on the PPs' perception of nurse caring behaviours. Occupation ($p = 0.71$), level of education ($p = 0.68$), and income ($p = 0.49$) did not significantly influence the PCGs' perception of nurse caring behaviours. There was no statistical significant difference in the PPs and PCGs perception of nurse caring behaviours ($p = 0.11$).

Conclusions: PPs and PCGs perceived humane care as the most important nurse caring behaviours. Therefore educational reinforcement on caring to nurses and more studies is needed in developing nations Like Nigeria.

Key Words: Perception, Nurse- caring behaviours, Paediatric patients', Primary care giver.