

STUDENT NURSES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS CARING FOR DYING PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: The aim of this study is to explore student nurses' attitudes towards death and caring for dying patients and determine the factors that affect their attitudes.

Design: A descriptive design was employed with a survey methodology.

Setting: A private university in Kuala Lumpur.

Sample: A total of 106 responses were analysed.

Methods: The instrument comprised of a three-section questionnaire: a demographic survey, Frommelt Attitudes Toward Care of the Dying (FATCOD) Scale, and Death Attitude Profile-Revised (DAP-R) Scale. Of 110 surveys distributed, 106 were completed and returned.

Findings: Most respondents demonstrated a positive attitude towards death and caring for dying patients. Statistically significant relationship was noted among age and the scores on DAP-R. There is no significant relationship between the demographic variables and the total score of FATCOD scale.

Conclusion: Student nurses must find ways to solve fears about death. They also should seek new knowledge and understanding with regard to their own fears and needs about death and dying.

Implication for Nursing: This study demonstrates the need to provide further education and knowledge in pain management, communication and multicultural diversity.