

The experiences of Tree Top Hospital (TTH) nurses in the COVID-19 pandemic in the Maldives

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Background

The research study aimed to explore nurses' experiences in providing nursing care for COVID-19 patients in the TTH COVID-19 facility of the Maldives. Understanding nurses' experiences will help analyze the nursing care and further develop it, as did previous pandemics experiences in other countries. The study examined the preparation of nursing care, nursing routine changes and the challenges in providing nursing care. The main objectives of the proposed study were:

1. To examine the preparations carried in the nursing care of COVID19 patients.
2. To examine the changes in nursing routines concerning caring for COVID19 patients.
3. To analyze the challenges caring for COVID19 patients.

Methodology

Based on the research paradigm and supportive literature, the author employed a descriptive phenomenological approach of inquiry. The author conducted semi-structured face-to-face interviews using purposive convenience sampling of nurses with nursing experience in the TTH COVID-19 facility. The

researcher purposively selected those nurses from the ward and intensive care unit, and emergency unit to access a range of experiences from many different people who shared the phenomena. With informed consent, the interviews were audio recorded and transcribed within 24 hours. Data analysis was through principles of the Colaizzi's method. The researcher validated the data by presenting the preliminary data to the participants and obtaining verbal feedback during the analysis phase. Data was peer reviewed and bracketing performed for researcher bias.

Results/findings & Implications

The nursing experience of the TTH nurses during the pandemic developed 5 major themes. The initial interview with six participants extracted 192 codes. After formulating meanings and required analysis, the integrated clusters were developed. Further analysis determined the themes from the clusters.



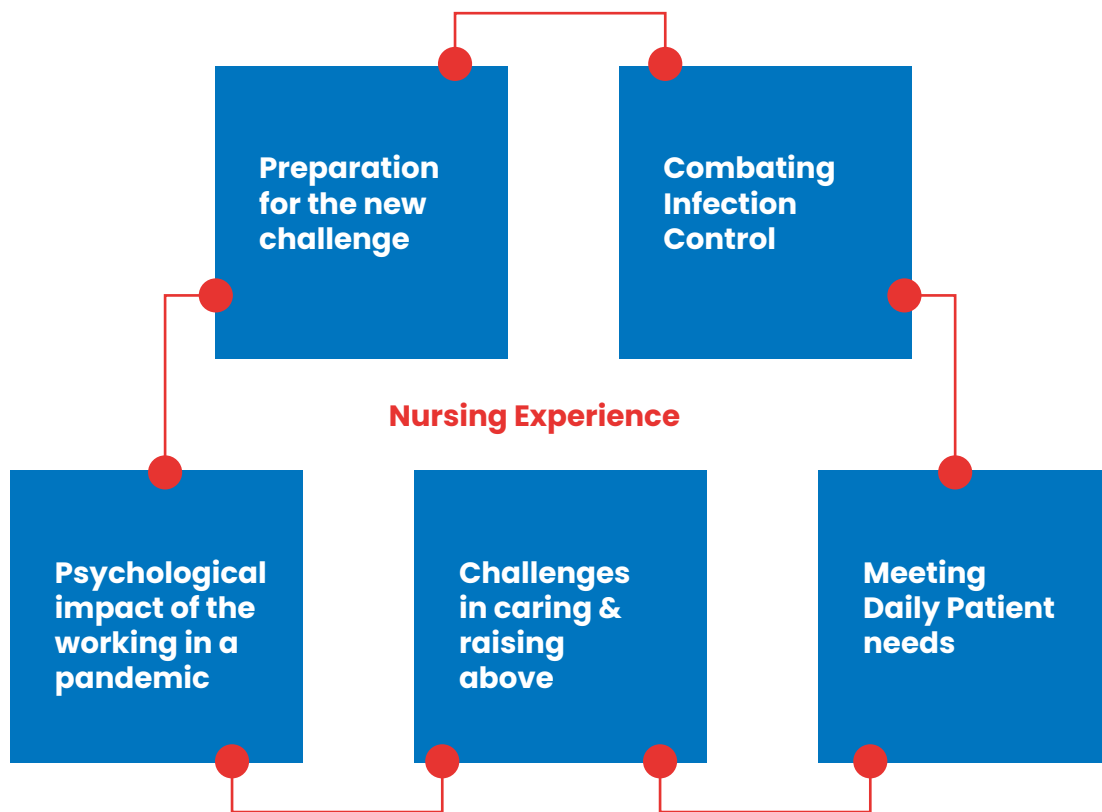


Figure 1 shows the major themes developed

Conclusion

The findings of the study suggest the need to have the improved continuous skill and knowledge development of nurses to support nurses in overcoming challenges in care. The study also found the need to address psychological issues and ensure that efficient infection control practices and policies and guidelines for effective nursing care are in place. Nurses and nurse leaders have a role in ensuring these policies are practically feasible and effective, alert health systems in need to change them accordingly. The findings gave insight into the phenomena of inquiry, bringing out how nurses worked to meet patients' daily needs, how they combat infection control, and prepared

for the daily work. Further studies could help to understand and analyze the experiences of giving nursing care; these can focus on knowledge gained in the pandemic, self-management strategies to work in a pandemic, critical thinking in pandemic, infection control strategies, nursing procedures etc.

3. Establish preconception care (PCC) in island communities.
4. Strengthen thalassaemia screening programs and provide information on pregnancy care in thalassaemia carriers.
5. Provide training opportunities to health care professionals to deliver effective ANC.
6. Explore limitations that may affect the capacity of health care in rural communities to achieve high-quality ANC and establish better transport services in between islands.
7. Conduct further researches to determine the association of nutrition and prevalence of maternal anaemia in the Maldives.

Conclusion

The prevalence of anaemia in pregnant women is 39.60% in this community. Thalassaemia carrier encountered in the population was found to be the main factor associated with the prevalence of maternal anaemia.



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