

Abstract

Introduction and Objectives: Today, improving the quality of healthcare is one of the main challenges in the health system. Utilizing scientific evidence in clinical care enhances the quality of health services. Nurses who practice based on this approach are able to provide more effective and higher-quality services. Therefore, this study aimed to review the evidence and gather global experiences related to evidence-based practice among nurses, explain the perspectives of nurses and managers of teaching hospitals in Kerman who played a significant role in implementing evidence-based practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, and introduce strategies to strengthen evidence-based practices among nurses.

Methods: This study is qualitative research conducted in three stages. In the first stage, a systematic review was carried out and 77 studies were included in the research. In the second stage, a qualitative study was conducted using semi-structured interviews. Participants were selected using purposeful snowball sampling from among nurses working in inpatient departments serving COVID-19 patients, as well as managers and organizational officials related to this pandemic. Data analysis was performed using conventional content analysis based on the proposed stages by Lundman and Graneheim.

In the third stage, a focus group discussion with five nursing managers, experienced nurses, and individuals with management or policy-making experience in the health system and hospital settings involved in the COVID-19 response was held. The goal was to summarize and integrate the results from the previous two stages to provide important recommendations for improving evidence-based practice among nurses. Data were analyzed using conventional content analysis. Finally, the main challenges, facilitators, and effective solutions for evidence-based nursing practice were identified and reported.

Findings:

The results of the systematic review consisted of 3 main categories and 8 subcategories related to them. The main categories identified in this step were barriers, facilitators, and solutions. The findings of the second step included 3 main categories and 12 subcategories, which inhibiting factors, necessities, and outcomes of implementing evidence-based practice. Finally, by

synthesizing the findings from the previous two steps, the final solutions were provided at both individual and organizational levels in the third stage.

Discussion and Conclusion:

This study has made a significant contribution to improving hospital care quality by identifying barriers and facilitators to the implementation of evidence-based practice during the Covid-19 pandemic and providing practical solutions at both individual and organizational levels. Additionally, the results of this study can serve as a basis for developing programs and policies to enhance evidence-based practice in hospitals, particularly during health crises.

Keywords: Evidence-Based Practice, Nurses, COVID-19 Pandemic.



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Title

**Exploring evidence-based practice Challenges of nurses during the Covid-19
pandemic in Kerman teaching hospitals and Providing a Solution**

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