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SYMPOSIUM

**TOWARDS ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL
HEALTH COVERAGE IN AFRICA- CREATING
SYNERGIES AND CAPACITY THROUGH
EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND QUALITY
HEALTH SERVICES.**

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INSPIRING GREATNESS

The use of research evidence in emergency nursing practice in a tertiary level hospital in Ghana

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Background

- Historically, nurses have relied on expert opinions in clinical decision-making (Baiomy & Abdel, 2015)
- These traditional ways of practicing may not only be outdated but unsafe (Hadgu, Almaz & Tsehay, 2015)
- In an era of evidence-based practice (EBP), it is prudent for patients to receive care that is based on the current best available research evidence in addition to expert opinion & their own preferences (Melnik & Fineout-Overholt, 2005)

Background contd.

- Research evidence plays an integral part in the provision of best possible care & treatment to patients
 - Nursing profession recognizes research as a critical tool for its development & survival in the current complex healthcare system (Tingen, Burnett, Murchison & Zhu, 2009)
 - Little is known in literature of nurses' use of research evidence in practice in Ghana
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Objective of the study

- To assess the use of research evidence in emergency nursing practice at the Accident and Emergency centre of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Ghana

Methods

- Study setting: KATH, 1200-bed capacity
 - Accident & Emergency centre established in 2009
 - Training of Emergency nurses started in 2010
 - Sample: 66 nurses
 - Sampling method: Convenience sampling
 - Data collection: Self-administered questionnaire
 - Data Analysis: SPSS v.21
 - Ethical approval: KNUST CHRPE & KATH, Participant consent
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Results

Table 1: Characteristics of Participants (n=66)

Years of working experience	Academic qualification		Total n=66 (100%)
	Undergraduate (BSc/BA) <i>n= 61 (92.4%)</i>	Postgraduate <i>n=5 (7.6%)</i>	
<5	29 (100%)	-	43.9
5-10	29 (85.3%)	5 (14.7%)	51.5
11-15	2 (100%)	-	3.0
16-20	1 (100%)	-	1.5

Results: Research Knowledge, Skills & Use

- 85% rated their understanding of research to be between good and excellent
 - 72.7% had never conducted any research since they started working at the A & E centre
 - 63.6% had not received any training on use of research evidence at the time of study (April 2018)
 - 54.5% had ever applied research recommendation to practice
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Table 2: Accessibility to research findings & literature
n=66

Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Research reports are not readily available	12(18%)	34(51%)	9(14%)	11(17%)	–
Resources are available to access research database at work	9(14%)	23(35%)	12(18%)	19(28%)	3(5%)
Insufficient time at work to read research work	18(27%)	28(42%)	8(12%)	9(14%)	3(6%)
Relevant literature is not compiled in one place	17(26%)	35(53%)	8(12%)	6(9%)	–
I get education on research findings from colleagues and supervisors	10(15%)	37(56%)	7(11%)	10(15%)	2(3%)

Table 3: Perceived barriers to research use (n=66)

Items	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Hospital administration recognize the use of research evidence as a framework of nursing care delivery	4 (6%)	35 (53%)	8 (12%)	10 (15%)	9 (13%)
The Administration support the implementation of research evidence	5 (8%)	29 (44%)	18 (27%)	8 (12%)	6 (9%)
The administration monitors implementation of research evidence	–	12 (18%)	24 (36%)	20 (30%)	10 (15%)
Hospital supplies relevant tools to enable you implement research evidence	5 (8%)	7 (11%)	9 (13%)	30 (45%)	15 (23%)
Nurses have enough authority to change patient care procedures	4 (6%)	12 (18%)	6 (9%)	27 (41%)	17 (26%)
There are insufficient resources (e.g equipment) to change practice	17 (26%)	30 (45%)	5 (8%)	7 (11%)	7 (11%)
There is insufficient time on the job to implement new ideas	12 (18.2%)	20 (30.3%)	9 (13.6%)	19 (28.8%)	6(9%)

Conclusions

- ▶ Though nurses had knowledge in research, lack of training and supportive working environment affected nurses' ability to use research evidence in their practice
 - Major barriers to the application of research in practice include: inadequate resources, heavy workload, insufficient time, lack of autonomy and poor supervision on research utilization
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Limitations

- Convenience sampling has the possibility of excluding responses that could influence the result in another direction

Recommendations

- Training on evidence-based practice and research utilization is recommended
 - Formation of research team to develop framework and guide utilization of research evidence
 - Hospital management needs to make necessary adjustments in the work schedule of nurses to ensure sufficient time for them to learn and implement EBP
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