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Risk Perception and Disaster Preparedness among Hospital Nurses: A Correlational Study in a Tertiary Care Hospital of Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nurses serve as frontline responders during disasters, and their risk perception significantly influences their level of disaster preparedness and patient safety. In disaster-prone regions such as Haryana, India, assessing nurses' risk perception and preparedness is essential to strengthen hospital disaster management.

Aim: The aim of the present study is to assess the level of risk perception and disaster preparedness among hospital nurses working in a selected tertiary care hospital in Haryana and to determine the relationship between risk perception and disaster preparedness among hospital nurses.

Materials and Methods: A quantitative descriptive research design was adopted. The study was conducted among 150 hospital nurses working at MMIMSR, Mullana, Ambala, selected using a convenience sampling technique. Data were collected using structured questionnaires to assess risk perception and disaster preparedness. Descriptive statistics and Pearson's correlation test were used for data analysis.

Results: The findings revealed that 82.0% of nurses had a high level of risk perception, while 84.9% demonstrated high disaster preparedness. The mean disaster preparedness score was 191.27±11.49. A statistically significant moderate positive correlation was observed between risk perception and disaster preparedness ($r=0.411$, $p<0.05$).

Conclusion: The study indicates that increased risk perception among nurses is associated with higher disaster preparedness. Regular disaster training, mock drills, and continuous education programs are recommended to further enhance nurses' preparedness and strengthen hospital disaster response systems.

Keywords: Disasters, Emergency preparedness, Frontline responders.

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