



Factors Influencing the Utili..... (Ahmed, S. Gwarzo, A. A 2023) DOI: <https://10.59479/jiaheri.v1i1.60>

## Factors Influencing the Utilization of the Nursing Process in the Care of Patients among Nurses in Bauchi State

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### Abstract

This study determined factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients in some selected hospitals in Bauchi State with the objectives of determining the nurses' factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients and finding out the theory-practice gap factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses and midwives in Bauchi state. Cross-sectional concurrent (parallel convergent) mixed-method research design was adopted. For quantitative study Simple random sampling technique was used to select hospital, proportionate stratified sampling was used to draw nurses and midwives from 8 selected hospitals while the purposive sampling technique was used to proportionately select thirty-three (310) respondents and 15 respondents for quantitative and qualitative study respectively. Out of 310 questionnaire administered, 269/86.8% were retrieved and 12/80% out of 15 were interviewed. The findings revealed that nurses' factors and theory-practice gap factors influenced the utilization of nursing process in the care of patients among nurses/midwives of Bauchi state. The Regulatory body and hospital administrators should provide necessary resources for utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients.

**Keywords:** influences, utilization, nursing process, care of patients.

### Introduction

Nursing process is a modern problem-solving framework that enables the nursing staff to plan their care for patients and clients on an individual or group basis to providing professional and quality nursing care demonstrate competence in health assessment and nursing diagnosis in rendering nursing care to clients and patients (Al-Fatah, 2019; Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria (N&MCN), 2010; Atnafe, Tadessa & Hable (2017). Unfortunately, studies conducted by Hagos, et al, (2014) indicated that 90% of the Nurses (respondents) have poor knowledge and 100% did not use the nursing process during the provision of care to their patients despite 99.5% having a positive attitude on the nursing process. This precipitates a theory practice gap that is due to a Mismatch of Theory and practice where emphasis on theory emphasis on ideal for patient care as against the reality of nursing work in the clinical setting (Kvernbekk, 2009; Saifan, AbuRuz & Masa'deh, 2015). Utilization of health care approach is always faced with issues related to population (nurses) characteristics, health care system, the pattern of health care services, and professional standard of practice.



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Consequently, this study seeks to explore Nurses' factors, and Theory practice gap factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process. Identifying the factors will provide insight into the nature and magnitude of these factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses in Bauchi state.

Globally, the nursing process is accepted as an evidence-based tool for the provision of quality nursing care to patients (Atnafe, et al 2017) and acceptable in Nigeria for well-trained personnel to utilize as the professional tool for nursing and midwifery care at all levels of healthcare (N&MCN, 2010). Studies indicated that factors affecting the implementation of the nursing process in the care of patients include lack of knowledge of the concepts, different views of the process, lack of knowledge and awareness among nurses, lack of support from the managerial system, and problem-related with the recording of the nursing process (Odetola, et al, 2018, Salfan et al, 2015, Hagos, et al, 2014). This is a worrisome phenomenon and a concern requiring investigating factors influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients in hospitals in Bauchi state.

### **Research Questions:**

1. To what extent do nurse's factors (self-factors) influence the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses of Bauchi State.?
2. How has the theory-practice gap influenced the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses of Bauchi State?

### **Specific Objectives**

1. Identify the nurses' factor influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses of Bauchi State.
2. Determine the influence of the theory-practice gap on the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients among nurses of Bauchi State.

### **Method and Tools**

#### **Research Design**

The research design adopted for this study was a cross-sectional concurrent (parallel convergent) mixed-method research design in order to concurrently collect quantitative and qualitative data from participants.

#### **Study Setting:**

The study area are eight (8) selected health care facilities drawn from public and private hospitals in Bauchi State. These consist of one tertiary healthcare facility, six (6) secondary healthcare, and one (1) private-owned healthcare facility two each from three senatorial zones of Bauchi state. These facilities are healthcare facilities that have standard bed capacity and registered nurses providing nursing care to patients.

#### **Study Population –**

The population for this study comprised all nurses (clinicians, managers, and clinical instructors/preceptors) currently practicing in tertiary, secondary, and private-owned hospitals in Bauchi state, Nigeria. Total of 1,360 males and females nurses in hospital of Bauchi state (Hospital Management Board, Bauchi state, 2022; and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) Secret Registry, 2022).



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**Inclusive criteria** –They were nurses with current licenses for practice directly providing nursing care to patients in various healthcare facilities in Bauchi State. **Exclusive criteria** – Those nurses not directly providing nursing care to patients in the selected from the health facilities for the research study.

### Sample Size Determination

**Sampling population for quantitative study:** Existing duty roster of nurses of each selected hospital was the sampling frame for this study. Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size of 310 nurses and midwives drawn through the proportionate stratified sampling technique.

**Sample Population for Qualitative Component:** The sample size of 15 was designated for the qualitative design study consisting of two most senior nurses/midwives from one (1) federal, two each from six (6) state hospitals, and one (1) from private of the selected hospitals for the study but only 12 respondents available interviewed using a structured interview guide.

### Sampling Techniques

**Sampling technique for Quantitative sampling:** Simple random sampling technique was used to select one Federal hospital (1) out of two, six (6) out of 26 State hospitals, and One private hospital (1) out of one in Bauchi State, Nigeria.

The proportionate stratified sampling procedure was employed to draw some nurses and midwives from 8 hospitals (1 federal, 6 state and 1 private own hospital in line with the sample size for the study. The purposive sampling technique was used to proportionately select the 149 from federal, 146 from state and 15 from private respondents from each selected hospital. This process continued till the sample size of three hundred and thirty-three (310) (respondents) was reached.

### Sampling techniques for qualitative sampling

Purposive sampling technique was used to select twelve (15) respondents for qualitative sampling.

### Data Collection Instrument

**Structured interview guide:** It consisted of 12 question items where two questions were designated for each objective. Permission to record the interview was sought.

**Questionnaire item** – It consisted of 35 question items divided into two sections. Section A – consists of respondents' Bio-data of age, gender, educational attainment, rank, years of experience, and type of health facility. Section B consists of item statements categorized into B1 Personal factors and B2 Theory practice gap factors with 5 points modified Likert scale of Not at all influential (*NI*), Slightly Influential (*SI*) Somewhat influential (*SWI*), Very Influential (*VI*) & Extremely influential(*EI*).

### Validity of the Instrument

The questionnaire face and content validity were validated by three (3) experts and supervisors and their inputs were used to arrive at the final copies of instruments for the collection of data for the study while the Mutshatshi (2021) and Agyema-Yeboah, Korsah, & Okrah (2017) adapted with modifications.

### Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument was tested out among 30 nurses and midwives in FTH Gombe state and alpha of 0.785 in the instrument reliability was established.

### Data Collection Procedure



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The ethical clearance was obtained from ethical committees of the MOH Bauchi and ATBUTH Bauchi. Six (6) research assistants trained administered questionnaires.

The in-charge/senior nurses consented and were interviewed. The were selected. Data collected were sorted out; those correctly filled were used for the study.

### 3.12 Data Analysis Procedure

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used to summarize the data. Qualitative data were coded through content analysis according to themes and Quantitative data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) analyzing Frequencies and percentages of the demographic data, Mean and Standard deviation of quantitative data of factors. Data triangulation was used to match quantitative and qualitative findings.

## Results

**Response Rate:** Out of 310 administered, 269/86.8% were retrieved and 261/84.2% were valid and out 15 respondents 12/80% were interviewed.

### Socio-Demographic Data of Respondents

The majority of respondents were within the age of 31 – 40 years, 42(16.1%), followed by those below the age of 31 years 78(29.9%). Also 74(28.4%) were males and 187(71.6%) were females and out of which 211 (80.8%) were married. The highest proportion of respondents rank was NO II, 64(24.5%) and the lowest proportion was ADNS and above 9(3.4%). Majority 71(27.2%) were in O & G. highest proportion 178(68.2%) had diploma qualification and majority 72(27.8%) had working years of experienced between 6–10 years, 70(26.8%) and the lowest 35(13.4%) had experienced between 16–20 years and 21–25 years. Majority 127(48.7%) were from tertiary Hospitals and lowest from 15(5.7%) in private hospital.

The demographic data of respondents interviewed revealed that the majority 6(50%) were within the age range 40 - 49 years, 6(50%) each were males and females. majority 7(58%) were CNO, and 1(8.3%) each were SNO, ACNO, 5(41.7%) had 30 and above years of experience, majority 9(75%) worked in a secondary level hospital.



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**Nurse’s factors (self-factors) influencing the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patient**

**Table 1: Nurse’s factors (self-factors) influence the utilization of nursing process**

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev.	Decision
My knowledge about nursing process	3.56	1.124	I
Skills for utilization of nursing process	3.57	1.015	I
My years of experience	3.21	1.129	I
My age	2.98	2.214	NI
My gender status	2.83	1.227	NI
My education qualification	3.39	1.212	I
My types of training (Basic nursing, Post-basic or University)	3.42	1.189	I
My level of education (RN, BNSc, MSc and Above)	3.35	1.202	I
Number of patients I have in the ward.	3.49	1.208	I
My interest	3.48	2.752	I
<b>Grand mean</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>1.427</b>	<b>I</b>

**Source: Field survey, 2022; I – Influential; NI – Not Influential**

Table 1 revealed that the mean responses of respondents range from 2.83 to 3.56 and, with a corresponding Standard Deviation ranging from 1.015 to 2.752 with a grand mean of 3.33. This suggests that the respondents indicated that the Nurse factors influence the utilization of the nursing process in the selected Hospitals.

The majority of 10 (83.3%) interviewed stated that knowledge, skills, and interest in the nursing process acquired while in training in school nursing influenced the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients 2(16.7%) affirmed that they did not have the current knowledge, and skills of nursing process “While my knowledge and skills are almost fading because of a lack of practicing the nursing process and update, I lost interest”



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**The influence of the theory-practice gap on the utilization of the nursing process**

**Table 2: theory-practice gap influencing the utilization of nursing process**

Statement	Mean	Std. Dev	Decision
Perceive lack of relevance of the knowledge learned in the classroom to clinical setting	3.00	1.215	I
Poor application of knowledge acquired in the classroom into action	3.18	1.231	I
Emphasis on theory as against reality in the clinical setting	2.87	1.188	NI
Difference between theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge in a clinical setting.	3.05	1.169	I
Prescribed Standard of practice for use of the nursing process in clinical setting	3.41	1.165	I
Competency of graduate newly qualified nurses for application of nursing process in the care of patients.	3.36	1.286	I
<b>Grand Mean</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>1.209</b>	<b>I</b>

**Source:** Field survey, 2022; **I** – Influential; **NI** – Not Influential

Table 2 revealed that the mean responses of respondents range from 2.87 to 3.41 with corresponding Standard Deviation ranging from 1.165 to 1.286 with grand mean 3.15 and 1.209 which showed that respondents indicated that theory-practice gap influence nursing process in the selected Hospitals. However, Emphasis on theory as against reality in the clinical setting (x 2. 87 SD 1.188) not influential while the majority of respondents 8(66.7%) interviewed stated that the nature of health facility hindered translation of what was learnt while on training into practice. Respondent stated that “Nursing process was Partially in use because of lack of manpower and equipment”

**Discussion.**

The findings revealed that the Nurses’ factors that influenced nurses of the selected hospitals in the utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients were knowledge of the nursing process, skill for utilization of nursing process, years of experience, educational qualification, types of training, level of education, number of patients and interest. These findings agree with studies conducted by Ngoa (2015) that nurses’ demographic characteristics such as experience and training were significantly associated with the implementation of the nursing process and in contrast with Zainab and Salawu's (2020) study which revealed that nurses’ professional qualifications, professional cadres, and years of working experience failed to significantly influence the utilization of the nursing process.

The quantitative findings agree with the qualitative findings of this study because the qualitative findings indicated that the majority of 10 (83.3%) stated that knowledge, skills, and interest in the nursing process acquired while in training in school nursing were influencing them to utilize the nursing process in the care of patients.



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**Theory - practice gap factors influencing the utilization of nursing process.** Findings revealed that the Theory - practice gap factors influencing the utilization of nursing process in care of patients were perceived lack of relevance of the knowledge learned in the classroom, poor application of knowledge acquired in classroom into action, differences between theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge, the prescribed standard of practice for use of the nursing process in clinical setting and competency of graduate newly graduated to apply the nursing process in the care of patients. The findings are in line with the findings Adetola et al (2018) study conducted in Nigeria that revealed that the theory-practice gap among student nursing was the result of a difference between practice in educational institutions and the practice area as well as with Amro et al (2017) study conducted among students in Palestine where the majority of respondents (237/71.8%) stated that they perceived a difference between what they were taught in the classroom compared to what was used in their clinical experience.

### **Conclusion:**

The utilization of the nursing process in patient care in hospitals depends on many factors and these factors encompass things related to setting, leadership, and the nurses. This study identified personal and theory-practice gap factors as influencing the utilization of the nursing process in care patients among nurses of some selected hospitals in Bauchi State.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were made;

1. The government and hospital management should provide the equipment and materials and recruit more nurses required for effective utilization of the nursing process in the care of patients.
2. Workshops and seminars should be organized on a regular basis to update nurses on the nursing process and how to utilize it in the care of patients.
3. Programme on the nursing process should be instituted in hospitals in collaboration with training institutions to always update nurses to use it in care for patients.

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