



Knowledge, Awareness, and Practices of Forensic Nursing among Nursing Professionals: An Online Survey-Based Cross-Sectional Study

Chandra Prakash Dekhawat¹, Vikash Kumar², Sibi Varghese³, Sibi Samuel⁴, Varsha Upadhyay⁵, Dinesh Patidar⁶

¹Professor cum Vice Principal, Venkateshwar College of Nursing a Unit of Sai Tirupati University Udaipur

²Assistant Professor, Surendera College of Nursing, Sri Ganganagar

³Nursing Tutor, Surendera College of Nursing, Sri Ganganagar

⁴Professor, Maharaja Agrasen Nursing College, Bahadurgarh, Haryana

⁵Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Nursing College, Jaipur

⁶Professor, Department of Nursing Education Mandsour University Mandsour (MP)

Abstract

Background: A specialized area that combines healthcare and legal systems, forensic nursing is essential to the gathering of evidence, the treatment of victims, and court cases. Nursing professionals' awareness and practice levels, however, are still unknown.

Methodology: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted among 200 nursing professionals using a structured questionnaire. Non-probability sampling – Convenience Sampling were used in this study. Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: According to the results, just 22% of individuals showed adequate knowledge, 32% had inadequate knowledge, and 46% had moderate understanding. Just 28% of respondents indicated good practice levels, and 52% of respondents had a modest awareness of forensic nursing tasks. Knowledge level and educational qualification were shown to be significantly correlated ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: According to the study's findings, nurses have a mediocre understanding of forensic nursing but insufficient practice. To increase competency, educational interventions are required.

Keywords: Forensic nursing, Knowledge, Awareness, Practice, Nursing professionals, Cross-sectional study

INTRODUCTION

In order to care for victims of abuse, trauma, and violence while supporting legal investigations, forensic nursing is a new specialization that blends nursing science with forensic principles¹.

In clinical settings, nurses are essential in locating, recording, and safeguarding forensic evidence².

Due to an increase in violent, abusive, and medico-legal cases, forensic nursing has become more important in recent years³.

Accurate evidence collection is ensured by proper forensic nursing training, which also

improves the legal system⁴.

Despite its significance, many nurses are not well-versed in forensic procedures, which could jeopardize patient care and the outcome of judicial proceedings⁵.

Research has indicated that inadequate training results in subpar documentation and handling of

Address for Correspondence: Dr Chandra Prakash Dekhawat Professor cum vice Principal venkateshwar college of Nursing a unit of Sai Tirupati University Udaipur Email: dekhawatcp10@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Dekhawat CP, Kumar V, Varghese S, Samuel S, Upadhyay V, Patidar D. Knowledge, Awareness, and Practices of Forensic Nursing among Nursing Professionals: An Online Survey-Based Cross-Sectional Study. Indian J Nurs Educ Res Stud. 2026;1(1):07-10.

Received:01/05/2026 Accepted:05/05/2026 Published:05/05/2026

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code



Website:

<https://ijners.varnavpublishers.com>

evidence⁶.

In order to find gaps and enhance training programs, it is crucial to evaluate nursing professionals' knowledge, awareness, and practices⁷.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge of forensic nursing among nursing professionals
2. To assess awareness regarding forensic nursing roles
3. To evaluate practices related to forensic nursing
4. To find association between knowledge and selected demographic variables

HYPOTHESIS

H₀: There is no significant association between knowledge of forensic nursing and selected demographic variables.

H₁: There is a significant association between knowledge of forensic nursing and selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a cross-sectional survey design and a quantitative approach to evaluate nursing professionals' forensic nursing practices, knowledge, and awareness. A systematic questionnaire was used to gather data from 200 participants, and the results were examined using the proper statistical techniques.

Research Design

A quantitative, cross-sectional survey design was used.

Setting and Sample

The study was conducted online among nursing professionals. A total of **200 participants** were

selected using convenience sampling.

Inclusion Criteria

- Registered nursing professionals
- Willing to participate
- Access to online survey

Exclusion Criteria

- Student nurses
- Incomplete responses

Tool for Data Collection

A structured questionnaire consisting of:

- Section A: Demographic data
- Section B: Knowledge questions
- Section C: Awareness
- Section D: Practice

Data Collection Procedure

Data were collected through an online Google Form after obtaining consent.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage) and inferential statistics (Chi-square test) were used.

RESULTS

Using suitable descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, the gathered data were arranged, examined, and interpreted in line with the study's goals. For easy comprehension, the results are displayed as tables and figures. The findings are organized into the following sections: participant demographics, forensic nursing knowledge, awareness level, practice level, and relationship between knowledge and specific demographic characteristics.

Table 1: Distribution of Nursing Professionals According to Knowledge Level Regarding Forensic Nursing

Knowledge Level	Frequency (N=200)	Percentage
Inadequate	64	32%
Moderate	92	46%
Adequate	44	22%

→ Majority had **moderate knowledge (46%)**

Table 2: Distribution of Nursing Professionals According to Awareness Level Regarding Forensic Nursing

Awareness Level	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	50	25%
Moderate	104	52%
Good	46	23%

→ Majority had moderate awareness (52%)

Table 3: Distribution of Nursing Professionals According to Practice Level Regarding Forensic Nursing

Practice Level	Frequency	Percentage
Poor	72	36%
Average	72	36%
Good	56	28%

→ Practice level mostly poor to average

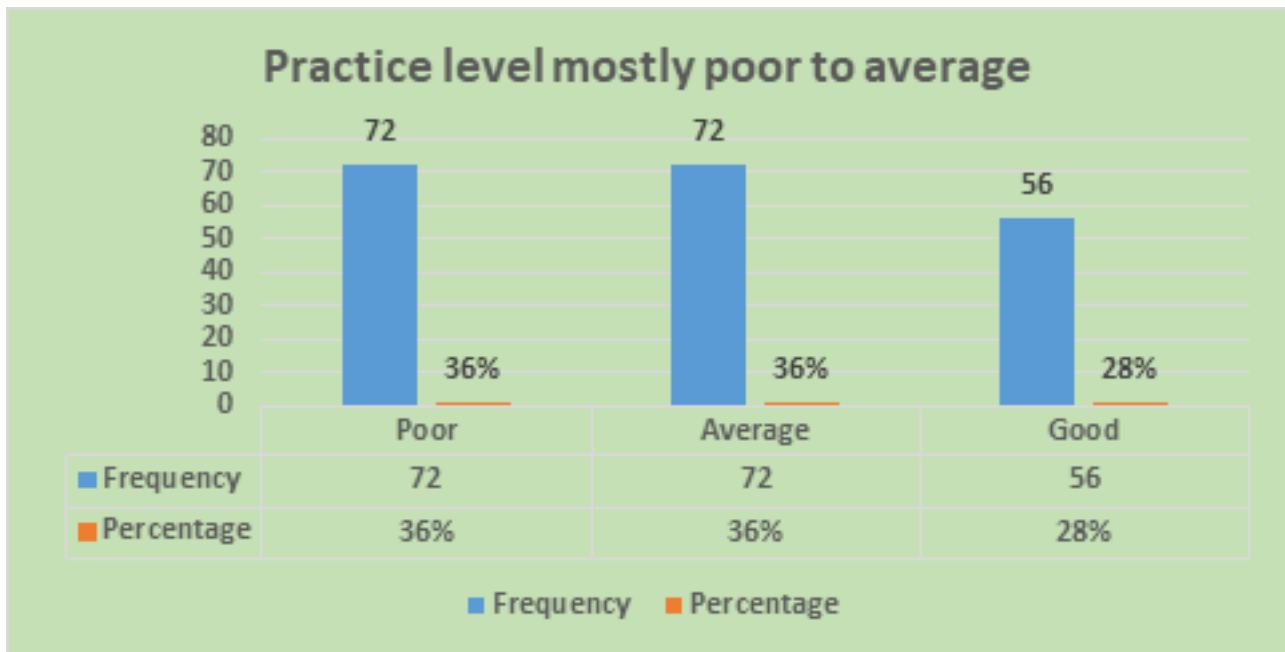


Figure 01: Practice level mostly poor to average

Table 4: Association between Knowledge Regarding Forensic Nursing and Selected Demographic Variables among Nursing Professionals

Variable	-	P Value	Result
Educational Qualification	8.21	<0.05	Significant
Experience	3.12	>0.05	Not Significant

→ Significant association found with education

DISCUSSION

According to the study's findings, nurses have a moderate understanding of forensic nursing but insufficient practice. Previous research on the impact of inadequate training on competency revealed

similar results⁸.

The modest awareness ratings indicate a limited comprehension of forensic roles. Poor practice, however, reveals a disconnect between implementation and knowledge^{9,10}.

Enhancing forensic nursing competence requires education and training¹¹.

CONCLUSION

According to the study's findings, nurses have a mediocre level of awareness and understanding of forensic nursing but insufficient practice. Structured educational programs are necessary to enhance legal competency and skills.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct regular training programs on forensic nursing
- Include forensic nursing in curriculum
- Develop standard protocols for evidence handling
- Encourage workshops and continuing education

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP:

Nil

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

REFERENCES

1. Lynch VA. Forensic nursing science. Elsevier; 2017.
2. Hammer RM. Forensic nursing: A handbook. Jones & Bartlett; 2019.
3. WHO. Violence and injury prevention report. 2021.
4. IAFN. Forensic nursing guidelines. 2020.
5. Sharma R, et al. Knowledge of forensic nursing. *J Nurs Educ.* 2019;58(4):210–215.
6. Gupta S, et al. Evidence handling practices. *Indian J Forensic Med.* 2020;14(2):123–128.
7. Kaur M, et al. Awareness among nurses. *Int J Nurs Res.* 2021;9(3):45–50.
8. Singh P, et al. Training needs in forensic nursing. *Asian J Nurs.* 2018;5(2):67–72.
9. Patel V, et al. Awareness of forensic roles. *J Clin Nurs.* 2020;29(5):890–895.
10. Reddy S, et al. Practice gaps in forensic nursing. *Nurs Pract Today.* 2021;8(1):15–20.
11. Mishra A, et al. Education impact on nursing skills. *Nurse Educ Today.* 2022;102:104–109.

