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**ATTITUDES OF STAFF NURSES
AT AL-MAKASSED, RAFEDIA AND MOUNT DAVID
HOSPITALS TOWARDS
SELECTED HEALTH RELATED
ETHICAL ISSUES**

by

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Declaration

No portion of this work referred to in this thesis has been submitted as an application for another degree or qualification of this or any other university or institute of learning.

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Abstract

ATTITUDES OF STAFF NURSES AT AL MAKASSED RAFEDIA AND MOUNT DAVID HOSPITALS TOWARD SELECTED HEALTH ETHICAL ISSUES

Fathieh Taha

This study aimed at exploring the attitudes of staff nurses toward selected health ethical issues related to their profession and examined the effect of demographic variables on staff nurses attitudes. Furthermore, in the West Bank, no studies on nursing ethics have been conducted, so, it has been interesting to explore the response of Palestinian nurses toward ethical issues related to their practice.

The directors of Al-Makassed, Rafedia and mount David hospitals were approached for their approval for questioning their nurses and they were assured that all gathered information was for research purposes only. Also, a consent form was presented to each participant.

A questionnaire which has been developed by the investigator was used to collect the data. The analysis was carried out through

using descriptive statistics to describe the attitude of staff nurses and to explore the effect of demographic variables on nurses' attitudes toward certain situation.

Results indicated that, there was no relationship between demographic variables and attitudes of staff nurses toward ethical issues in their decision making. However, results are not generalizable to all staff nurses attitudes in the West-Bank.

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

Ethics is a topic of major concern in the nursing profession. Nursing decisions and actions are supposed to be based upon scientific or theoretical knowledge, clinical experience and individual capabilities. However, nurse's values, beliefs, and culture play a part in clinical decision making, especially in ethical issues related to the clients.

In our Palestinian society, we have specific, context related values, beliefs and culture which make us different in our behavior and attitudes from other societies and nations. Nurses are part of the Palestinian society and they form the largest group of care providers in the health care delivery system. Moreover, nurses are more likely to face the wide problems of ethical issues in health and illness care than any other group of professionals. So, discussion of ethics in professional nursing is becoming more and more important in educational and practice setting.

There are many reasons for including ethics in nursing education and practice. Nurses are dealing daily with human beings, and in practice setting nurses are facing many problems related to

ethical issues such as mercy killing (euthenasia), telling the truth, abortion and so on. So, nurses who study ethics can increase their effectiveness as care givers and decision makers.

In the West Bank, no studies on nursing ethics have been conducted So, it is interesting to know the attitudes of the Palestinian nurses toward some ethical issues related to their practice. However, no two situations are identical and nurses are required to give their judgment about which course of action to take so that it can serve as a guide in many of these situation.

A. Statement of the Problem

There are many questions and situations related to some ethical problems that arise and face nurses during their practice. These include decision making and the position of the nurse and her/his role in such decisions.

The answers to these questions are unclear and complicated. So, nurses must come to their own conclusion about what is right and wrong, about what should and should not be done for and to the patient. Also, there is no study that has been conducted so far to explore and find out what nurses' attitudes toward certain ethical issues are.