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**Nurses Perceptions of their Preparedness for Disaster
Management at Governmental Hospitals in Gaza Strip**

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Nurses Perceptions of their Preparedness for Disaster Management at Governmental Hospitals in Gaza Strip

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Dedication

I would like to express my deep sense and admire to my father, to my beloved mother, to my lovely wife and our fetus, to my dear sisters and brothers and to my family with all its members.

To all my colleagues who helped me and contributed to get this study a reality, thank you.

To the martyrs and injured of Palestine and prisoners in prisons.

To everyone who contributed to get this study a reality, thank you.

Today I dedicate them this important professional achievement because without their presence, support, and comprehension I would have not achieved my goal. I love you all, I remain

BAYAN I SHIKH ALEID

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis or any of its parts has not been submitted for higher degree to any other university or institution

Signed:

BAYAN I. SHIKH ALEID

Date:

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Abstract

Disaster is considered as an unpredicted event that occurs at anywhere in the world with a dramatic impact on individuals , families and communities , and it poses a unique challenge for every medical care facility in terms of infrastructure, capacity, and preparedness. Nurses are important members of the disaster team; they play a central role in disaster preparedness and management. This study aims to assess nurses' perception of their knowledge, skills, roles and preparedness for disaster management and the hospitals readiness for disaster management at governmental hospitals in Gaza Strip. The study population consists of 409 nurses who are working in the following departments:(ICU departments, Operation departments and Emergency department) at governmental hospital in Gaza Strip. By using the sample size calculator program at 95% confidence level, the sample size was 320 nurses, distributed proportionally according to hospital size. The researcher used the analytical descriptive approach to reach the results by designing a study questionnaire. A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to 320 nurses, out of which (83.75%) responded. The results of the study showed that most of the study was between 26-35 years old (66.42%), majority of them are males and married. and most have a bachelor's degree (79.48%), and majority of them have experience between 6-10 years (43.38%). In addition, the largest proportion of nurses participating in the study sample were from the population of Gaza City with (26.49%) of the sample size. At end, it show that the operations department's nurses have the highest percentage of participants by (39.18%). With regard to study domains, the results revealed that field of "Nurses' perceptions of their skills for disaster management" got the highest score (75%) followed by field of "Nurses' perceptions of their preparedness for disaster management" (72.6%), field of "Nurses' perceptions of their roles for disaster management" (72.2%), field of "Nurses' perceptions of their knowledge for disaster management" (71.1%), while field of "Hospital Readiness to Manage Disaster" the last (65.6%). There were statistically significant differences between nurses' responses regarding their age group and (Role) and (Skill), statistically significant differences between nurses' responses regarding their education level and (Hospital Readiness), statistically significant differences between nurses' responses regarding their years of experience and (Role) and (Hospital Readiness), statistically significant differences between nurses' responses regarding hospital workplace and (Role).The study revealed that there was a high level of nurses' perception of their knowledge, skills, roles and preparedness for disaster management and the hospitals readiness for disaster management at governmental hospitals in Gaza Strip. According to the study results, the study recommended several recommendations, including providing guidelines and instructions for nurses about knowledge of disasters management provide by those with experience and responsibilities through holding workshops, conferences and seminars dealing with the issue of disasters and a hospitals should be supported with the required materials and equipment for health care services.

Keywords: Nurse's Perception, Nurse's Preparedness, Disaster, Management, Knowledge, Role And Skills.

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List of Abbreviations

BN	Bachelor of Nursing
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive
ED	Emergency Departments
EN	Emergency Nurses
EP	Emergency Preparedness
EPIQ	Emergency Preparedness Information Questionnaire
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
EURO-MED	Euro-Mediterranean
ICN	International Council of Nurses
IPS	Institute for Palestine Studies
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WB	West Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background

Disaster refers to a significant functional deterioration or loss of life, material, economy or environmental resources. The magnitude, frequency, and type of disaster events vary according to the geographical location, ethnicities, and economic capacities. Natural and human-induced disasters befall every day throughout the biosphere and cause catastrophic impacts on public health in terms of injuries, sufferings, deaths, destruction of infrastructure, and facility. Conferring to the World Disasters Report in 2016 earthquakes, landslides, floods, and heat waves led to 574 reported disasters and had rejected of 32,550 human deaths. In 2015, the majority if disasters' deaths (67% of the global deaths) were in Asia, and it was beyond 50.5% of the decade's annual average (IFRC and RCS, 2016). For that, more attention has been given to planning the health care response to natural and man-made disasters, because disasters and their destruction effects are increasing worldwide (Saidam, 2018).

The issue of the difficulty of predicting disasters before they occur is a motive for decision-makers to work towards access to sound methods of disaster management to avoid large human and material losses by working to avoid disasters or by controlling their results if they occur and protect human lives. It is in this connection that hospital readiness to manage disaster and the roles, preparedness and management of a medical team including the nurses are deemed essential, taking into account that nurses are the largest working group in the health field. Preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters and emergencies has become a priority for everyone (Saidum, 2018).