

Violence Against Nurses – Healthcare Workers with Great Sacrifice - During The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Discussion Article

Sarieh Poortaghi¹, Zakiyeh Jafaryparvar^{2*}, Marzieh Hasanpour³, Reza Negarandeh⁴

1 .Associate Professor of Nursing Education, Department of Community Health and Geriatric Nursing, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

2 .PhD Candidate of Nursing Research, Nursing and Midwifery Care Research Center, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

3 .Professor, RN, PhD, NIDCAP Professional, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

4 .Professor, Nursing and Midwifery Care Research Center, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Abstract:

Aim: This article aims to discuss how violence against health care workers especially nurses affect health care systems and the quality of care of the patients. In this paper causes of violence and strategies to reduce it have been discussed.

Methods: Discourse of the literature considering the violence against nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic and its reasons and outcomes .

Results: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant increase in violence against healthcare providers. The attacker against nurses may be among patients, companions, visitors, colleagues such as doctors and other nurses, supervisors, and managers. Many individuals who experience violence in healthcare environments refrain from reporting it. The causes of violence against nurses include spending long periods with patients, perceiving nursing as a low-status profession, gender of nurses, direct and frequent contact with patients and their companions, inadequate facilities and high workload, weak healthcare delivery systems in public hospitals and inequality in health, nature of the department and shift type of personnel, work shifts and staff shortages, forcing nurses to work in non-standard conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, prohibition of patient visits during the pandemic, patient death and nurses' sense of incompetence, and expressing stress through aggression. Workplace violence leads to a decrease in job satisfaction and an increase in continuous psychological stress, which has a negative impact on the personal and professional lives of nurses. Potential strategies for reducing workplace violence include protecting healthcare workers through laws, improving communication with patients and their families, critically analyzing information in social media, facilitating patient access through remote medical strategies, and improving access to primary healthcare services .

Keywords: vioence, nurses, health care workers, Covid-19