

## ABSTRACT

There is tremendous increase in the elderly population globally. Sri Lanka is one of the countries facing a rapidly ageing population transition. Associated chronic illnesses, decreasing physical functionality and increase in dependency are the results of ageing phenomenon. Therefore caring elderly is one of the global health challenges faced by the countries worldwide.

Long-term care of elderly (Geriatric step down care) is identified under elderly care as one of main component to be concerned and developed in Sri Lanka. The nurses are the one of key professional staffs caring elderly round the clock. In order to render optimum Long-term care services for elders, nurses need to be well equipped with adequate knowledge and right attitudes.

The objective of this research study is to understand knowledge and attitudes towards the long-term care services for elderly among nurses' in Base Hospitals of the Regional Director of Health Services Gampaha.

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried with self administered questionnaire in this research study. Total number of 423 nurses in Base Hospital of Gampaha RDHS were enrolled in the research study.

As trained healthcare providers the ideal value for mean knowledge score of nurses on elderly care should be 100%. However, the current value of mean knowledge score of nurses in Base Hospitals in RDHS Gamapaha was 69%, which was not a favourable value for a knowledge score and 0% of the

participants were able to provide correct answers for all 24 questions regarding the knowledge .

Mean attitude score of nurses with regard to long-term care services for elders was 74% with 0% were able to provide correct answers for all 15 questions on that identified main 3 training needs of the participants were correct knowledge on aging and long-term elderly care, counselling for elders (psychology), and knowledge on modern equipment needed for effective elderly care.

The results of this study about nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards long-term care service for elderly similar with other international studies.

This research study was the first reported study undertaken in Sri Lanka related to nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards long-term care of elderly. Therefore this study will offer an insight into new research studies on long term care services for elderly.