
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Preparation for Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination In Nursing Law and Ethics, Royal Thai Navy College of Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Main mission of RTNCN is to produce professional nurses with a high competency to serve the RTN and society. Since RTNCN was affiliated by Mahidol University. Bachelor Graduates have to pass both comprehensive examination arranged by Mahidol University and licensure examination arranged by Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council. The purpose of this study were to (1) study the opinions of RTNCN Bachelor Graduates on the preparing process for these examinations, (2) compare the average scores between pre and post entering the project, and (3) identify the relationship between the preparation processes and the result of the comprehensive examination and licensure examination in Nursing Law and Ethics. The population comprised 86 RTNCN Bachelor Graduates. Data were evaluated to find, percentage, means and standard deviation and were tested by Pearson's correlation coefficient. T-test was used to test the difference between means. The result revealed that 97.67% of RTNCN Bachelor Graduates passed the comprehensive examination and 89.53% passed the licensure examination in Nursing Law and Ethics on the first attempt. It showed the significant relationship between post test and licensure examination success ($p < .05$) while it also appeared to be no significant relationship between comprehensive examination success and licensure examination success in Nursing Law and Ethics. Consequently, RTNCN administrators should set policy and methods to better prepare students to be ready for the licensure examination.

Keywords: *comprehensive examination, licensure examination, Nursing Law and Ethics.*

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INTRODUCTION

The Royal Thai Navy College of Nursing (RTNCN), is an nursing academic institutions under the Ministry of Defence and affiliated to *Mahidol University*. The mission is to produce professional nurses with a high competency in order to provide best care and promote health for Navy personnel their family members and societies The Bachelor Graduates have to pass comprehensive examination arranged by Mahidol University and first class licensing examination will be issued to a professional nurse who graduates form a 4- year program. It is arranged by Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council. . There were 8 nursing subjects included Midwifery Nursing, Maternal and Child Nursing, Pediatric and Adolescent Nursing, Adult Nursing Gerontological Nursing Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing, Community Health Nursing and Primary Care Medical and Nursing Law and Ethics. Only those who were granted "Pass" would obtain the licensure [1]. Therefore, being granted the license before actually commencing the profession is very crucial to all nursing graduates; the expectation has put them in a very stressful condition. Obtaining the license is a reflect not only on the students' performance but also the instructors' and the institutes' standards, potential and quality. Hence, Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council has identified the nursing students 'ability to pass the licensure examination at the first attempt as a vital criterion for each nursing institution to be accredited [1]. However, in academic year 2010 - 2012 at the Royal Thai Navy College of Nursing (RTNCN), the results of the nursing comprehensive test in Nursing Law and Ethics showed that the percentages of each year students who could pass the test at the first attempt were less than 95 percent. The RTNCN administrative committee realizes that the number

of nursing graduates who get the license in the first attempt reflect to quality of teaching and learning processes and outcomes, and Nursing Law and Ethics is one of the crucial performance for professional nurses. Hence, RTNCN administration committee set the policy aimed at having generally 70 per cent of each year graduates pass the licensure examination at the first attempt, and at having each department to ensure at least 95 percent of the students to pass tests in each subject including Nursing Law and Ethics.

Research Objectives

The purpose of this study were to

1. To compare the average scores between pre and post entering the project, and
2. To identify the relationship between the preparation processes and the result of the comprehensive examination and licensure examination in Nursing Law and Ethics.
3. To study the opinions of RTNCN Bachelor Graduates on the preparing processes for the comprehensive examination and licensure examination in Nursing Law and Ethics

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample

The participants comprised 86 RTNCN Bachelor Graduates in academic year 2013.

Research Instruments

1. Two set of test were based on Nursing Law and Ethics content. Each set comprises 40 multiple choice items. It contains four-choice items specifically A, B, C and D with one correct answer. Section B and C comprises two and five short item question each. was a 40 items four-choice test.
2. A 7-open-ended opinions survey questions of the RTNCN Bachelor Graduates on the preparation process.

Data Analysis

1. Comparison between Pre and Post test mean scores by using paired t-test.
2. Correlation analysis between test results of the comprehensive examination and the licensure examination by using Pearson correlation coefficient and Chi-Square
3. Analysis of the RTNCN Bachelor Graduates's opinion on the preparation process by using content analysis.

Conceptual Framework

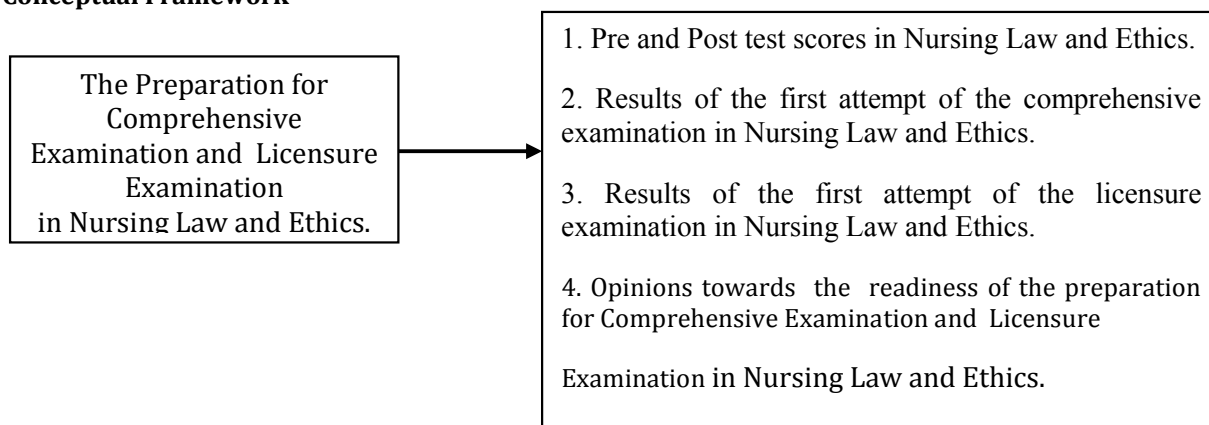


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

RESULTS

The Preparation Model: 3 processes

1. The preparation and motivation process.
2. The cooperative between instructor and RTNCN Bachelor Graduates : analyze test blueprint, set tutoring classes, practice Nursing Law and Ethics test, creating a conducive learning environment, memorize professional Nursing and Midwifery Act. and encourage RTNCN Bachelor Graduates for fighting the tests.
3. The evaluation process: Post test and ask the RTNCN Bachelor Graduates's opinion on the preparation process by using content analysis.

Test Result in Nursing Law and Ethics

Table 1 shows that the test result of the 86 study subjects. 97.84% were pass the Comprehensive Examination while 89.53% were pass Licensure Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics.

Table 1 The Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination Test Result in Nursing Law and Ethics (N = 86)

Test	Test result				Overall	
	Pass		Fail			
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
The Comprehensive Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics.	84	97.67	2	2.33	86	100.00
Licensure Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics.	77	89.53	9	89.53	86	100.00

Comparison between Pre and Post test mean scores in Nursing Law and Ethics

Table 2 shows the Pre and Post test mean scores of the 86 study subjects. There was no significant correlation between the results of both Pre and Post test mean scores with the significance level at .05.

Table 2 The Comparison between Pre and Post test mean scores in Nursing Law and Ethics

Test	mean	SD	t-test	Sig
Pre test	19.28	3.12	1.014	.313
Post test	18.87	2.82		

*P <.05

Correlation analysis between test results of Pre and Post test, Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics

Table 3 shows that there was significant correlation between the results of Post test and Comprehensive Examination with the significance level at .05. While There was no significant correlation between the results of Comprehensive Examination and the results of Licensure Examination with the significance level at .05.

Table 3 Correlation analysis between test results of Pre and Post test, Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics (N = 86)

Test	Comprehensive Examination Result				CHI- SQUARE	sig
	Pass		Fail			
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
PostTestResult						
Pass	35	40.70	1	1.16	3.905	0.047*
Fail	42	48.84	8	9.30		
Comprehensive ExaminationResult						
Pass	75	87.21	9	10.47	.239	.801
Fail	2	2.33	0	0.00		

DISCUSSION**The comparison between Pre and Post Test**

The result revealed that it was no significant correlation between the results of both pre and post test mean scores with the significance level at .05. Cause of result might be time management struggles and prioritizing to find more studying time. Because of there are 8 subjects for testing. They believed that Nursing Law and Ethics is more easily than others, only 40 items while others subjects is 75 items. It should be the last choice for reading. On the other hand codes of ethics for the nursing profession tend to focus on professional behavior and making sure that decision-making is patient driven as much as possible [2].

The correlation between preparation processes and test result

The result showed that there was significant correlation between the results of Post test and Comprehensive Examination with the significance level at .05. It was in accordance with speech "The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure". Passing the post test examination make RTNCN Bachelor

Graduates confident and proud of themselves. Because of limited time, post test examination and Comprehensive Examination were in the same period, Most of them use an effective learning style from post test to prepare for the Comprehensive Examination. On the other hand, Licensure Examination was hold after 1-2 month after their graduation, they had many activities regarding the graduation; hence, the eagerness to prepare themselves for the licensure examination was lowered. With this results of the comprehensive test were not correlated with those of the licensure test which supported the study of Srikanya Pinyosamosorn and Kedsara Sanengam [3] showing the there was no statistically significant correlation between the results of pre- and post-test and licensure test.

Qualitative Data

The results showed that studying for the exam was not easy, but having the Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination meant more job opportunities and improved self confidence for the participants. Successfully passing Licensure Examination increased the participants' proficiency in providing care to patients, their knowledge in nursing, and also helped participants examine their own nursing practices [4,5].

Motivation

The biggest motivation for RTNCN Bachelor Graduates to prepare for the Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination was to "increase job opportunities". And hope to "work with confident" in hospital. Not Only Navy hospitals but it's also in their selected hospitals. Sometimes, they would consider giving it up because they were too busy to study. Being tired physically and mentally also contributed to decreased motivation for studying make them lack of confidence. Consequently They should be motivated by the encouragement of their instructors, families, and those around them.

Time management struggles

All participants needed time to learn the huge amount of information required for Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination. However, they had very limited study time due to their studies in curriculum and other works related duties. They became very stressed out about finding time for studying. However, attending the preparation class in every subjects was also stressful. They tried prioritizing to find more studying time.

Self-confidence and self-esteem

Participants who passed the test successfully received more respect from peer groups and staff members. they would announce it to everyone and receive congratulatory remarks from those around them. Some participants who failed on first try were ashamed of the failure that they wanted to hide themselves. On their second try, they would keep everything in secret and take more time to studying by their own.

Practice Tests

Almost as important, practice tests tell participants which topics they have already mastered. They can then direct their learning to other areas and spend minimal further time on the topics they already know. However, it can reduce test anxiety such as quotation "The more you are accustomed to sitting for a period of time, answering test questions, and pacing yourself, the more comfortable you will feel when you actually sit down to take the test".

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study showed that studying for the exam was not easy, but having the Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination meant more job opportunities and improved self confidence for the participants. The key points for success in Nursing Law and Ethics tests were increase motivation, effective time management, promote self-confidence and self-esteem and do more practice tests. This study provides further evidence in designing tailor interventions prepare for Comprehensive Examination and Licensure Examination in Nursing Law and Ethics. RTNCN administrative team should provide any supporting system such as educational aid, media, etc in order to increase the quantities and qualities for successors.

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