



NURSES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS TEAMWORK IN MATERNITY WARDS AT DE SOYZA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, SRI LANKA

**G.A.G.S. Yasarathne^{1,2}, W.S.R. Sewwandi^{1,2}, G.A.A.K. Gunasinghe^{1,2},
J.K.N. Krishanthi^{1,3}, N. Liyanage^{1*}**

¹*Department of Nursing, The Open University of Sri Lanka*

²*De Soyza Hospital for Women, Colombo 8*

³*District General Hospital, Mathugama*

Teamwork among healthcare professionals is important as it aims to improve efficiency, coordination and quality of care, overcome staff shortage issues and minimize errors. Even though extensive studies can be found in American and European regions, limited research has been conducted in the South Asian region on teamwork. The purpose of this study was to assess nurses' attitude towards nurse-medical officer relationship, nurse-midwife relationship and nurse-health care assistant relationship when working together as a team within the context of the maternity wards at the De Soyza Hospital for Women (DSHW) in Sri Lanka. A quantitative descriptive design was used in this study. A self-administered questionnaire was given to 200 nursing officers at DSHW to collect data. Descriptive statistics were used to present the socio-demographic characteristics and the perception of nurses' towards health care teams. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Ethical Review Committee of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10. Most of the statements regarding nurses' attitudes towards the nurse-medical officer relationship received 55% agreement. Interestingly, nurses' attitudes towards the nurse-midwife relationship was also similar to the nurse-medical officer relationship. Relatively less agreeable responses towards the nurse-health care assistant relationship were observed. Even though most statements received more than 50% agreeable responses, very low agreeing responses were also received. For an example, the statement about health care assistants' voluntary contribution to the tasks assigned to the unit obtained only 41.5%. According to the study findings, nursing professionals have responded by agreeing to most statements whereas less agreement can be seen regarding communication with medical officers. The nurse-midwife teamwork relationship is also at a good level according to the study. However, less agreement was seen for voluntary participation of midwives in the tasks assigned to the unit. A similar response was also observed in the nurse-health care assistant relationship. Comparatively, low agreement was observed for attitudes towards nurse-healthcare assistant teamwork relationship than nurse-medical officers, and nurse-midwife team work relationship. Thus, the teamwork relationship between nurses and health care assistant at the maternity wards of DSHW must be improved in order to provide high quality patient care.



Keywords: Teamwork, Nurses' attitudes, Nurse-medical officer relationship, Nurse-midwife relationship, Nurse-health care assistant relationship

**Corresponding author: nimal_l@hotmail.com*