Abstract

**Background & Aim:** Nurses are always faced with ethical issues in their daily clinical function and is expected to play an active role in solving ethical challenges during care. When the nurse is asked to say the ethical problems that they face during care, they often refer these challenges to conscience. So that their conscience forbids them from certain acts and commands to other acts. This study was conducted with the aim to determine the Assessment of perception of conscience and related factors in nurses and nursing students in Gonabad University of Medical Sciences.

**Material & Methods:** this cross-sectional study was conducted on \( \text{111} \) nurses working in Gonabad hospitals and \( \text{111} \) nursing students of Gonabad University of Medical Sciences. Data were collected through demographic information questionnaire and nursing conscience comprehension questionnaire. Data analysis was performed by using the SPSS \( \text{v1} \) software, descriptive and independent \( T \)-test and Pearson correlation.

**Results:** The mean age of the students were \( 28.12 \pm 1.1 \) and the majority of them \( (61\%) \) were women. The mean age of the nurses were \( 39.77 \pm 6.66 \) and the majority of them \( (16.66\%) \) were women. The mean score of nursing conscience comprehension questionnaire among students was \( 30.32 \pm 13.05 \) and among nurses was \( 35.89 \pm 8.83 \). Pearson correlation test showed that there was no direct and meaningful relationship between the general score of nursing conscience comprehension questionnaire in nurses and the general score of nursing conscience comprehension questionnaire in nursing students \( (P = 1.12) \).

**Conclusion:** Nurses are expected to display more conscientious behaviors due to their presence in the clinic and exposure to ethical situations.

It is recommended that nursing managers and nursing educators take the necessary measures to make conscientious use more effective when providing clinical services, by nursing students and nurses.

**Key words:** Consciousness understanding, Nurses, Nursing student