

Abstract

Original Article

Critical Thinking Competence and Dispositions among Critical Care Nurses: A Descriptive Study

Dikmen Yurdanur, RN, PhD

Associate Professor Sakarya University School of Health Department of Nursing, Sakarya, Turkey

Correspondence: Dikmen Yurdanur, Associate Professor Sakarya University School of Health Department of Nursing, Sakarya, Turkey E mail: nurdem.35@gmail.com

Abstract

Introduction: Critical thinking is widely accepted as being associated with the provision of quality care.

Aim: The aim of the study was to describe critical thinking dispositions among critical care nurses in Turkey, and to study whether background data had any impact on critical thinking dispositions.

Methodology: A descriptive study was performed. The data were collected between July 2014 to October 2014 using the nurse identification form and the California Critical Thinking Disposition Inventory (CCTDI). The sample included 85 nurses who were working at the public hospital and who volunteered to participate in the study. Data were analyzing used Kruskal-Wallis test, Pearson Correlation analyses and Mann-Whitney U test.

Results: This study, the average CTD scores of the total sample of critical care nurses was 194.11 ± 14.21 , meaning that the CTD scores at the low level. The mean scores for systematicity, CT self-confidence, open-mindedness, inquisitiveness and truth-seeking were all lower than the target score of 40, indicating weaknesses in those areas of critical thinking. Age and education level and years of experience of nurses not affects critical thinking disposition. This study found that nurses having certificate about intensive care unit have significantly high total critical thinking disposition score than the nurse lack of intensive care certificate ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: In this study the results were indicated as low level disposition toward CT of critical care nurses. In order to strengthen clinical competence in nurses, the development and enhancement of critical thinking should be emphasized at the college level and nurses should be empowered to make a clinical decision. Development of critical thinking disposition in nursing must be provided educational opportunities of the institutional and outside the institution.

Keywords: California Critical Thinking Disposition Inventory, critical thinking, critical care nurses, nurse education.