

Correspondence

Moral courage: A suitable solution for reducing nursing error reporting

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<https://doi.org/10.32598/JNRCP.23.52>

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To the Editor

As one of the most undesirable and common events within medical environments and healthcare systems around the world, medical errors are considered an essential indicator of a reduction in quality of care and are likely to pose a threat to the patient's safety and incur plenty of costs for the health care system as a whole [1, 2]. Developed nations report errors more often than developing countries. Southeast Asia's rate ranges from 15.2% to 88.6% [3]. Care quality can be improved through ethical principles in nursing. Nurses should prevent errors to minimize therapeutic interventions' side effects [4].

The right to safe care is a patient's right, and nurses play a critical role. Nursing professionals today face several ethical challenges due to their working conditions. Moral courage encourages nurses to adhere to ethical principles and prevents them from doing anything unethical. Nurses' moral competence is also affected by moral courage. As a result, they can support and care for patients appropriately [5]. There are several reasons why medical errors are not reported, but the most significant is fear. Managers' unfavorable behavior and job loss due to nurses' poor performance can prevent nurses from revealing unethical actions. The ability to act ethically regardless of negative consequences depends on moral courage [6]. Nurses prioritize patients' interests over their own and adhere to ethical principles regardless of possible risks or consequences.

Furthermore, promoting moral courage among nurses can empower personnel, enhance communication, and improve patient care [7]. Nurses must be able to identify influential factors for reducing common errors in their nursing field. They need to report these errors. There have been few studies, but there is no doubt that moral courage plays a significant role in improving nursing ethics including reporting common nursing errors. Therefore, it is crucial to identify ethical courage factors. As a result, it is recommended that more research be conducted in the field of moral courage and its relationship to nursing error reporting.

Acknowledgements

Not applicable.

Authors' contributions

Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work: AMN, AZK, SE; Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content: AMN, AZK, SE; Final approval of the version to be published: AMN, AZK, SE; Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved: AMN, AZK, SE.

Funding

Self-funded.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Competing interests

We do not have potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets used during the current study are available from the corresponding author on request.

Using artificial intelligent chatbots

None.

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How to cite this article: Nazari AM, Zare-Kaseb A, Esmaeili S. Moral courage: A suitable solution for reducing nursing error reporting. *J Nurs Rep Clin Pract.* 2024;2(2):116-117.

<https://doi.org/10.32598/JNRCP.23.52>.