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SUREERUT PORNWATTANAKUL : PROFESSIONAL NURSE ETHICAL
BEHAVIORS IN HOSPITALS IN NONTHABURI PROVINCE INDICATION IN NURSING
MIDWIFERY PROFESSIONAL ACT B.E.2528. THESIS ADVISORS : NAWARAT
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Ethical behavior is an essential component of professional nursing practice controlled by Regulation of Nursing Council in the section of limits and conditions for professional nursing practice indicated in the Nursing and Midwifery Professional Act B.E. 2528. Nevertheless, ethical problems arise in complaints about these services. Hospitals in Nonthaburi province have not yet had any evaluation of professional nursing ethics. The objective of this explanatory research is to determine the professional nurses' ethical behavior by studying the correlation among attitude toward professional nurses, organization climate and professional nurses' ethical behavior. The research population size consisted of 305 professional nurses from six hospitals in Nonthaburi province. Data collection was conducted by using questionnaires from 12nd February to 11st March 1999. Total of 300 completed questionnaires (98.36 percent) were received for the study.

The results were as follow. Professional nurses had mean age of 34.57 years and most of them were single. About 82.7 percent worked on shift, 94.7 percent were graduated nurses and most of them (70.0 percent) had been trained concerning professional ethical behavior. Professional nurses' ethical behavior in hospitals in Nonthaburi province was at moderate level (72.3 percent). In addition, ethical behaviors in gentleness and discipline were at high levels (65.3 percent and 60.3 percent respectively). Ethical behavior in kindness was at low level (20.0 percent). Nurses' attitude toward nursing profession was at moderate level (68.0 percent). Especially, nursing professionalism was at high level (22.0 percent) where as nursing practice was at low level (15.3 percent). Nursing profession organizational climate was at moderate level (73.0 percent). There was a good level in unanimity (15.3 percent), but organization structure and conflict were at a level that needed improvement (18.7 percent). Nurses' attitude toward nursing profession and organization climate positively related to ethical behaviors in nursing practice at 0.05 significance level. Unanimity, nursing practice attitude and relationship with the patient contributed to effective predictions of ethical behavior. These predictions accounted for 16.7 percent of variation in ethical behavior. The study suggests that a more warm organizational climate, unanimity, nursing practice attitude, good relationship with the patient and kindness should be developed. This can help increase the quality of nursing practice.