

International Emergency Nursing

Volume 55, March 2021, 100955

Review

Disaster preparedness among nurses of developing countries: An integrative review

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Received 22 July 2020, Revised 26 October 2020, Accepted 21 November 2020, Available online 14 January 2021.



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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ienj.2020.100955

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Highlights

- Nurses of developing countries remain inadequately prepared to deal with disasters.
- Education and training as well as organizational factors were associated with disaster preparedness.
- Skills for leadership and communication, resource mobilization, health economics, risk analysis, and epidemiology, are essential.
- Training and education on disaster nursing, simulated disaster drills and exercises are strongly recommended strategies.





Abstract

Background

Nurse preparedness and prompt response are essential to save lives and reduce the consequences of disasters and emerging pandemics. This paper aimed to synthesize the available evidence that demonstrates the adequacy on disaster preparedness among nurses in developing countries.

Methods

Five stages of the integrative review approach were employed. Seventeen articles from 2010 to 2019 were selected using different databases after a quality appraisal performed by two researchers independently. The findings were summarized and synthesized based on the themes concerning disaster preparedness among nurses.

Results

The major themes emerged were disaster knowledge and perceived self-preparedness. Nurses were found to have a weak-to-average or a low-to-moderate level of disaster preparedness based on their knowledge and perception. Education and training were discovered to be vital factors, often requiring a variety of strategies, for the enhancement of the nurses' preparedness level.

Conclusion

This review concludes that nurses in developing countries remain inadequately prepared on all domains of disaster nursing competencies. Therefore, providing well-designed disaster nursing educational packages, training manuals, and support to attend disaster drills or partake in actual disaster events are essential to the enhancement of disaster preparedness and the retention of relevant skills among nurses in all sectors.

<	Previous	Next	>

Keywords

Disaster preparedness; Developing countries; Integrative review; Nurses