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## Nursing Professional Students' Perceptions Of The Indonesian Nursing Code Of Ethics

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### Abstrak

Kode etik keperawatan profesional merupakan dasar bagi praktik keperawatan yang etis dan bertanggung jawab yang menekankan pentingnya kompetensi dalam memberikan perawatan yang sesuai dengan ilmu pengetahuan dan praktik terkini. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk mengetahui persepsi mahasiswa profesi ners tentang kode etik keperawatan Indonesia. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kuantitatif. Sampel penelitian ini berjumlah 23 mahasiswa profesi ners Universitas Bina Sehat PPNI yang sedang menjalani pendidikan profesi di Rumah Sakit Al Islam H. Mawardi Sidoarjo yang diambil dengan teknik total sampling. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan kuesioner Persepsi tentang Kode Etik Keperawatan. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan analisis univariat dan disajikan dalam bentuk distribusi frekuensi. Hasil penelitian meliputi: 1) Seluruh responden memahami definisi kode etik (100.0%); 2) Sebagian besar responden sering menerapkan kode etik (87.0%) dan melaksanakan prinsip kode etik (100.0%); 3) Sebagian responden memiliki hambatan kurang pengetahuan (39.1%) dan hambatan dipengaruhi oleh lingkungan (87.0%); 4) Sebagian besar responden sangat setuju kode etik menjadi pedoman asuhan keperawatan (73.9%) dan dianggap penting sosialisasi kode etik di institusi pendidikan (95.7%); 5) Seluruh responden memahami kode etik perawat dan klien (100.0%); 6) Seluruh responden memahami kode etik perawat dan praktik (100.0%); 7) Seluruh responden memahami kode etik perawat dan masyarakat (100.0%); 8) Seluruh responden memahami hubungan baik dengan teman sejawat sangat penting (100.0%) dan sebagian besar memahami bahwa perawat bertindak melindungi klien (91.3%); 9) Seluruh responden memahami kode etik perawat dan profesi (100.0%). Kode etik keperawatan memiliki peranan yang sangat penting dalam praktik keperawatan. Pemahaman terhadap kode etik keperawatan khususnya Kode Etik Keperawatan Indonesia menjadikan dasar seorang perawat untuk menjalankan profesinya dalam memberikan asuhan keperawatan.

Kata Kunci: *Kode Etik Keperawatan, Kode Etik Keperawatan Indonesia, Keperawatan, Mahasiswa*

### Abstract

The professional nursing code of ethics is the basis for ethical and responsible nursing practice which emphasizes the importance of competence in providing care by current science and practice. This research aims to determine the perceptions of nursing professional students regarding the Indonesian nursing code of ethics. This research was quantitative descriptive research. The sample for this research consisted of 23 professional nursing students from Bina Sehat PPNI University who were undergoing professional education at Al Islam H. Mawardi Hospital, Sidoarjo, taken using a total sampling technique. Data was collected using the Perceptions of Nursing Code of Ethics questionnaire. Data were analyzed using univariate analysis and presented as a frequency distribution. The research results include: 1) All respondents understand the definition of a code of ethics (100.0%); 2) Most respondents often apply the code of ethics (87.0%) and implement the principles of the code of ethics (100.0%); 3) Some respondents had barriers of lack of knowledge (39.1%) and barriers influenced by the environment (87.0%); 4) The majority of respondents strongly agree that the code of ethics is a guideline for nursing care (73.9%) and consider it important to disseminate the code of ethics in educational institutions (95.7%); 5) All respondents understand the code of ethics for nurses and clients (100.0%); 6) All respondents understand the nurse's code of ethics and practice (100.0%); 7) All respondents understand the code of ethics for nurses and the community (100.0%); 8) All respondents understand that good relationships with colleagues are very important (100.0%) and most understand that nurses act to protect clients (91.3%); 9) All respondents understand the code of ethics for nurses and the profession (100.0%). The nursing code of ethics has a vital role in nursing practice. Understanding the nursing code of ethics, especially the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics, is the basis for nurses to carry out their profession in providing nursing care.

Keywords: *Nursing Code of Ethics, Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics, Nursing, Nursing Students*

### INTRODUCTION

The professional nursing code of ethics is the basis for ethical and responsible nursing practice. The code of ethics emphasizes the importance of competence in providing care by current science and practice. Nurses must continue developing themselves to provide the best care for patients. As prospective professionals, nursing students often face ethical dilemmas during professional practice. Mastering the nursing code of ethics ensures that nurses make the right decisions and act according to expected professional standards. Nursing profession students' perceptions of the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics at Al Islam H Mawardi Sidoarjo Hospital are where they hone their skills, including understanding and applying the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics. Therefore, this research was conducted to determine the perceptions of nursing professional students towards the nursing code of ethics to help improve the future

educational curriculum and professional practice (Rifai et al., 2021).

The urgency in this research is to equip nursing professional students with an understanding of the nursing code of ethics to ensure they can face ethical dilemmas wisely and professionally during practice. Curriculum Improvements The results of this research can be used to evaluate and improve the nursing education curriculum at UBS, ensuring that aspects of the code of ethics are given sufficient attention. Standards of Professional Practice Where students can understand student perceptions of the code of ethics to help educational institutions and hospitals create an environment that supports the application of high standards of professional practice, then improve the quality of health services by increasing understanding and code implementation nursing ethics, the quality of health services provided by prospective professional nurses can be improved, which will ultimately increase patient satisfaction and safety. This research aims to determine the perceptions of nursing professional students regarding the Indonesian nursing code of ethics (Numminen et al., 2009).

#### RESAERCH METHOD

This quantitative descriptive study aimed to determine nursing professional students' perceptions regarding the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics. The sample for this research consisted of 23 professional nursing students from Bina Sehat PPNI University who were currently undergoing professional education at Al Islam H. Mawardi Hospital, Sidoarjo. The sampling technique used in this research was total sampling. Data collection was carried out using the Perceptions of Nursing Code of Ethics questionnaire which consists of 9 domains, including: 1) Understanding the code of ethics; 2) Implementation of a code of ethics; 3) Obstacles in implementing the code of ethics; 4) General perception of the code of ethics; 5) Code of ethics for nurses and clients; 6) Nurse code of ethics and practice; 7) Code of ethics for nurses and the community; 8) Code of ethics for nurses and colleagues; 9) Code of ethics for nurses and the profession. Data were analyzed using univariate analysis and presented as a frequency distribution.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Respondent Characteristics

Table 1 Average Age of Respondents

Variable	Mean	Median	SD	Min-Max	95% CI
Usia	23.48	23.00	0.66	23.00-25.00	23.19-23.77

\*Data is normally distributed

The research results, shown in Table 1, show that the median age of respondents is 23.00, with the youngest being 23.00 and the oldest being 25.00.

Table 2 Frequency Distribution Based on Respondent's Gender

Variable		n	%
Gender	Male	4	17.4
	Female	19	82.6
Total		46	100.0

The research results based on Table 2 show that the majority of respondents' gender were women, 46 respondents (82.6%).

### Perceptions about understanding the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics

The research results based on Table 3 show that all respondents understand the definition of a code of ethics as many as 23 respondents (100.0%) and consider that a code of ethics is important in daily practice as many as 23 respondents (100.0%). Based on Table 4, the research results show that most respondents often apply the nursing code of ethics during practice: 20 respondents (87.0%) consistently implement the principles of the code of ethics when interacting with patients; 23 respondents (100.0%).

Table 3 Frequency Distribution Based on Understanding the Code of Ethics

Variable		n	%
Understanding the Code of Ethics			
Definition of code of ethics	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Codes of ethics are important in daily practice	Important	23	100.0
	Quite Important	0	0.0
	Not Important	0	0.0

Table 4 Frequency Distribution Based on Implementation of the Code of Ethics

Variable		n	%
Application of the Code of Ethics			
Application of the nursing code of ethics during practice	Often	20	87.0
	Sometimes	3	13.0
	Seldom	0	0.0
Implementation of the principles of the code of ethics when interacting with patients	Yes, always	23	100.0
	Yes, sometimes	0	0.0
	Never	0	0.0

Table 5 Frequency Distribution Based on Barriers to Implementing the Code of Ethics

Variable		n	%
Barriers to Implementing the Code of Ethics			
Barriers to implementing the nursing code of Ethics	Lack of knowledge	9	39.1
	Lack of good role models	8	34.8
	Inadequate facilities and infrastructure	6	26.1
The influence of the environment on the implementation of the nursing code of ethics	Great	20	87.0
	Moderate	3	13.0
	Little	0	0

Table 6 Frequency Distribution Based on General Perceptions of the Code of Ethics

Variable		n	%
General Perceptions of Codes of Ethics			
The code of ethics must be a guideline in nursing care	Strongly Agree	17	73.9
	Agree	5	21.7
	Not Agree	1	4.3
The importance of socializing the code of ethics in educational institutions	Important	22	95.7
	Quite Important	1	4.3
	Not Important	0	0.0

Table 7 Frequency Distribution Based on the Code of Ethics for Nurses and Clients

Variable		n	%
Code of Ethics for Nurses and Clients			
Nurses must respect human dignity as clients	Yes	23	100.0

	No	0	0.0
The nurse's primary responsibility is to clients who require nursing care	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Nurses are obliged to keep everything they know confidential except for legal purposes	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0

Table 8 Frequency Distribution Based on Nurse Code of Ethics and Practice

Variable		n	%
Code of Nursing Ethics and Practice			
Nurses must improve their competency in the field of nursing	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
The quality of nursing services must be maintained high by applying knowledge and honesty	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Nurses' decisions must be based on accurate information	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Nurses always uphold the good name of the nursing profession	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0

Table 9 Frequency Distribution Based on the Code of Ethics for Nurses and the Community

Variable		n	%
Code of Ethics for Nurses and Society			
Nurses have a shared responsibility with society to support activities to improve health	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0

Table 10 Frequency Distribution Based on the Code of Ethics for Nurses and Colleagues

Variable		n	%
Code of Ethics for Nurses and Colleagues			
Good relationships with colleagues are very important to achieve service goals	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Nurses act to protect clients from health workers who provide health services	Yes	21	91.3
	No	2	8.7

Table 11 Frequency Distribution Based on the Nursing and Professional Code of Ethics

Variable		n	%
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Nurse and Professional Code of Ethics			
Nurses are active in various nursing professional development activities	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0.0
Nurses actively participate in efforts to establish and maintain conducive working conditions	Yes	23	100.0
	No	0	0

The research results based on Table 6 show that the majority of respondents strongly agree that the code of ethics is a guideline in nursing care as many as 17 respondents (73.9%) and the perception of most respondents regarding the importance of socializing the code of ethics in educational institutions is 22 respondents (95.7%). The research results based on Table 7 show that all respondents understand that nurses must respect human dignity as clients; as many as 23 respondents (100.0%), all respondents understand that the primary responsibility of nurses is clients who need nursing care 23 respondents (100.0%). All respondents understand that nurses must keep everything they know confidential, except for legal interests, 23 respondents (100.0%).

The research results based on Table 8 show that all respondents understand that nurses must improve their competency in the field of nursing as many as 23 respondents (100.0%), all respondents understand that the quality of nursing services must be maintained high by applying knowledge and honesty as many as 23 respondents (100.0%), all respondents 23 respondents (100.0%) understand that nurses' decisions must be based on accurate information, and 23 respondents (100.0%) understand that nurses always uphold the good name of the nursing profession.

Based on Table 9, the research results show that all respondents, as many as 23 respondents (100.0%), understand that nurses have a shared responsibility with the community to support activities to improve health. The research results based on Table 10 show that all respondents understand that good relationships with colleagues are very important to achieve service goals; as many as 23 respondents (100.0%) and the majority of respondents understand that nurses act to protect clients from health workers who provide health services as many as 21 respondents (91.3%). The research results based on Table 12 show that all respondents understand that nurses are active in various nursing professional development activities as many as 23 respondents (100.0%), and all respondents understand that nurses participate actively in efforts to build and maintain conducive working conditions as many as 23 respondents (100.0%).

## DISCUSSION

The research results show that all respondents (100%) understand that the code of ethics is important in daily practice. The Nursing Code of Ethics is a moral, ethical and professional guide that regulates nurses' behaviour, responsibilities and obligations in carrying out their duties. This code is designed to maintain the dignity of the profession, protect patient rights, and ensure ethical and professional health care. The code of ethics helps nurses act as providers of humane, dignified services and oriented towards patient needs. The Nursing Code of Ethics covers nurses' relationships with patients, colleagues, the profession, and society. These guidelines also emphasize the importance of honesty, fairness, and respect for human values in nursing practice (Anwar & Anzward, 2021; Bijani et al., 2017).

The application of the code of ethics based on research results shows that most respondents often apply the code of ethics during practice (87.0%) and implement the principles of the code of ethics when interacting with patients (100.0%). Application of the nursing code of ethics in practice includes: 1) Respect for patients; 2) Uphold professionalism; 3) Maintain confidentiality. Implementing the Nursing Code of Ethics is the implementation of nursing ethical principles in daily practice. The goal is to ensure nurses provide professional, ethical, and humane care. The Nursing Code of Ethics can be implemented effectively with good understanding, commitment and support from various parties, including health institutions and professional organizations (Anwar & Anzward, 2021; Bijani et al., 2017).

Barriers to implementing the code of ethics based on the research results were that some respondents lacked knowledge about the nursing code of ethics (39.1%), and most were due to the influence of the environment on the application of the nursing code of ethics (87.0%). Lack of knowledge of the code of ethics occurs because not all nurses understand the content and purpose of the code of ethics, and less effective socialization from professional organizations or institutions causes low awareness of the importance of the code of ethics. Meanwhile, obstacles resulting from environmental influences include: 1) Institutional policies that are not in line with the code of ethics, such as excessive focus on cost efficiency compared to service quality; 2) Pressure from leaders or colleagues to take actions that may violate ethics; 3) There is no ongoing training regarding codes of ethics and ethical dilemma management; 4) Institutions that do not have an ethics committee or clear procedures for dealing with violations of the code of ethics (Hilmi et al., 2018; Partinah et al., 2020).

General perceptions about codes of ethics based on research results show that most respondents strongly agree that codes of ethics should be a guideline in nursing care

(73.9%), and most respondents consider it important regarding the socialization of codes of ethics in educational institutions (95.7%). Perceptions about nursing ethics codes can vary, depending on the individual or group's experience, knowledge, and viewpoint. However, this perception generally includes understanding the function of the code of ethics as a moral and professional guideline in nursing services. The perception of the nursing code of ethics refers to the view that this code is a moral and professional guideline necessary to provide good nursing services (Shayestehfard et al., 2020)

Code of ethics for nurses and clients Based on research results, all respondents understand that nurses must respect human dignity as clients (100.0%); the primary responsibility of nurses is clients who need nursing care (100.0%). Nurses must keep everything they know confidential except legal interests (100.0%). Perceptions of the Nursing Code of Ethics content in the context of the relationship between nurses and patients often reflect the basic ethical principles that govern interaction and service in nursing. The following are several views on how this code of ethics is understood and applied in the nurse-patient relationship, including 1) Patient rights and honour; 2) Competence and professionalism; 3) Justice and equality; 4) Patient autonomy; 5) Quality of care and safety; f) Resolving ethical conflicts; g) Collaboration between professions (Panyuwa, 2024; Rifai et al., 2021).

The nurse's code of ethics and practice based on research results shows that all respondents understand that nurses must improve their competency in the field of nursing (100.0%), the quality of nursing services must be maintained high by applying knowledge and honesty (100.0%), and nurses' decisions must be based on accurate information (100.0%). Perceptions about the content of the nursing code of ethics in the context of the relationship between nurses and nursing practice relate to how the code of ethics functions as a guide for nurses in carrying out their professional duties in the field. The following are several views on how nurses view the contents of the nursing code of ethics related to practice, including 1) Increasing professionalism and competence; 2) Application of ethical values in clinical decisions; 3) Collaboration within the health team; 4) Professional and ethical responsibilities; 5) Facing demands and pressure in practice (Pattyranie & Andriani, 2024).

The code of ethics for nurses and the community based on research results shows that all respondents understand that nurses have a shared responsibility with the community to support activities to improve health (100.0%). Perceptions about the content of the nursing code of ethics in the relationship between nurses and the public focus on how nurses are expected to play a role in maintaining and improving public health

ethically. Codes of ethics provide very important guidelines for interactions between nurses and the public regarding health services and a broader social context. The following are several views on how nurses and the public view the contents of the nursing code of ethics, including 1) Commitment to fair health services, 2) Community empowerment and health education, 3) Respect for the rights and dignity of the community; 4) Social and professional responsibility; 5) Maintain public trust; 6) Collaboration with communities in public health; 7) Responsibility towards the environment (Shayestehfard et al., 2020).

The code of ethics for nurses and colleagues based on research results shows that all respondents understand that good relationships with colleagues are very important to achieve service goals (100.0%), and the majority of respondents understand that nurses act to protect clients from health workers who provide health services (91.3%). Perceptions about the content of the nursing code of ethics in the relationship between nurses and colleagues focus on how nurses view the ethics that govern their professional interactions with colleagues. This code of ethics provides guidelines for maintaining healthy, collaborative, and supportive relationships while ensuring that nurses are held to high professional standards (Bijani et al., 2017).

The code of ethics for nurses and the profession based on research results shows that all respondents understand that nurses are active in various professional development activities (100.0%) and actively participate in efforts to build and maintain conducive working conditions. Perceptions about the contents of the nursing code of ethics in the relationship between nurses and the profession focus on how the code of ethics guides nurses to maintain integrity and professionalism in carrying out their duties. The code of ethics is a reference for maintaining high standards in health services and protecting the reputation and dignity of the nursing profession. The following are several views on how nurses view the contents of the nursing code of ethics about their relationship with the profession: 1) Maintaining the integrity of the profession; 2) Responsibility for professional standards; 3) Increasing competency and continuing education; 4) Respect the dignity of the profession; 5) Maintain professional relationships with fellow health professionals; 6) Application of ethics in daily practice; 7) Social responsibility and concern for society (Obeid & Man, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

The code of ethics for nurses has a vital role in nursing practice, including the code of ethics for nurses and patients, the code of ethics for nurses and practice, the code of ethics for nurses and the community, the code of ethics for nurses and colleagues, and the code of ethics for nurses and the profession. Understanding the nursing code of ethics,

especially the Indonesian Nursing Code of Ethics, is the basis for nurses to carry out their profession in providing nursing care.

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