

ABSTRACT

Knowledge Attitude And Practice Among Practical Nurses Caring For Elderly Clients in Jamaica, January to March 1999

**Sarah J. Henriques
1999**

The knowledge attitude and practice of Practical Nurses who cared for elderly clients were studied over an eight weeks period in selected parishes in Jamaica.

In the study all the respondents were females in the age range 20 to 59 years. Most of the respondents were single and the highest numbers attained the Secondary School education standard. The highest numbers of respondents were qualified at the Jamaica School Certificate (J.S.C.) level. Approximately 81.0% of the respondents were trained as Practical Nurses. Twenty-five different Practical Nursing Schools were responsible for the training of the Practical Nurses. Their hours of theory and practical experiences varied from individual to individual as also the duration of their training. Most respondents had good knowledge base and their attitude towards caring for the elderly clients were also good. Most of the respondents were motivated to care for the elderly clients by the level of nursing education they attained, while others were motivated by the job itself.

There is need for development or improvement of curriculum for the training of Practical Nurses and a definite policy towards the regulation of the training which should ultimately lead to licensure and registration by the Nursing Council of Jamaica.