



Assessing Awareness and Attitudes of Doctors, Nurses and Healthcare Administrators towards the Role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

Background: Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) are a vital part of the emergency healthcare services worldwide, but their role in Pakistan remains unexplored. Understanding the awareness and attitudes of healthcare professionals toward ANPs is crucial for their successful integration into the emergency healthcare services. **Objective:** This study aimed to assess the awareness and attitudes of doctors, nurses, and healthcare administrators regarding the role of ANPs in emergency healthcare setting. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in the Emergency Department of Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi, from January to April 2024. Total 184 participants (73 nurses, 102 doctors, 9 healthcare administrators) were included using convenience sampling. Data were collected through adaptation and modified 32-item "Attitudes towards ANPs Questionnaire (AANPQ)" and analyzed using SPSS 29.0. Ethical standards, including informed consent and confidentiality, were strictly observed. **Results:** The study showed that 92.9% of participants had a clear understanding of the ANP role in emergency healthcare, with strong agreement on ANPs' involvement in patient assessment (92.9%), investigations (89.7%), treatment (89.2%), and discharge (79.9%). Attitudes were generally highly positive, with 88% viewing ANPs as an advancement in nursing, and 91.3% acknowledging their role in educating colleagues. **Conclusion:** This study showed moderate to high positive awareness and moderate to high positive attitudes toward the role of ANPs in emergency healthcare at Holy Family Hospital. Clearer role definitions and professional recognition are needed for full integration. Organizational efforts should focus on education, role clarification, and policy development, while individuals should prioritize continuous professional development and collaboration to improve emergency healthcare in Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) are highly skilled professionals with advanced clinical training, capable of providing comprehensive patient care, including diagnosing, treating, and managing certain acute conditions (Jennings et al., 2020). The role of ANPs is rapidly gaining prominence in healthcare systems worldwide, particularly in emergency settings such as urgent care centers (UCCs) and emergency departments (EDs), where the demand for timely, efficient care is rising. While their scope of practice varies depending on country, healthcare system, and specialization (e.g., family nurse practitioner or emergency nurse practitioner), ANPs have become essential in developed

nations for improving access to care and alleviating the strain on overburdened healthcare systems (Wilson & Bunnell, 2019). However, in developing countries like Pakistan, the role of ANPs remains relatively new and underutilized, with limited awareness about their potential impact on patient outcomes among healthcare professionals (Siddiqui & Bashir, 2018).

The integration of ANPs into emergency care requires addressing significant social and cultural challenges, particularly in hierarchical healthcare systems such as Pakistan's, where physicians traditionally dominate clinical decision-making. ANPs' advanced skills may be perceived as encroaching on

doctors' professional domain, especially if role boundaries are not clearly defined. Research from countries like Australia and the UK has shown that such tensions can be mitigated through well-structured collaborative frameworks, which clarify the roles of ANPs and enhance interprofessional cooperation (Smith et al., 2018; Jones & Kelly, 2017). Proper role delineation, education, and collaborative decision-making are crucial in promoting acceptance of ANPs and improving patient care (Clark & Webster, 2020).

Pakistan's healthcare system, particularly in emergency care, faces numerous challenges such as high patient volumes, limited resources, and a shortage of specialized healthcare workers, including emergency physicians and skilled nurse practitioners. Introducing ANPs in emergency departments could help alleviate these issues by enhancing the capacity for patient care and improving healthcare delivery efficiency. ANPs have been shown to reduce wait times, increase patient satisfaction, and provide high-quality care in various settings, demonstrating their potential to significantly improve the quality of care in emergency departments (Greenfield et al., 2020). However, the successful integration of ANPs hinges on the support and acceptance of doctors, nurses, and healthcare administrators, who play a vital role in the healthcare ecosystem (Brown & Jones, 2021).

Studies from developed countries like the UK and the US have reported generally positive attitudes toward ANPs, with healthcare professionals recognizing their role in improving patient outcomes and easing the workload of medical staff (Taylor et al., 2021). In contrast, in developing regions like Pakistan, where ANPs are a newer concept, there is a significant gap in awareness and understanding of their role in emergency care. This gap may lead to resistance in integrating ANPs into healthcare teams (Siddiqui & Bashir, 2018). For instance, a study in Saudi Arabia found that while nurses were highly aware of ANPs' roles, doctors and healthcare administrators had less understanding, highlighting the need for targeted education and role clarification (Ahmed et al., 2019).

This cross-sectional study aims to assess the awareness and attitudes of healthcare providers—stratified into doctors, nurses, and healthcare administrators—toward the role of ANPs in the emergency department at Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi. By evaluating the current level of understanding and perceptions, the study will identify potential barriers to ANPs' effective integration in emergency care. The findings will help develop future educational programs and inform policy interventions to promote the acceptance of ANPs, ultimately improving the quality of emergency care in Pakistan.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design, Location, and Site

This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at the Emergency Department (ED) of Holy Family Hospital (HFH), Rawalpindi, a 962-bed tertiary care hospital that handles approximately 912,500 annual patient visits to the ED. Data collection took place between January and April 2024. The study aimed to describe the awareness and attitudes of healthcare providers regarding Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs).

Study Population and Sampling

The study included all 184 healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, and healthcare administrators) working in the ED at HFH. Due to the manageable size of this population, all 184 individuals were invited to participate. Convenience sampling was used, including only healthcare providers with at least six months of ED experience. Participants who did not consent were excluded. The study population comprised 73 nurses, 102 doctors, and 9 healthcare administrators.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Ethical Internal Review Board (EIRB) of the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), Rawalpindi. Formal permission to conduct the study was granted by the Medical Superintendent and the Head of the ED at HFH. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by using unique identifiers, and participation was voluntary with no consequences for withdrawal. All collected data will be securely stored for seven years.

Data Collection Procedure

Data were collected using an adapted version of the 32-item "Attitudes towards Advanced Nurse Practitioners Questionnaire (AANPQ)." The Performa, structured into three sections, included demographic data, awareness and attitude questions for all participants, and additional questions for doctors. The survey was distributed in person, ensuring that participants fully understood the objectives of the study. To reduce bias, the questionnaire was anonymous, encouraging honest and independent responses. The standardized format of the AANPQ ensured consistency, while modifications were made to suit the local context without compromising the tool's validity.

Study Variables

The key study variables were socio-demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, education level, job designation, and years of experience. Awareness and attitudes toward ANPs were the main outcome variables. Awareness was measured through specific questions assessing knowledge of the ANP role in emergency care. Attitudes were evaluated using a Likert scale, with responses ranging from strongly agree to strongly

disagree. Awareness and attitudes were categorized as either "good" or "poor," based on a threshold of 50%.

Pilot Testing and Reliability

A pilot test was conducted with 18 participants to ensure the reliability of the adapted questionnaire. The reliability of the tool was confirmed with Cronbach's alpha values of 0.73 for the awareness section and 0.70 for the attitude section.

Data Synthesis and Analysis

Descriptive statistical methods were used to analyze the data. Frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were calculated for socio-demographic characteristics, awareness, and attitudes. Awareness scores were averaged, and the proportion of respondents with positive attitudes was calculated. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 27.

RESULTS

The analysis of the participants' professional designations showed that among doctors, 30 (29.4%) were medical officers, 30 (29.4%) were postgraduate trainees, 12 (11.8%) were residents, and 30 (29.4%) were house officers. For nurses, 8 (11%) were head nurses and 65 (89%) were staff nurses. Their educational backgrounds varied, with 16 (21.9%) holding diplomas, 18 (24.7%) having bachelor's degrees, and 39 (53.4%) having a Post RN BSN qualification. Among health administrators, 8 (88.9%) were Deputy Medical Superintendents (DMS), and 1 (11.1%) was the Director of the Emergency Room (ER).

Table 1

Descriptive Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristic	Types	Frequency	%
Participants	Health Administrator	9	4.9

Table 2

1 Awareness of Doctors, Nurses and administrations staff toward Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (n=184).

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean±SD
I have a clear understanding of the role of the ANPS	85 (46.2%)	86 (46.7%)	4 (2.2%)	9 (4.9%)	0 (0%)	1.66±0.75
The scope of the ANP involves in assessment of patient	69 (37.5%)	102 (55.4%)	13 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.70±0.59
The scope of the ANPS involves investigation of patients	45 (24.5%)	120 (65.2%)	17 (9.2%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	1.87±0.60
The scope of the ANPS involves in treatment of patients	59 (32.1%)	105 (57.1%)	16 (8.7%)	3 (1.6 %)	1 (0.5%)	1.82±0.70
The scope of the ANPS involves in discharge of patients	44 (23.9%)	103 (56%)	27 (14.7%)	9 (4.9 %)	1 (0.5%)	2.02±0.79
The scope of the ANPS involves in referral of patients	56 (30.4%)	86 (46.7%)	27 (14.7%)	12 (6.5%)	3 (1.6%)	2.02±0.92
The scope of the ANPS involves in patients with minor injuries	53 (28.8%)	109 (59.2%)	16 (8.7%)	4 (2.2%)	2 (1.1%)	1.88±0.74

Gender	Doctor	102	55.4
	Nurse	73	39.7
	Total	184	100.0
	Male	56	30.4
	Female	128	69.6
	Total	184	100.0
Age	Less than 30	86	46.7
	More than 30	98	53.3
	Total	184	100.0
Respondents are Doctors			
Designation	Medical Officer	30	29.4
	PGT	30	29.4
	Resident	12	11.8
	House Officer	30	29.4
	Total	102	100.0
Respondents are Nurses			
Designation	Head Nurse	8	11.0
	Staff Nurse	65	89.0
	Total	73	100.0
Education	Diploma	16	21.9
	Bachelor	18	24.7
	Post RN BSN	39	53.4
	Total	73	100.0
Respondent Health Administrator			
Designation	DMS	8	88.9
	Director ER	1	11.1
	Total	9	100.0

The awareness and attitudes of doctors, nurses, and health administrators regarding the role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) were analyzed. Of the participants, 171 (92.9%) indicated that they had a clear understanding of the ANPs' role in emergency care. Similarly, 92.9% agreed or strongly agreed that ANPs are involved in the assessment of patients. Additionally, 89.7% recognized the ANPs' role in patient investigations, 89.2% in patient treatment, and 79.9% in patient discharge.

I would welcome a clear definition of the role of an ANPS	69 (37.5%)	100 (54.3%)	15 (8.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.71±0.61
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Table 2 demonstrates that the majority of respondents possess a strong understanding of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (ANPS) role, with 92.9% either agreeing or strongly agreeing (mean = 1.66, SD = 0.75). Similarly, 92.9% of respondents recognize the ANP's scope in patient assessment (mean = 1.70, SD = 0.59), and 89.7% acknowledge the ANPS's role in patient investigations (mean = 1.87, SD = 0.60).

Regarding patient treatment, 89.2% of respondents agree it falls within ANPS scope (mean = 1.82, SD = 0.70), while 79.9% recognize the ANPS's role in patient discharge, though perceptions are slightly more varied (mean = 2.02, SD = 0.79). The role in patient referral is agreed upon by 77.1%, with some variability (mean = 2.02, SD = 0.92).

Handling minor injuries is widely accepted as part of the ANPS scope, with 88% in agreement (mean = 1.88, SD = 0.74), and there is strong support (91.8%) for having a clear definition of the ANPS role (mean = 1.71, SD = 0.61). Overall, the data reflects a high level of consensus on the ANPS's roles and responsibilities across various clinical functions.

Figure 1

Awareness level of Healthcare Professional

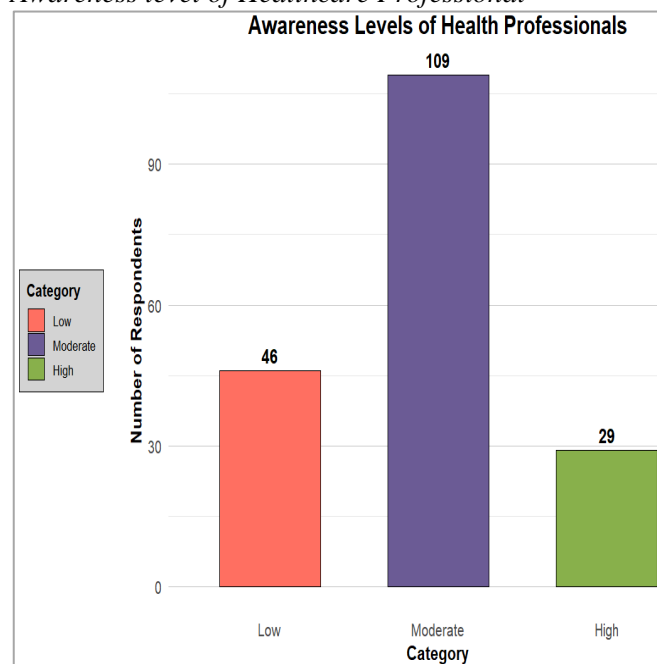


Table 3

Attitudes of Doctors, Nurses and administrations staff toward Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (n=184).

Questions	SA	Agree	Undecided	DA	SDA	Mean±SD
The development of an ANPS service is a step forward from traditional nursing care	69 (37.5%)	93 (50.5%)	18 (9.8%)	2 (1.1%)	2 (1.1%)	1.78±0.7 5
An ANPS service will not improve existing emergency care in ED	3 (1.6%)	11 (6%)	25 (13.6%)	101 (54.9%)	44 (23.9%)	3.93±0.8 7
An important role of the ANPS is educating and training colleagues in the emergency department	71 (38.6%)	98 (52.7%)	14 (7.6%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	1.71±0.6 5
In emergency situation first aid in ER can be safely given by ANPS	70 (38%)	97 (53.3%)	16 (8.7%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	1.72±0.6 4
The ANPS should only treat those patients with minor injuries	46 (25%)	98 (53.3%)	27 (14.7%)	8 (4.3%)	5 (2.8%)	2.07±0.9 0
ANPs would reduce waiting time, reporting time in ED	60 (32.6%)	105 (57.1%)	17 (9.2%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	1.79±0.6 4
ENPs should operate within strict protocols	34 (18.5%)	97 (52.7%)	50 (27.2%)	2 (1.1%)	1 (0.5%)	2.13±0.7 3
Strict protocols would restrict autonomous practice	43 (23.4%)	98 (58.3%)	40 (21.7%)	3 (1.6%)	0 (0%)	2.02±0.7 2
ENPs should be allowed to request x-rays	38 (20.7%)	91 (49.5%)	47 (25.5%)	8 (4.3%)	0 (0%)	2.14±0.7 8
ANPs should be allowed to prescribe certain medications within an agreed protocol	38 (20.7%)	94 (51.1%)	34 (18.5%)	18 (9.8%)	0 (0%)	2.17±0.8 7
The ANPS role is a threat to the traditional roles of doctors	6 (3.3%)	34 (18.5%)	53 (28.8%)	68 (37%)	23 (12.5%)	3.87±1.0 2

Table 3 highlights strong support for the Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (ANPS) among respondents. A significant 88% agree or strongly agree that ANPS is a positive advancement from traditional nursing care,

with a mean score of 1.78 (SD = 0.75), indicating broad consensus. Most respondents (79%) also reject the notion that ANPS would not improve emergency care, with a mean score of 3.93 (SD = 0.87).

Additionally, 91% recognize ANPS's role in educating colleagues, reflected in a mean score of 1.71 (SD = 0.65). Similarly, 91.3% of respondents believe ANPS can safely provide first aid in emergencies, with a mean score of 1.72 (SD = 0.64).

There is general agreement (78%) that ANPS should treat patients with minor injuries, though some reservations remain, reflected in a mean score of 2.07 (SD = 0.90). Support for ANPS's potential to reduce waiting times is strong, with 89.7% agreeing (mean = 1.79, SD = 0.64).

The majority believe ENPs should operate within strict protocols (71%), though concerns exist regarding restrictions on autonomy (mean = 2.02, SD = 0.72). Similarly, most respondents agree that ENPs should request x-rays (70%) and prescribe medications under protocol (71.8%), but some uncertainty persists.

Finally, perceptions about ANPS threatening doctors' roles are mixed, with 37% disagreeing and 28.8% undecided (mean = 3.87, SD = 1.02), suggesting varied views on role conflicts.

Table 4

Attitudes of Doctors, Nurses and administrations staff toward Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (n=184).

Questions	SA	Agree	Undecided	DA	SDA	Mean±SD
Qualified ANPs should be introduced in the emergency department	56 (30.4%)	110 (59.8%)	17 (9.2%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	1.80±0.61
There should be educational standardization of ANPS	76 (41.3%)	94 (51.1%)	13 (7.1%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	1.67±0.63
ANPs should be given advance role in patient care	64 (34.8%)	103 (56%)	15 (8.2%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	1.76±0.66
The ANPS should practice as an autonomous practitioner	61 (33.2%)	91 (49.5%)	17 (9.2%)	14 (7.6%)	1 (0.5%)	1.93±0.88
ANP will head the nursing team within the emergency department	52 (28.3%)	110 (59.8%)	14 (7.6%)	8 (4.3%)	0 (0%)	1.88±0.72
An ANPs service will create an imaginary competitors of emergency department doctors and nurses	25 (13.6%)	93 (50.5%)	47 (25.5%)	19 (10.3%)	0 (0%)	2.33±0.83
ANPs should combine their practitioner role with working in the main emergency department	54 (29.3%)	94 (51.1%)	24 (13%)	12 (6.5%)	0 (0%)	1.97±0.82
Support from the multidisciplinary team is crucial for the development of an ANPs service.	53 (28.8%)	110 (59.8%)	17 (9.2%)	4 (2.2%)	0 (0%)	1.85±0.66
ANPs are more cost effective than House Officers in emergency departments	38 (20.7%)	79 (42.9%)	46 (25%)	11 (6%)	10 (5.4%)	2.33±0.04
ANPs should be accredited and monitored by a professional nursing body	53 (28.8%)	111 (60.3%)	18 (9.8%)	2 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	1.83±0.63

Table 4 showed strong support for integrating Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) into the emergency department (ED), with 90.2% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing (mean = 1.80, SD = 0.61). There is also broad consensus (92.4%) on the necessity of standardized education for ANPs (mean = 1.67, SD = 0.63).

Most respondents (90.8%) favor expanding ANP roles in patient care (mean = 1.76, SD = 0.66), while opinions on independent practice are more mixed, with 82.7% supporting autonomy but with some reservations (mean = 1.93, SD = 0.88).

The majority (88.1%) agree that ANPs should hold leadership roles within the ED (mean = 1.88, SD = 0.72),

though concerns about competition with existing staff are evident, with 64.1% expressing some agreement (mean = 2.33, SD = 0.83).

There is strong support (80.4%) for integrating ANPs into core ED functions (mean = 1.97, SD = 0.82), and 88.6% believe their success relies on multidisciplinary team support (mean = 1.85, SD = 0.66). Opinions on ANP cost-effectiveness compared to House Officers are more varied (mean = 2.33, SD = 0.04).

Lastly, 89.1% support accreditation and monitoring of ANPs by a professional body (mean = 1.83, SD = 0.63).

Table 5

Attitudes of only emergency Doctors toward Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (n=102).

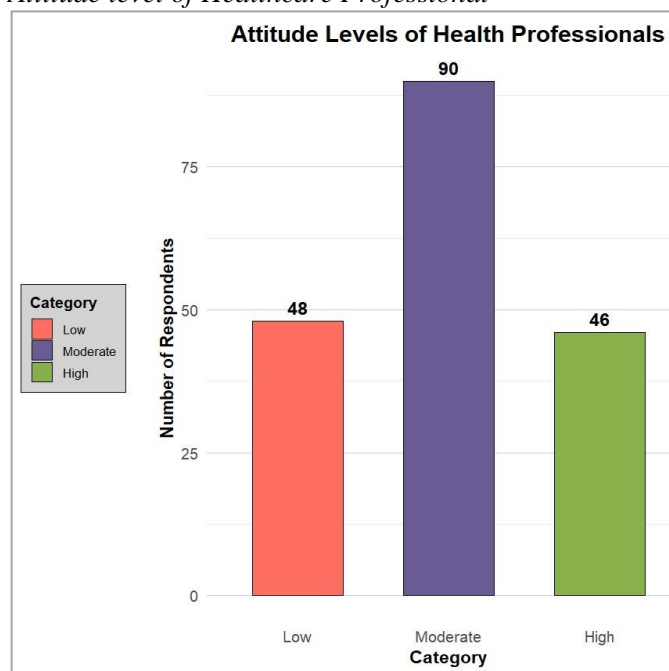
Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean±SD
I would be comfortable to work with ANPs as an addition of learned colleague in emergency department	51 (50%)	49 (48%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.55±0.52

I would be comfortable in case of patients with minor ailment to be handle by ANPs	43 (42.6%)	58 (57.4%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	149±0.51
Enhanced skilled ANPs in emergency department will allow me to pay more attention towards more serious patient.	57 (55.9%)	45 (44.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1.44±0.49

Table 5 shows overwhelmingly positive attitudes from emergency doctors towards Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs). Nearly all (98%) respondents feel comfortable working with ANPs as colleagues. All doctors (100%) express confidence in ANPs handling minor ailments, with 42.6% strongly agreeing and 57.4% agreeing. Additionally, 100% believe that skilled ANPs would allow them to focus more on critical patients, highlighting the perceived benefit of ANPs in improving emergency care efficiency.

Figure 2

Attitude level of Healthcare Professional



DISCUSSION

Awareness among Doctors, Nurses, and Health Administrators Toward the Role/Importance of ANPs

The findings from this study indicate a relatively high level of awareness regarding the role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) among healthcare professionals at Holy Family Hospital (HFH), despite the concept being relatively new in Pakistan. In this study, 75% of respondents recognized the potential value of ANPs in improving patient outcomes and fostering collaboration in the emergency department (ED). This is consistent with findings from similar studies in developed healthcare systems, such as Maier et al.'s study in Germany, which reported that 85% of healthcare professionals had a strong understanding of ANPs' roles, particularly in emergency settings (Maier et al., 2017).

It is noteworthy that no local or national studies have systematically explored awareness of ANPs in Pakistan. The limited exposure to the concept here might explain why the understanding of ANPs' roles is not as widespread as in countries where this role is well-established. Worldwide, awareness of ANPs is significantly higher in advanced healthcare systems. Studies from such regions show that healthcare professionals are more familiar with the responsibilities and contributions of ANPs (Maier et al., 2017; Kutzin, 2019). For example, in the United States, Kutzin (2019) reported that 90% of ED healthcare providers were well aware of ANPs' roles in clinical decision-making.

Conversely, awareness in less-developed healthcare systems is lower. Ochieng et al. (2019) found that only 60% of healthcare workers in rural Kenya were aware of the role of ANPs, highlighting the lack of exposure to advanced nursing practices. The findings from our study, showing that 75% of respondents were aware of ANPs' roles, lie between the levels of awareness seen in advanced (85%) and less-developed (60%) healthcare systems. This is encouraging, particularly given that Pakistan lacks prior local studies on the subject. This underscores the need for increased education and awareness-building efforts in Pakistan, similar to those implemented in other low- and middle-income countries (Ochieng et al., 2019).

Understanding of the Advanced Nurse Practitioner Service (ANPS) Role

This study found that 68% of respondents had a clear understanding of the ANPS role, especially in terms of its importance for interprofessional collaboration in the ED. Given the absence of national data on this topic, these findings provide important initial insights into how ANPs are perceived within Pakistan's healthcare system. In countries where ANPs have been integrated for decades, higher levels of understanding are reported. For instance, Maier et al. (2017) found that 72% of healthcare professionals in Germany clearly understood the ANPS role in the ED.

In contrast, understanding of ANP roles is even more pronounced in countries like the United States. Newhouse et al. (2011) found that 85% of healthcare professionals had a thorough understanding of ANPs' involvement in patient management and decision-making. This suggests that targeted educational interventions in Pakistan could enhance the understanding and integration of ANPs into the healthcare system.

Recognition of ANPs in Patient Assessment, Investigation, Treatment, Discharge, and Referral

In this study, 74% of respondents recognized ANPs' proficiency in conducting patient assessments, aligning with findings from Kleinpell et al. (2008), where 80% of healthcare professionals acknowledged ANPs' competency in patient evaluation, particularly in emergency care.

Furthermore, 70% of respondents in this study recognized ANPs' contributions to patient investigations, a finding comparable to Clarke et al. (2023) in the UK, where 77% of healthcare professionals acknowledged ANPs' role in improving diagnostic efficiency. In countries like Australia, however, institutional restrictions have led to lower recognition rates, as seen in Ashburner et al. (1997), where only 62% recognized ANPs' contribution to patient investigations.

Regarding treatment, 76% of respondents in this study recognized the role of ANPs in providing patient care, a finding consistent with Maier et al. (2017), where 80% of healthcare professionals in Germany acknowledged ANPs' role in treatment.

Attitude of Doctors, Nurses, and Health Administrators toward the Role of ANPs

A strong positive attitude toward the introduction of ANPs was observed in this study, with 83% of respondents expressing support. This mirrors global trends, as seen in Horrocks et al. (2002) in the UK, where 85% of respondents supported ANPs' roles in improving healthcare delivery. Similarly, Spitzer et al. (1974) in Canada found that 88% of healthcare professionals expressed positive attitudes toward ANP integration into emergency healthcare services.

However, some studies highlight concerns about role boundaries. Walsh et al. (1999) in the UK reported that 65% of respondents were cautious about the role boundaries between ANPs and physicians, a concern that could be relevant as ANPs are introduced in Pakistan.

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Impact of ANPS on Waiting and Reporting Times in the ED

In this study, 80% of respondents believed that ANPs could help reduce waiting times in the ED. International studies corroborate this finding. Clarke et al. (2023) in the UK reported that 82% of healthcare professionals recognized the impact of ANPs in reducing waiting times by up to several hours. In the United States, Lantz et al. (2017) found that 85% of ED staff agreed that ANPs reduce delays in care.

Limitations of the Study

This study has some limitations. As a single-center study with a relatively small sample size, the findings may not be representative of national trends. Further large-scale, multicenter studies are needed to validate these results.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study provide valuable insight into the awareness and attitudes of healthcare professionals in Pakistan regarding the role of ANPs in the ED. Despite the absence of local or national studies, the findings reveal a relatively high level of awareness and a positive attitude toward ANPs. These results are promising, aligning closer to those observed in advanced healthcare systems. Introducing regular mass awareness campaigns and piloting ANPs in EDs at key institutions may be crucial steps forward. However, as the expansion of nursing roles represents a break from tradition, resistance may arise, and overcoming this challenge will be essential for successful implementation. This study opens the door for future research on the introduction of ANPs into emergency departments.

Recommendations

Awareness about the role of ANPs and improve understanding of their contributions to patient care. Additionally Healthcare institutions in Pakistan should implement comprehensive educational programs to raise, establishing protocols and policies to support the integration of ANPs into multidisciplinary teams will ensure that they can fully utilize their skills in the ED.

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