

Relationship between nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation and self-concept

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ABSTRACT

Background: Awareness of hospital accreditation and self-concept among nursing staff is crucial for maintaining high-quality healthcare services. Accreditation sets standards for care quality and operational efficiency, while self-concept influences nurses' confidence, professional identity, and commitment to excellence. **Aim:** To investigate the relationship between nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation and self-concept. **Design:** A descriptive correlational study design was used to achieve the aim of this study. **Setting:** The study was conducted at Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital **Sample:** 465 staff nurses working at all in patient departments of Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital affiliated to Ministry of health in Qalyubia Governorate. **Tools:** Three tools were used for data collection namely; Nurses' awareness of accreditation questionnaire, Accreditation experience questionnaire and Self-concept questionnaire. **Results:** less than two thirds (64.1%) expressed low total level of accreditation experience and less than half (40.4%) of them had total moderate self-concept. **Conclusion:** This study revealed a highly significant correlation between the nursing staff's awareness of accreditation standards and self-concept. These findings highlight the importance of fostering awareness and accreditation experiences to improve self-concept among nursing staff. **Recommendations:** Develop comprehensive awareness programs through implementing continuous education and training programs to enhance nursing staff's understanding of hospital accreditation standards.

Keywords: *Hospital Accreditation, Nurses and Self-concept*

Introduction

Economic growth and interest in global health have led to a demand for quality improvement in health care. Additionally, changes in the external environment, medical institutions are making great efforts to meet the needs of high-quality medical services and medical consumers. People's interest in quality is increasing. Accordingly, the medical community can promote quality improvement in the domestic

medical environment in order to provide safe medical services to medical institutions, and efforts to obtain accreditation (Petrović et al., 2022).

By treating safety management and patient identification as important factors in preventing patient safety incidents, the accreditation system had an impact on nurse patient safety perception. Moreover, nurses' performance and the quality of nursing services

improved through the establishment of specialized processes and work manuals, which, have a positive effect on their job satisfaction **(Avia and Hariyati, 2019)**

Accreditation has been introduced as a systematic response to evaluate healthcare organizations. Accreditation standards are made to maintain continuous quality improvement efforts within accredited organization. Also, Accreditation is a great opportunity to enhance the power of some orders of nurses, help clarify rules and procedures by requiring them to be written down and new clinical protocols are implemented **(El-Gendy et al., 2021)**

Accreditation is a vital tool to support efforts to protect patient safety. An accredited hospital assures the best practices in a safe environment and that the patient is in safe care. It increases patient trust and satisfaction with the setting and quality of services and it is considered a formal evaluation process intends to assess the quality of care and provided services. Its main goal is to assess internal and external mechanism and provide bench marking that could help to improve capacity of hospitals in providing quality care **(Gamal et al.,2021)**.

Nursing work performance is improved when they have a positive self-concept, and strengthening the nurse's competency and self-concept has a positive effect on practical ability and nursing performance, and nurses have a positive and firm self-concept. It was said that when a patient has a concept, he/she can harmonize with various experts in the medical

field and perform high-quality nursing care and efficient nursing work. **(Allobaney et al.,2022)**

A nurse's self-concept is influenced by relationship with superiors and belief in the profession. and it has a positive effect on manager support, education and training, and human resource management **(Huang et al.,2021)**. self-concept', is important indicator of the ability to perceive oneself in a specific occupational environment, is a sensitive factor for predicting professional identity, job satisfaction, and career achievement, and has received extensive attention from nursing educators.**(Xu et al.,2022)**.

Significance of the study

In recent years, the medical environment has intensified competition among medical institutions due to an increase in the number of hospitals, diversification of hospital types, and internationalization of market opening. So, People's interest in quality is increasing. Accordingly, the medical community can promote quality improvement in the domestic medical environment in order to provide safe medical services to medical institutions and efforts to obtain accreditation **Erkan& Mehmet, (2022)**.

Accreditation helps to improve hospitals systems, processes, operational effectiveness and outcomes. It provides a vision of sustainable quality improvement, supports the effective and efficient use of resources, promotes capacity building and professional development **(Gamal**

et al., 2021). There are few previous studies on the relationship between nurses' awareness of accreditation, and self-concept. On the other hand, there is no study has been done in Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital about hospital accreditation and self-concept. So research on this is necessary.

Aim of the study

The current study aims to investigate the relationship between nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation and self-concept

This aim was fulfilled through the following objectives:

- 1) Assess nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation.
- 2) Assess nursing staff awareness about self-concept.

Research Questions:

- 1) What is the nursing staff perceptions about hospital accreditation?
- 2) What is the nursing staff perceptions about self-concept?
- 3) Determine relationship between nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation and self-concept?

Methods

Research design:

A descriptive correlational research design was used to achieve the aim of this study.

The study setting :

Setting

The study was conducted at all in patient departments of Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital affiliated to Ministry of health in Qalyubia

Governorate, in which the researcher works that can permit the chance for her data collection and cooperation from hospital staff. Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital has a total capacity of 250 beds.

Study subjects:

The study had a convenience sample which includes all staff nurses working at all in patient departments of Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital affiliated to Ministry of health in Qalyubia Governorate.their number is 465

Inclusion criteria

1. At least one year of experience working in the current unit.
2. Agree to participate in the study.

Tools of data collection:

Three tools were used for collecting data in this study

Tool I: It consists of two parts:

Part (1): Personal and job characteristics such as age, hospital, units, marital status, gender, years of experience, education, courses about hospital accreditation and attendance at accreditation program

Part (2): Nursing awareness regrading accreditation standards questionnaire. It was used to assess the nursing staff thoughts about hospital accreditation. It consisted of 36 items, divided in to three dimensions; such as structure (11 items), process (14 items) and outcomes (11 items). (GHAR,,2019)

Scoring system:

The responses was measured by using a 5-points Likert Scale and were reduced to 3-points as follows disagree (1), Natural (2) and agree (3).

These scores were converted into a percent score: low awareness of accreditation level <60%, moderate awareness of accreditation level 60-70% and high awareness of accreditation level ≥ 70 . (Pimentel,2010).

Tool II: Accreditation experience questionnaire: designed by (Brigid milner,2007) to asses nurses' experience in the accreditation process. It consisted of 25 items, divided into three dimensions; getting involved with accreditation (9 items), starting the accreditation process (6 items), awareness of the accreditation process (10 items).

Scoring system:

The responses was measured by using a 5-points Likert Scale and were reduced to 3-points as follows disagree (1), Natural (2) and agree (3).

These scores were converted into a percent score: low accreditation experience level <50%, moderate accreditation experience level 50-70% and high accreditation experience level ≥ 70 . (Pimentel,2010).

Tool III: Self-concept questionnaire: It was designed by (Verdugo et al., 2010) to assess nursing staff perception regarding self-concept. It consisted of 22 items , divided into four dimensions; self- fulfillment (6 items), autonomy(5 items) , emotional adjustment (6 items) , honesty (5 item).

Scoring system:

The responses was measured by using a 5-points Likert Scale and were reduced to 3-points as follows disagree (1), Natural (2) and agree (3).

These scores were converted into a percent score: low accreditation experience level <50%, moderate accreditation experience level 50-70% and high accreditation experience level ≥ 70 . (Pimentel,2010).

Content validity and reliability:

The tools of data collection were translated into Arabic, and then content and face validity were established by a jury of "five" experts specialized in nursing administration; they were Three professor and tow assistant professors from Faculty of Nursing at Zagazig University. The validity sheet involved two parts face and content validity : the first part included the opinions of the experts for each item that were recorded on a two-point scale: relevant and not relevant, and the second part covered general or overall opinions about the form, which express their comments on the tools for clarity, applicability, comprehensiveness, understanding any suggestions for any additional or omissions of items and ease for implementation.

Pilot Study

A pilot study was carried out on 10 % of study subjects (46 staff nurses) to test applicability, feasibility, practicability of the tools. In addition, to estimate the time required for filling in the questionnaire sheets. It was conducted one week before collection of data and staff nurses were

selected randomly and they were included from the main study sample.

Ethical considerations:

The study was approved by ethics committee with the ethical code M.D Zu .NuR 197/12/9/2023.. and dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Zagazig University. Following that, he medical and nursing management of kafr shuker Hospital received a letter from the Faculty of Nursing explaining the goal of the study, asking for their consent and assistance in gathering data. Consent was established with the completion of the questionnaires.

Field work:

The field work for this study was carried out over a three months, from the beginning of March 2024 and completed at the end of May 2024 in Kafr Shukr Specialized Hospital in Qalyubia Governorate. After obtaining the necessary ethical approvals and permissions, data were collected from the nursing staff using structured questionnaires designed to assess their awareness of accreditation standards, accreditation experience, organizational development, and self-concept. The researcher personally distributed the questionnaires during different work shifts to ensure wide participation and to accommodate nursing staff's varying schedules.

Pilot Study

10% of the study participants (46 staff nurses) participated in a pilot study to evaluate the tools' applicability, viability, and practicability. Additionally, to calculate how long it will take to

complete the questionnaires. It was carried out a week before to data collection, and staff nurses were chosen at random to be part of the primary study sample.

III. Administrative and ethical considerations:

The ethics committee gave its approval to the study with the ethical code M.D Zu .NuR 197/12/9/2023.. and dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Zagazig University. Following that, the medical and nursing management of kafr shuker Hospital received a letter from the Faculty of Nursing explaining the goal of the study, asking for their consent and assistance in gathering data. Consent was established with the completion of the questionnaires.

IV. Statistical Design:

Data collected from the studied sample was revised, coded, and entered using Personal Computer (PC). Computerized data entry and statistical analysis were fulfilled using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. Data were presented using descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies, percentages, and Mean SD. A correlation coefficient "Pearson correlation" is a numerical measure of some type of correlation, meaning a statistical relationship between two variables. Chi-square (χ^2) is a statistical test used to determine the relationship between categorical variables.

Results: -

Table 1: Frequency distribution of the studied nurses according to their personal and job

:Shows that the studied nurses' mean age was \bar{x} S.D 35.34 ± 6.28 and 36.1% of their ages ranging between 30 to less than 40 years old. Moreover, 88.6% of them were females and 83% of them were married. As regards their educational level, 48.2% of them studied at technical institute of nursing while only 1.9% of them had postgraduate education. Also, 91.6% of them were staff nurses and 51.2% of them worked at critical units. Concerning attended training courses about hospital accreditation, only 21.9% of them reported attended training courses.

Figure (1): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their awareness of hospital accreditation dimensions: The figure reveals that nearly half of studied nurses reported low level of awareness concerning accreditation dimensions; hospital accreditation structure (48.8%), hospital accreditation process (50.5%), and hospital accreditation outcome (50.9%).

Figure (2): Total levels of awareness of hospital accreditation dimensions: The figure illustrates that, half of studied nurses (50.10%) reported low level of total awareness of accreditation dimensions; while (18.8%) in a high level.

Figure (3): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their accreditation experience;The figure reveals that more than half of studied nurses reported low level of experience regarding accreditation experience; getting involved with the accreditation (60.3%), starting of the accreditation process (69.2%) and awareness of the accreditation process (62.8%).

Figure (4): Total levels of accreditation experience as reported by studied nurses :The figure illustrates that, more than half of studied nurses (64.1 %) expressed low total level of accreditation experience: while, (21.6%) in a high level.

Figure (5): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their self-concept: The figure reveals that they had total low Self-fulfillment (47.8%), and total low autonomy (42.3%) while 36.6% of them had total moderate emotional adjustment (36.6%) and total high honesty (42.9%).

Figure (6): Total level of the studied nurses according to their perception self-concept: The figure illustrates 40.4% of the studied nurses had total moderate self-concept, while 32.8% of them had a total low self-concept and 26.8% of them had a total high self-concept.

Table(2) Correlation between the studied variable) :Elicits that, there is a highly statistically significant correlation between the studied nurses' total awareness and their total accreditation experience at ($p= 0.000$). also, there is a statistically significant correlation between the studied nurses' total awareness and their total self-concept at ($p=0.04$). On the other hand, there is no statistically significant correlation between the studied nurse's total self-concept and their total accreditation experience at ($p>0.05$).

Table (1): Frequency distribution of the studied nurses according to their personal and job characteristics (n=465).

Demographic characteristics	N	%
Age		
20-<30	154	33.1%
30-<40	168	36.1%
40-<50	94	20.2%
50-60	49	10.5%
\bar{x} S.D 35.34±6.28		
Gender		
Male	53	11.4%
Female	412	88.6%
Marital status		
Married	386	83.0%
Unmarried	79	17.0%
Job title		
Director /supervisor	3	0.6%
Head nurse	36	7.7%
Staff nurse	426	91.6%
Years of experience		
<5	141	30.3
5-<10	196	42.1
10- 15	128	27.6
\bar{x} S.D 11.7±3.6		
Work department		
Managerial / control units	45	9.7%
Critical units	238	51.2%
Inpatient units	182	39.1%
Attended training courses related to hospital accreditation		
Yes	102	21.9%
No	363	78.1%
educational level		
Nursing diploma	150	32.3
Technical institute	224	48.2
Bachelor nursing degree	82	17.6
Post graduate education	9	1.9

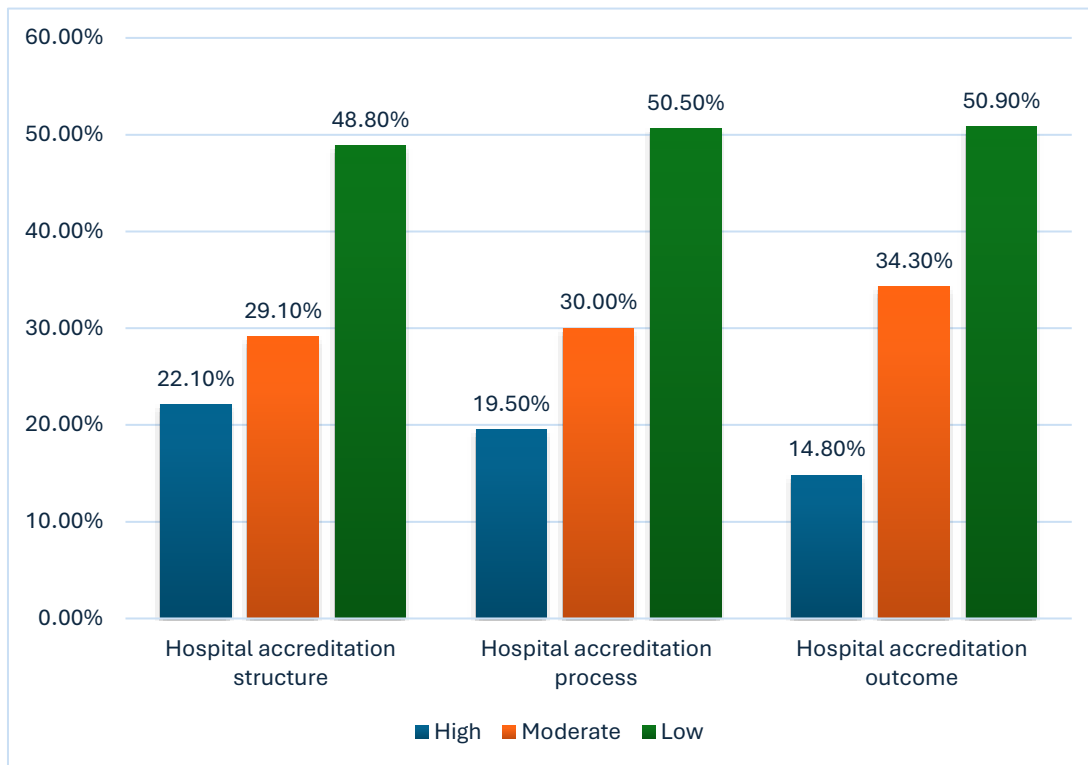


Figure (1): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their awareness of hospital accreditation dimensions (n=465).

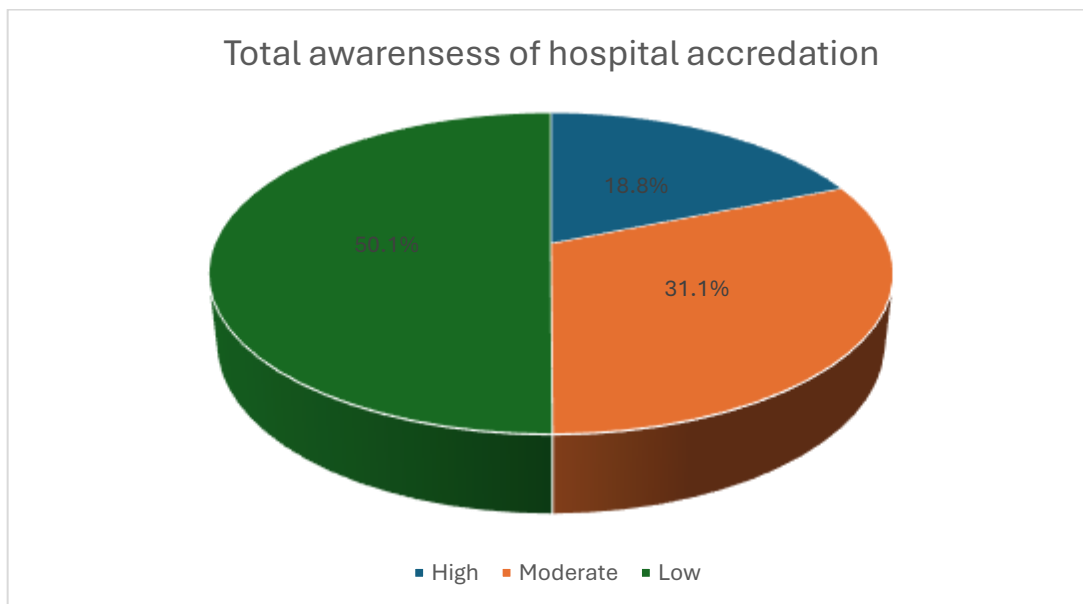


Figure (2): Total levels of awareness of hospital accreditation dimensions by studied nurses (n=465).

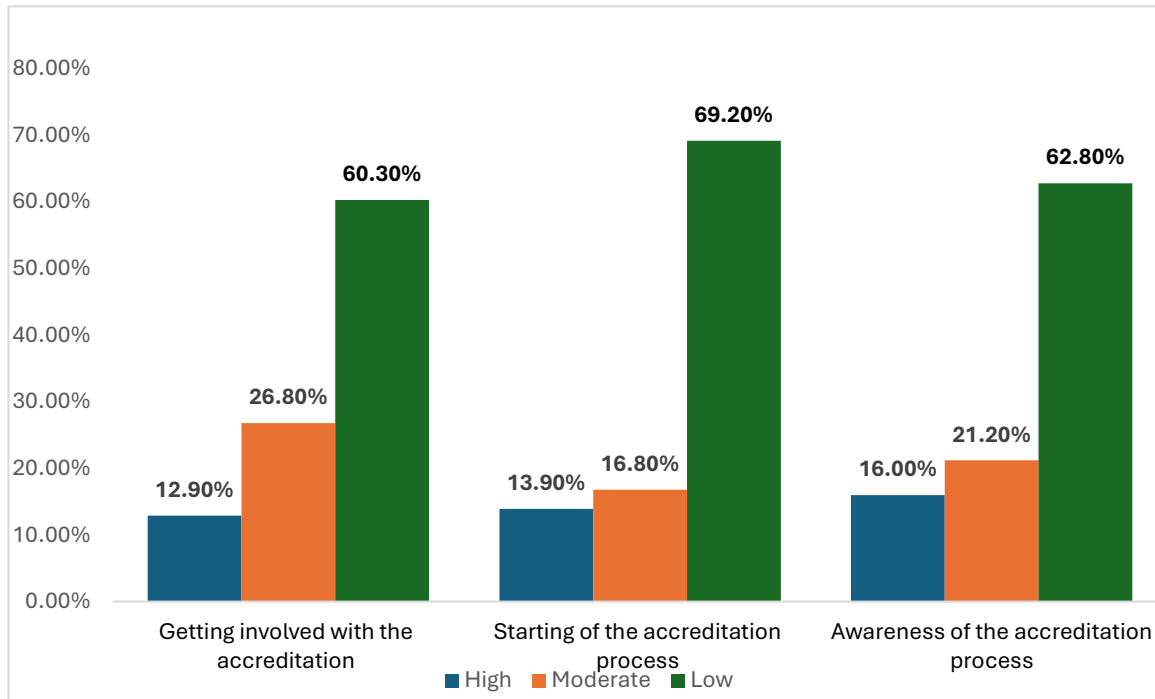


Figure (3): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their accreditation experience (n=465).

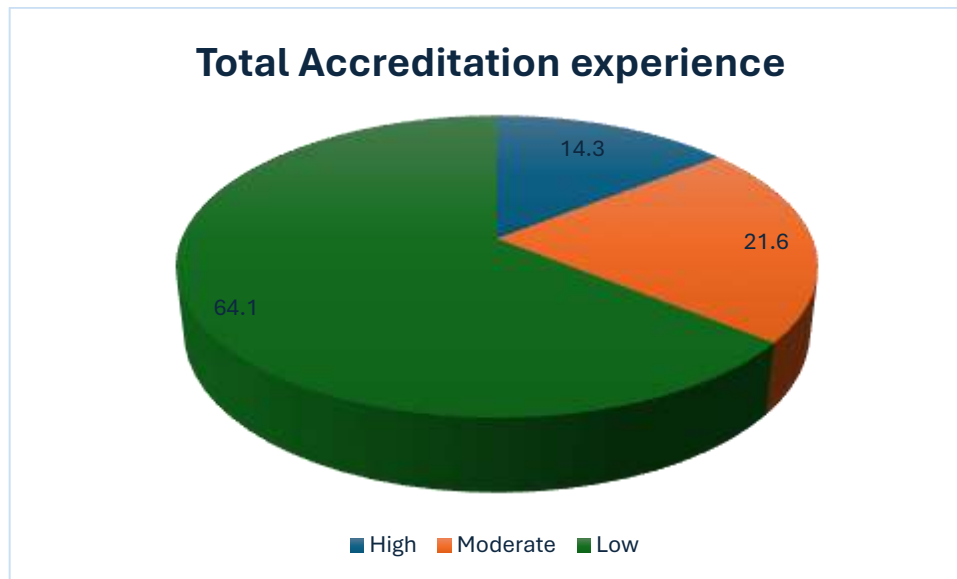


Figure (4): Total levels of accreditation experience as reported by studied nurses (n=465)

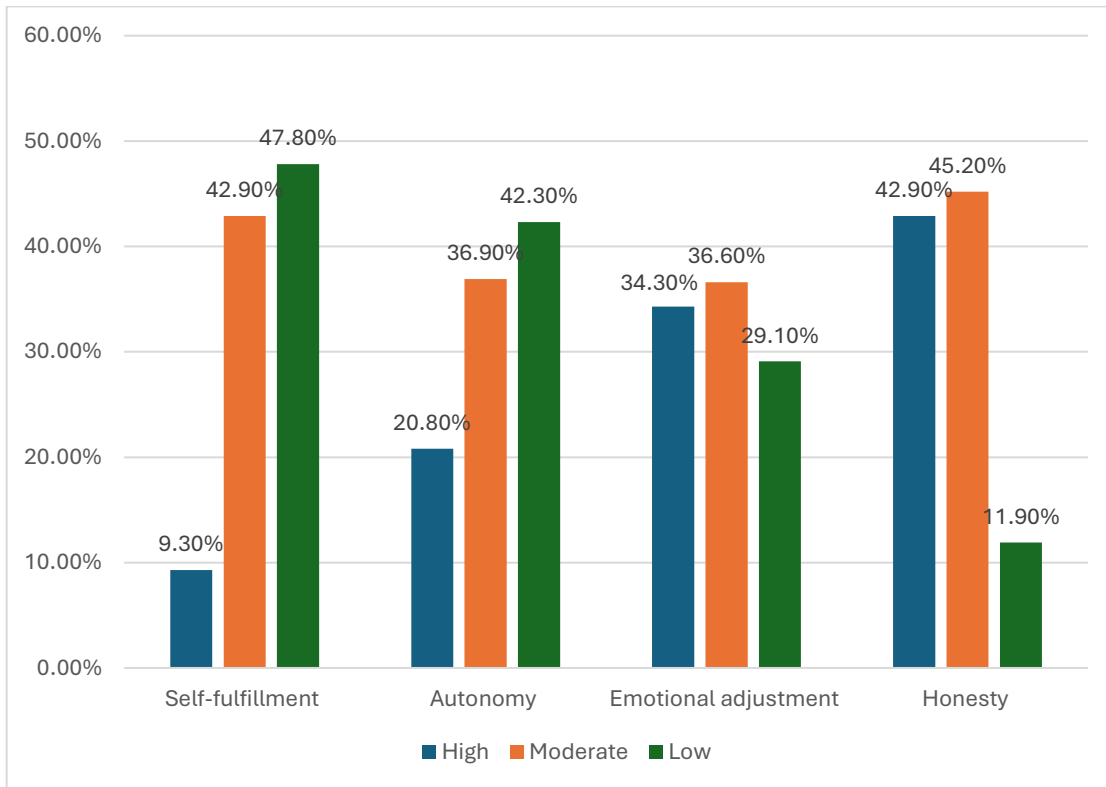


Figure (5): Percentage distribution of the studied nurses according to their self-concept (n=465).

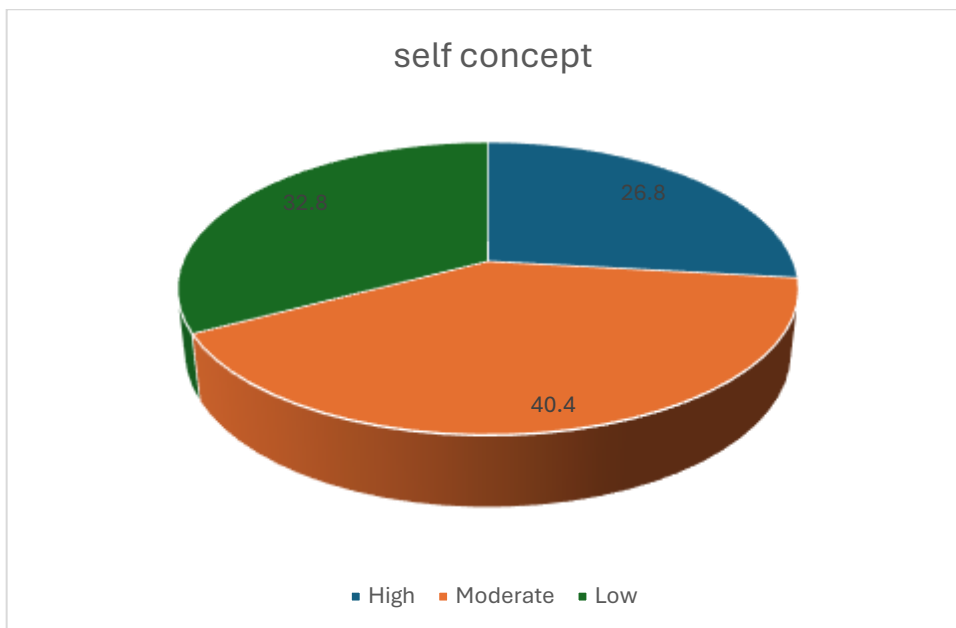


Figure (6): Total level of the studied nurses according to their perception self concept(n=465)

Table (2): Correlation between the studied variable (n=465).

Variables		1	2	3	
1. Total awareness	R				
	P				
2. Total accreditation experience	R	.849			
	P	.000**			
3. Total self-concept		.389	.135	.265	
		.04*	.12	.09	

(**) Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$. r Pearson correlation

Discussion

Hospital accreditation has become a symbol of honor for the hospitals. It ensures the systematic and strategic daily actions that result in the maintenance of the system in each health organization. Accreditation is an effective tool for improving the quality of healthcare. It is an external review of quality. The aim of accreditation is to encourage self-concept (El-Gendy et al., 2021).

Self-concept, which refers to an individual's perception of their abilities, roles, and identity, is crucial for nursing professionals. A positive self-concept empowers nurses to feel confident in their abilities, take ownership of their professional roles, and engage more meaningfully in hospital accreditation (Miao et al., 2024). Raising awareness about these three interconnected aspects not only benefits the nurses' personal growth but also enhances the overall quality of care and hospital performance. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between nursing staff awareness about hospital accreditation and self-concept.

Personal and job characteristics of the studied nurses:

In the current study, the sample consisted of 465 nurses working in patient departments of Kafr Shukur Specialized Hospital, Qalubya government; more than one third of them had ages ranging between 30 to less than 40 years old. Moreover, majority of them were females and married. As regards their educational level, about half of them studied at technical institute of nursing. Also, majority of them were staff nurses and more than half of them worked at critical units. Concerning training courses about hospital accreditation, only more than one fifth of them reported attended training courses.

Nurses' awareness about elements of accreditation:

Regarding total level of awareness of accreditation elements, the current study revealed that, slightly more than half of the studied nurses had total low level of awareness of accreditation elements. Moreover, almost half of them had total low awareness regarding hospital structure, slightly more than half of them had total low awareness regarding hospital process, and

outcome. From the researcher point of view, this might be attributed to lack of comprehensive training or educational programs within the hospital setting that focus on accreditation standards and processes.

Additionally, limited communication and dissemination of information about the importance and implications of hospital accreditation may contribute to the low awareness among nurses. Moreover, nurses' heavy workload and time constraints may hinder their ability to stay updated on accreditation-related knowledge, leading to gaps in understanding the structure, process, and outcomes of accreditation.

This result was similar to **Taha & Abo Elmagd, (2023)** who conducted a study in Egypt to determine nurse's awareness regarding hospital accreditation standards and assess organizational learning culture, and found that about three fifths of nurses were not aware about hospital accreditation standard dimensions, but more than one third of nurses aware of hospital accreditation standard dimensions. They stated that this because the hospital suffered from lack of close supervision from nurses' managers to enforce nurses to be aware about accreditation standard dimensions, absent of hand outs, booklet about accreditation standards as well as poster containing written standards and finally lack of training courses about hospital accreditation standards all of the above causes contribute to lack of nurses' awareness.

This result goes in the same line with study done by **Lotfi Hadi Biglo et al., (2021)** who carried out a study in Iran about assessment of nurses' knowledge, attitude, and comment on hospital accreditation and its impact on patient care quality in Imam Khomeini Hospital, and found that the highest percentage of nurses not aware about hospital accreditation dimensions named accreditation structure, processes and outcomes. Likewise, **Kakemam et al., (2020)** who studied attitudes towards accreditation and quality improvement activities among hospital employees in Iran, and explained that the lowest percentage of nurses aware about the hospital accreditation standard dimensions.

Also, this result was supported by **Kusumawardhani et al., (2021)** whose study in Indonesia aimed to analyze the effect of performance and individual characteristics of medical employees on understanding of accreditation in Karanganyar District Hospital, and stated that nurses' knowledge about accreditation standards was often insufficient. They highlighted that many healthcare workers, including nurses, lacked the training needed to understand accreditation processes fully.

Consistently, a study conducted by **Algunmeeyn et al., (2021)** to explore the staff perspectives of the barriers to the implementation of accreditation in Jordanian hospitals and pointed out that awareness about the accreditation process is low due to limited educational programs that focus on the importance of accreditation. Nurses, while essential to the

process, may not receive the same level of focus as management, who are more directly involved. On the other hand, these findings were contradicted with a study conducted by **Farh et al., (2020)** in Egypt to determine factors affecting implementation of nursing services accreditation standards in port-said general hospitals and reported that more than one third of studied nursing staff had high awareness score about hospital accreditation while less than half of them had moderate awareness score, in addition nursing staff awareness for such aspects of accreditation (Preparation, Outcomes, Pre-requisites) was generally high.

In addition, result of study done by **Mustafa, (2021)** was about inconsistent with the present study finding who studied nurses' perspectives of the impact of hospital accreditation on quality of care, in Saudi Arabia and found that the low percentage of nurses not aware of the hospital accreditation standard dimensions named accreditation structure, processes and outcomes. Also, a study in Egypt was contradict with the present study finding, done by **Gamal Tolba et al., (2021)** to evaluate effect of joint commission international hospitals accreditation on quality of health care as perceived by nurses, and they reported that the highest percentage of nurses were aware about hospital accreditation standard dimensions.

Conversely, a study performed by **Aldossary et al., (2022)** entitled "The Impact of Accreditation on Patient Safety and Quality of Care as Perceived by Nursing Staff in a Cardiac Care

Centre in the Eastern Province, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" and declared that majority of nurses had a positive perception of the accreditation outcomes. Also, **Saadati et al., (2018)** who conducted a study about "Accreditation in one teaching hospital: A phenomenology study among Iranian nurses", and noticed that the largest proportion of the studied nurses had average awareness regarding hospital accreditation.

Nurses' level of Accreditation experience :

The present study clarified that nearly two thirds of the studied nurses reported low level of accreditation experience, and less than one fifth of them had a total high level. Additionally about two thirds of them reported low experience regarding getting involved with the accreditation, starting of the accreditation process and awareness of the accreditation process.

This may be due to the limited opportunities that the studied nurses have had to accreditation processes in their professional environment. The findings suggest that a significant proportion of nurses, particularly those with low accreditation experience, may not have been adequately involved in or informed about the steps and requirements of accreditation. Contributing factors could include a lack of structured training, insufficient institutional support, or limited resources dedicated to educating and engaging nurses in these processes. This gap in experience and awareness highlights the need for targeted educational interventions to better prepare nurses for involvement in accreditation procedures.

In this concern, a study conducted by **Oweidat et al., (2024)** in Saudi Arabia, who studied the influence of hospital accreditation on nurses' perceptions of patient safety culture, and affirmed that nurses often lacked proper guidance and support when engaging in accreditation, leading to low levels of awareness and participation. This supports the claim that many nurses have low involvement with the accreditation process due to inadequate infrastructure and mentoring.

This result was in harmony with a study carried out by **Al-Surimi et al., (2018)** in Saudi Arabia to examine the impact of a national accreditation program on patient safety culture in a tertiary hospital and reported that only less than one fifth of the studied nurses had high level of awareness regarding accreditation process at the baseline. Likewise, a study done by **Gamal Attia et al., (2021)** in Egypt about nurses' application of international patient safety goals at accredited and non-accredited hospitals and declared that less than one third of the studied nurses had good level of involvement and experience with the accreditation process.

In the same context, a study performed by **Kwan et al., (2021)** to investigate the association between experience of hospital accreditation and nurses' perception of patient safety culture in South Korean general hospitals, and stated that two-thirds of nurses have low accreditation experience. The study highlights that the primary reason for this was the lack of standardized

training programs and limited opportunities for nurses to be involved in the accreditation process. This result was congruent with **Atapour & Nayeri, (2021)** who carried out a study entitled "Explanation of nursing experiences of hospital accreditation implementation" in Tehran and found that majority of nurses had limited experience with accreditation. The study emphasized that this lack of engagement stems from minimal inclusion in preparatory phases and poor communication between management and nursing staff about accreditation objectives.

In the opposite line, these findings were against a study done by **El-Gendy et al., (2021)** in Egypt, who conducted a study to assess awareness of nursing staff and patients regarding hospitals accreditation, it was noticed that the studied sample of the nursing staff had moderate level of accreditation experience. Also, **Katoue et al., (2021)** who conducted a study about the perceptions of healthcare professionals about accreditation and its impact on quality of healthcare in Kuwait and stated that the largest proportion of the studied participants reported a high level of organizational identification.

This result inconsistent with a study conducted by **Abdelaziz et al., (2021)** in Egypt entitled "Design Program about Accreditation Standard to Enhance Staff Nurses' Documentation Performance in Intensive Care Units at Tanta International Teaching Hospital", and stated that more than half of nursing staff showed fair level of total awareness about accreditation experience. Conversely, **Oliveira et al., (2020)**

who studied interface between accreditation and patient safety: nursing team perspectives, in Brazil and declared that the highest percentage of the studied nurses had high accreditation awareness and involvement.

Nurses' self-concept.

The current study result reflected that slightly more than two fifths of the studied nurses had total moderate self-concept, while almost one third of them had total low self-concept and more than one quarter of them had total high self-concept. And so, nearly half of them and more than two fifths of them had total low self-fulfillment and total low autonomy, respectively. While, more than one third of them had total moderate emotional adjustment and more than two fifths of them had total high honesty.

This may be due to the varying levels of personal and professional challenges that nurses encounter in their work environments. Also, this result may stem from a lack of support or confidence in their skills. The low levels of self-fulfillment and autonomy might be linked to institutional constraints, limiting nurses' decision-making power and ability to achieve personal goals, which can impact their overall job satisfaction. Conversely, the higher levels of emotional adjustment and honesty may indicate that, despite these challenges, many nurses have developed coping mechanisms and maintain integrity in their work, perhaps driven by ethical commitment and a strong sense of responsibility (Xu et al., 2023).

This result was compatible with **Mohajer et al., (2021)** who carried out a study to evaluate professional self-concept and its relationship factors among nurses in Iran, and reported a moderate level of total self-concept and the lowest dimension in self-fulfillment and self-autonomy among the studied participants. Similarly, a study conducted by **Yuksel, & Erzincanli, (2021)** in Turkey about examination of professional self-concept in nurses in terms of certain variables, and stated that the level of total self-concept of nurses was average.

In this concern, **Bēta & Balkena, (2023)** who studied professional self-concept of nurses and willingness to remain in the profession, in Turkey, and declared that self-fulfillment and autonomy among nurses can be affected by the hierarchical nature of healthcare systems and restrictive organizational policies. Their study suggested that nurses, especially in low-resource settings, often feel limited in their decision-making capacities and personal fulfillment at work. Additionally, the previous results agreed with a study performed by **Wang et al., (2019)** to assess academic burnout and professional self-concept in China, and reported that the highest percentage of the studied respondents had total average self-concept.

This result was congruent with the finding of study in Iran conducted by **Barry et al., (2019)** entitled is professional self-concept associated with stress in clinical setting and mentioned that the largest proportion of the studied subjects had moderate levels of emotional adjustment

dimension of self-concept. The study found that while nurses face emotional challenges, they adopt coping mechanisms that help them adjust to the demands of their roles, supporting the current study's finding of moderate emotional adjustment among nurses.

This result was against a study in Jordan conducted by **Allobaney et al., (2022)** who studied professional self-concept and self-confidence for nurses dealing with COVID-19 patients, and stated that, the highest percentage of the studied nurses had low total self-concept. In contrast, a study by **Karimi et al., (2019)** who studied professional self-concept in nurses working in intensive care units, in Iran and found that nurses gained relatively high scores in self-concept, especially in the self-fulfillment dimension.

In addition, results were reported in a study by **Küçük Yüceyurt & Yılmaz, (2020)** about professional self-concept and job satisfaction among nurses in psychiatric clinics, in Turkey, and stated that most of the studied nurses had a high total self-concept. Also, a study in Turkey carried out by **Asi Karakaş et al., (2021)**, to examine evidence-based nursing attitudes and the relationship with professional self-concept in nurses working in a psychiatric hospital, and mentioned that total self-concept was high for the participating nurses.

Correlation between the studied variable.

The current study highlighted that there was highly statistically significant correlation between the studied nurses' total awareness and their total accreditation experience. Also, there was statistically significant correlation between the studied nurses' total awareness and their total self-concept.

On the other hand, there was no statistically significant correlation between the studied nurse's total self-concept and their total accreditation experience. This may be due to the fact that nurses with greater experience in accreditation processes are likely to have enhanced awareness of hospital accreditation standards and procedures (**Algunmeeyn et al., 2020**).

Furthermore, the link between self-concept and awareness may indicate that nurses with a stronger sense of professional identity are more engaged in accreditation processes, even if self-concept does not directly affect their experience (**Gamal Tolba et al., 2021**).

These findings were supported by **Oliveira et al., (2020)** whose study declared that nurses participated more in accreditation processes, their understanding and awareness of accreditation standards improved, which in turn enhanced their engagement with hospital quality initiatives. A study by **El-Gendy et al. (2021)**.

Consistently, a study by **Algunmeeyn et al., (2021)** reported that nurses who are more knowledgeable about accreditation, felt stronger sense of professional identity and confidence in

their roles, reflecting similar relationship between awareness and self-concept.

Conclusion:

In the light of the main study results, it can be concluded that half of the studied nurses reported low level of total awareness of accreditation dimensions. Therefore, less than two thirds expressed low total level of accreditation experience. Additionally, less than half of them had total moderate self-concept.

Recommendations: -

Based on the study finding, the current study recommended the following:

1. Strengthen Self-Concept through professional development by offering workshops and self-development sessions aimed at building a strong professional identity and improving self-concept among nursing staff.
2. Encourage active participation in accreditation processes. Involve nursing staff in

the accreditation process through regular feedback sessions and hands-on involvement in meeting accreditation standards to foster a sense of ownership and contribution.

Further research:

- Further studies should be conducted to explore the factors influencing nursing staff's awareness and self-concept in various hospital settings and among different experience levels to validate findings.
- Replicate this study with larger sample sizes and across diverse healthcare settings to enhance the generalizability of the results.

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