

ABSTRACT

Background

The health sector is faced with constant changes as new approaches to tackle illnesses are unveiled through research. Information, communication and technology have greatly transformed healthcare practice the world over. Nursing is continually exposed to a variety of changes. Variables including age, educational level, years worked in nursing, computer knowledge and experience have been found to influence the attitudes of nurses towards computerisation. The purpose of the study was to determine the attitudes of nurses towards the use of computers and the factors that influence these attitudes.

Methods

This cross sectional descriptive study was conducted among staff nurses working at one public hospital (Kenyatta National Hospital, (KNH) and one private hospital (Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH). A convenience sample of 200 nurses filled the questionnaires. Data was collected using the modified Nurses' Attitudes Towards Computerisation (NATC) questionnaire.

Results

Nurses had a favorable attitude towards computerisation. Non-users had a significantly higher attitude score compared to the users ($p = 0.0274$). Statistically significant associations were observed with age ($p = 0.039$), level of education ($p = 0.025$), duration of exposure to computers ($p = 0.025$) and attitudes towards computerisation.

Conclusion

Generally, nurses have positive attitudes towards computerisation.

This information is important for the planning and implementation of computerisation in the hospital as suggested in other studies.