



Title: Parental involvement and parental support in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU): a Qualitative Study

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Despite vast advances in health policies and use of high technology and concomitant decrease in childhood morbidity and mortality worldwide, the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) is yet considered an essential component of pediatric care. The admission of an infant or child in the PICU is a difficult experience for both the child and parents. Parental involvement in the taking care of children hospitalized in the PICU is one of the best way to resolve this issue. This article examines the Parental involvement in PICU using qualitative method. Data collection strategy was participant observation, and interviews by supervisors, PICU nurses, and parents. This study took place in one PICU in a hospital in Tehran, Iran. The results were presented as five themes: (I) nonpossessed environment (with four sub-themes as environment not fit for children, deletion of belongings, inefficient construct, and preventive beliefs); (II) separation of the children from their parents (with two sub-themes as limitation in parents' visits, and consideration of the children as adults); (III) non-interactive communication (with three sub-themes as superiority, disrespect, and lack of trust); (IV) limited participation (with two sub-themes as inadequate information, and transient participation permission), (V) affection and sympathy combined with superiority (with two sub-themes as sympathy, and promising the family).

In conclusion, the findings showed the Parental involvement was not an important concept for PICU nurse. Based on the results, there was a different views between conceptually or theoretically accepted application of parental involvement in PICU and what is practically administrated. Bridging such a gap between theory and practice can be helpful in improving social, environment, and organizational culture for the children, their parents, and health care providers as well as their performance in the context of PICU.

Keywords: Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), parental involvement, qualitative study

Biography

Parvaneh Vasli has completed her PhD at the age of 40 years from Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). Her PhD thesis conducted in a PICU by ethnographic method. She is also MSc in pediatric nursing and worked some years in the pediatric nursing field. She is a faculty member of the school of nursing and midwifery, Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU) now and she has also experienced teaching in pediatric nursing. She has published some papers in Iranian and international journal. She is an editor of an Iranian nursing journal.