

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

EFFECTIVENESS OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION ON NURSING JOB PERFORMANCE AND COMMITMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN IRBID, JORDAN

MAJDI MUSA MOHAMMAD AL ZOUBI

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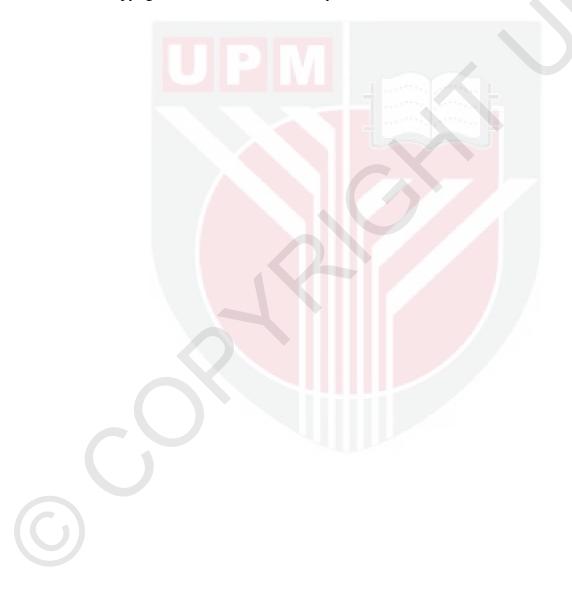
Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

October 2019

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DEDICATION

First and foremost, I would like to thank Allah (The Most Gracious) who gave me the will and power to complete this thesis. Furthermore, I dedicate this thesis to our first teacher, the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) and to the soul of my father who I wanted him to be beside me for this successful moment.

Cordially, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Hayati Khadir Shahar for her unique guidance, support, advice, suggestions, hospitality and invaluable assistance. Moreover, I owe a great deal of gratitude to the staff members at the Department of Community Health at the Faculty of Medicine and health Sciences for their continuous support and help while using the faculty facilities to accomplish this project.

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To everyone I say: جزاکم الله عني کل الخير Furthermore, my 'big thanks' go to many other people who have, in one way or the other, positive influences on my life. I pray Almighty Allah to continue to bless them. Amin.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

EFFECTIVENESS OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION ON NURSING JOB PERFORMANCE AND COMMITMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN IRBID, JORDAN

By

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October 2019

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Background: There is a consensus among hospitals management, health professionals, and policy makers that hospitals and nursing services from the government hospitals are lagging behind in terms of performance and good commitment due to their nurse's poor performance, and several studies have cited this current problem in Jordan. Total Quality Management implementation helps hospitals to identify and eliminate areas generating the most waste and to improve department workflows, thereby increasing overall service quality by using the strategies for quality improvement.

Objective: The aim of this study is to develop, implement and assess the effect of TQM intervention on nurse's Job performance and nurse's commitment among Jordanian nurses in Government hospitals.

Method: A quasi-experimental multiple time series was conducted with a control group in secondary hospitals within the Irbid Region for eight months starting from September 2017 and in the duration of nine months ending in June 2018. Two out of eight hospitals were selected, where participants one hospital was taken as an intervention group and the other hospital was considered as the control group. Stratification and a subsequent simple random sampling technique was utilized to select 70 respondents for each group. Pre-post intervention, and follow-up phases were conducted to determine the socio-demographics and nursing job performance and commitment. A multiple linear regression, one-way MANOVA, and repeated MANOVA and MANCOVA were utilized to analyze the data uses IBM SPSS 25.

Results: Out of 70 respondents in each group, 65 (93%) respondents in the control group and 67 (96%) respondents in the intervention group were remained and analyzed. There were no significant differences between the two groups (the control and intervention) on nurses' job performance and nurses' commitment.

A repeated measure MANOVA test for both groups revealed that the interaction between group and time was statistically significant (F (4, 127) = 144.841; p < 0.001; Wilk's $\Lambda = 0.180$; $\eta 2$ =.820) which means groups had a significantly different pattern over time regarding on job performance and commitment.

A repeated measure MANCOVA test for both groups across the timeframe showed that there were significant differences between the two groups (control and intervention) regarding nurses' job performance and nurses' commitment at 0.05 level of significance (F _(2,127) = 320.724; p < 0.001; Wilk's Λ = 0.165; η 2 = 0.835) and the overall effect of time was also significant for all dependent variables (F _(4,125) = 36.879; p < 0.001; Wilk's Λ = 0.459; η 2 = 0.541.

Conclusion: The educational intervention conducted in this study was found to be effective in enhancing nursing job performance among the sample of the study. The change in job performance was attributed to the enhanced commitment of respondents in the intervention group.

Keywords: TQM, educational intervention, nurses, commitment, job performance.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

KEBERKESANAN CAMPUR TANGAN PENGURUSAN KUALITI MENYELURUH TERHADAP KOMITMEN DAN PRESTASI JURURAWAT DI HOSPITAL-HOSPITAL KERAJAAN DI IRBID, JORDAN

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Latar Belakang: Kebanyakan pihak dalam kalangan pengurusan hospital, ahli profesional kesihatan dan pembuat dasar setuju bahawa perkhidmatan hospital kerajaan adalah ketinggalan dari segi prestasi kerja dan komitmen yang baik disebabkan prestasi jururawat yang tidak memuaskan. Beberapa kajian terdahulu di Jordan juga telah mengutarakan permasalahan ini. Pelaksanaan Pengurusan Kualiti Menyeluruh dapat membantu perurusan hospital untuk mengenal pasti dan menghapuskan kawasan yang menghasilkan pembaziran paling banyak dan meningkatkan proses kerja jabatan, seterusnya meningkatkan kualiti perkhidmatan menyeluruh dengan menggunakan strategi peningkatan kualiti.

Objektif: Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan, melaksanakan dan menilai kesan intervensi TQM terhadap prestasi kerja dan komitmen jururawat dalam kalangan jururawat di hospital kerajaan di Jordan.

Kaedah: Kuasi-eskperimen jenis siri masa berganda telah dijalankan menggunakan kumpulan kawalan di hospital-hospital sekunder di Wilayah Irbid selama lapan bulan bermula dari September 2017 dan berakhir pada Jun 2018. Dua buah hospital dalam wilayah tersebut telah dipilih, di mana sebuah hospital diambil kira sebagai kumpulan intervensi, manakala sebuah hospital lagi dianggap sebagai kumpulan kawalan. Teknik stratifikasi dan persampelan rawak mudah telah digunakan untuk memilih 70 responden daripada setiap kumpulan. Intervensi pra-paska dan fasa susulan telah dijalankan untuk menentukan sosio demografi dan prestasi kerja serta komitmen jururawat . Regresi linear berganda, MANOVA sehala, MANOVA berulang dan MANCOVA digunakan untuk menganalisis data dengan menggunakan IBM SPSS 25.

Keputusan: Sejumlah 65 (93%) responden dalam kumpulan kawalan dan 67 (96%) responden dalam kumpulan intervensi dikekalkan dan dianalisis daripada 70 responden bagi setiap kumpulan. Berdasarkan keputusan kajian, pada akhir masa kajan didapati tidak terdapat perbezaan yang ketara di antara kedua-dua kumpulan (kawalan dan intervensi) terhadap prestasi kerja dan komitmen jururawat.

Ujian MANOVA berulang ke atas kedua-dua kumpulan menunjukkan bahawa interaksi antara kumpulan dan masa adalah signifikan secara statistik (F $_{(4, 127)}$ = 144.841; p <0.001; Wilk Λ = 0.180; η 2 = .820). Hal ini menunjukkan bahawa setiap kumpulan mempunyai corak prestasi kerja dan komitmen jururawat yang jauh berbeza dari semasa ke semasa.

Ujian MANCOVA berulang bagi kedua-dua kumpulan sepanjang tempoh masa menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan di antara kedua-dua kumpulan (kawalan dan intervensi) dari sesi prestasi kerja dan komitmen jururawat pada tahap signifikan 0.05 (F $_{(2,127)}$ = 320.724; p < 0.001; Wilk Λ = 0.165; η 2 = 0.835) dan kesan masa keseluruhan juga signifikan bagi semua pembolehubah bersandar (F $_{(4,125)}$ = 36.879; p < 0.001; Wilk Λ = 0.459; η 2 = 0.541).

Kesimpulan: Campur tangan pendidikan yang dijalankan dalam kajian ini didapati berkesan dalam meningkatkan prestasi jururawat dalam kalangan sampel kajian. Perubahan dalam prestasi adalah disebabkan oleh peningkatan komitmen responden dalam kumpulan intervensi.

Kata kunci: TQM, campur tangan pendidikan, jururawat, komitme kerja, prestasi.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 3 October 2019 to conduct the final examination of Majdi Musa Mohammad Al Zoubi on his thesis entitled "Effectiveness of Total Quality Management Intervention on Nursing Job Performance and Commitment in Government Hospitals in Irbid, Jordan" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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Declaration by graduate student

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CFA	Confirmatory Factor Analysis
MANOVA	Multivariate Analysis of Variance
MANOCOVA	Multi Variate Analysis of Co-Variance
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MLR	Multiple Linear Regression
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
TQM	Total Quality Management
ICN	International Council of Nurses (ICN)
WHO	World Health Organization
MoHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania
ЈМОН	Jordan Ministry of Health

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Globally, every nation values the health and well-being of its citizens and strives with every possible means to protect them from health challenges. This is because sound health forms part of the assessment of the standard of living of a country. In order to achieve this objective, each nation builds hospitals and employs medical personnel who are gives responsibility of tackling any health challenges that may arise. However, provision of hospitals and employment of personnel alone cannot guarantee successful health care delivery, rather, the commitment and job performance of medical personnel, especially nurses, coupled with Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), may be of greater benefit in actualising a better health care service delivery system. Sustained commitment and job performance can be achieved with the intervention of Total Quality Management and CQI. According to Al-Ali (2014), TQM/CQI is simultaneously a management philosophy and a management method.

Hospitals, as in other social places, are characterised by many performance targets, specialised personnel, and fine divisions of labour. Caring for patients is the main purpose of medical workers. Care quality depends on the calibre of employees, and the effective management of such employees (nurses) (Mosadeghrad, 2014). The success of hospital services depends on nurses as health employees, given that through their skills, knowledge, and competencies, nurses are instrumental to the accomplishment of organisational health goals (Ismail, Abdul-Halim, & Joarder, 2015). The survival of health care systems depends on nurses (Banibakr & Shafie, 2018). Enhancing the job performance of nurses cannot be over-emphasised, given that they are considered as crucial personnel in health care systems (Ismail, Majid, Zakaria, Abdullah, Hamzah, & Mukari, 2018).

Similarly, the provision of health care in a cost effective and quality manner is essential for the attainment of organizational health care goal. This hinges on effective job performance by nurses. Nurses' job performance constitutes a vital element in the health care system, due to the fact that nurses characterise important information in respect to the hospitals' strengths and weaknesses, thus it can also be a cause for the failure of the organisation (Banibakr & Shafie, 2018).

Job performance indicates the attainment of the patients' expectations and needs and constant enhancement of the quality process and activities of the organisation. It demands that organisations often need employees who are productive in their duties and even act beyond their call of duty, especially while handling critical tasks. According to Rana and Chopra (2015), employees who are committed make a serious distinction and difference in the aspect of innovation, competitiveness, performance, and the success of the organisational ultimately. Thus, organisations are implored to



ensure the development of knowledge by employees, and they should be devoted to promoting innovation, hence, giving them the opportunity to contribute the overall development of the organisation (Tan & Nasurdin, 2011).

Despite the importance and necessity of hospitals in the community, hospitals are now operating in an increasingly challenging (Paim, Travassos, Almeida, Bahia, & Macinko, 2011; Paim, Travassos, Almeida, Bahia, & Macinko, 2011), competitive, and dynamic environment. The need to promote hospitals' performance and also ensure high-quality nursing care calls for research-based solutions. In fact, the complex nature of the roles of hospital personnel has made it a well-established place for studying human behaviour. The poor performance of hospitals due to lack of commitment and substandard performance of personnel is a reason for concern (Manyisa & van Aswegen, 2017). There have been numerous cases of errors associated with poor nursing performance. For example Hermon and Williams (2013) found a high incidence of medication errors among nurses. Overall, research on nurses' commitment and performance is scanty in the developing countries, compared to investigations in developed nations (Omran & Obeidat, 2015).

Furthermore, today's health organisations are confronted with a myriad of challenges ranging from health services cost increase and increasing dependence in technology, to pressure and then to cost decrease and quality improvement (Aiken, Sermeus, Van den Heede, Sloane, Busse, McKee, Bruyneel, Rafferty, Griffiths, & Moreno-Casbas, 2012; McClellan & Rivlin, 2014), and satisfying patient's needs(Chang, Chen, & Lan, 2013). These are all major challenges that require the maintenance of high quality services (Chang *et al.*, 2013).

In the present society, health care system, according to Lifvergren (2013), is obviously and generally confronted with huge challenges, and reports of different kinds has shown that health care systems of today are not really sustainable (Moffat & Mercer, 2015; Orszag, 2011). The society is experiencing ageing population, and there is a rise in the number of patients suffering from different forms of illness that need broad specialist care and attention as well as extra resources. Also, expensive and new drugs with new ways of treatments are now available at an astronomical rate, thereby generating rate of expenditure for health care. From the economic point of view, the more and more the population proportion of the elderly one increases, the lesser the taxpayers' number. As posed by Alhamwan, Mat, and Muala (2015) and Farsi.Z .Dehghand-Nayeri, Negarandeh, and Broomand (2010), the increasing shortage of health care professional in many countries is worrisome and disturbing.

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Moreover, the health care systems are confronted with the decreasing resources from the society despite a rise in demand for a sound and high quality medical care. According to Lifvergren (2013) and Kumar, Garg, and Garg (2011), these factors have brought about growing health care expenditure and cost containment pressures. It is expected that health care systems provide more with less, considering the rapid changes in the needy populations to be attended to, and changes in the priorities of the health care (Mohrman, Shani, & Mccracken, 2012). As indicated in many reports, it is quite difficult or impossible to evaluate the efficiency and the effectiveness of the health care system systems (Asandului, Roman, & Fatulescu, 2014; Smith, Capitulo, Quinn Griffin, & Fitzpatrick, 2012).

In some countries, given the challenges facing the health care sector, the stakeholders in the health system have been compelled to embrace a system capable of managing health care in an assessable and measurable manner with a view to offering high quality services, which is the main objective of the hospitals quality management programs(Chang, 2014). Consequent upon this, literature has suggested the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program aspect of TQM as one of the ways of increasing the commitment and job performance of nurses, and invariably the hospital staffs at large (Kaplan, Brady, Dritz, Hooper, Linam, Froehle, & Margolis, 2010).

In the context of Jordan, arising from the regulations of the government, the initiative of the hospital management, and the influence of customers, quality management has become a crucial phenomenon in hospitals/healthcare organizations(Al-Ali, 2014). Hence, the impact of government as the major healthcare services provider has changed, and at the same time, the healthcare market is shifting from a services and oriented to a customer-oriented market simply because of the increasing impact of pressures from the patients and public at large. The situation of the thing is that the patients are becoming customers for the organizations in the healthcare sector. In other words, the patients are more likely a direct strategic partner who take part in the process of decision-making. According to Al-Ali (2014), changes in society, environment, and political policies also have significant influence on management in hospitals. Given this, there is need for quality management.

The literature recognizes nurses as the important workforce in the achievement of hospital success. Supporting this, Alhamwan *et al.* (2015) indicated that all over the world, nursing workplaces are the densest in the healthcare sector with US having more than 2 million, Japan having 1 million, and in Jordan 16000 registered nurses. Based on statistics, the Jordan total nursing workforce comprising nurses and midwives is 27,300. According to the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 2002 and WHO in 2007, the acute shortage of nurses in the nursing workplace is a crisis (Kingma, 2007).

The quality of every nurse in the hospital hangs on the speed, skill, ease and accuracy in commitment and performance of certain nursing practice acts. Similarly, the nursing services meaning lies on the effectiveness and efficiency of the prevailing structure in the general hospital system. Nursing service quality, therefore, is considered as one of the fundamental necessities of every person. Until now, professionals in the field of nursing and health are trying to enhance their quality of profession, performance in handling the patients, commitment during the work, self, nursing devices, quality of nursing care and managerial capability (Matthews, 2012). The performance of the organization tends to be improved through an enhanced quality of care service. Having

a culture of quality and safety for patients is important for the attainment of an enhanced organizational performance in the hospital (alzoubi, 2019).

Nurses' commitment to their patients and institutions is crucial to the general performance and effectiveness of hospitals and health care systems as a whole(Oh & Chung, 2011). This is because nurses occupy a central place in the hospital by constituting more than 80% of health workers and 60% of nursing staff are engaged in hospitals (Al-Shdaifat, 2015). Nurses play a significant role in the implementation of any intervention programme introduced by any hospital. However, the subject of nurses commitment attracts little attention by researchers (Mrayyan & Al-Faouri, 2008). While the existing literature has linked nurses' commitment to many factors, some scholars posit that an unstable work history indicates absence of career commitment. Overall however, there has been no significant research in prior literature on nursing job performance(Al-Ahmadi, 2009). Thus, it is imperative to conduct research on the career commitment of nurses, especially in the context of Jordan, as this will lead to a better understanding of what motivate them.

Similarly, improving the productivity and job performance of nurses to ensure that health care is efficiently delivered is connected with management intervention (Mrayyan & Al-Faouri, 2008). As far as the resources of health systems are concern, nurses are the most essential. The effective job performance of any hospitals dependent on the motivation, skills and the knowledge of its employees individually. It is therefore important for employers to provide suitable intervention programmes that will guarantee that nursing performance meets the desired standard. However, despite the fact that the performance of nurses has been an area of medical research since a few decades, it has not been widely examined or studied (Al-Ahmadi, 2009; Massey, Chaboyer, & Anderson, 2017).

It has been argued by the scholars that intervention programmes such as TQM, particularly CQI, can enhance the commitment and performance of nursing staff. It is a mechanism that is capable of resolving and coping with all the problems or hindrances militating against the health organisation(Cummings & Woriey, 2014). TQM is generally known and recognised as a tool continuous for quality improvement (Sallis, 2014), quality management, quality improvement, and total quality control (McClellan & Rivlin, 2014). According to Mrayyan and Al-Faouri (2008), there is a need for managerial intervention to enhance nurses' career commitment, in light of the fact that there is a relationship between low career commitment and the intention to leave not only the nursing profession but also the organisation itself(Flinkman, Leino-Kilpi, & Salanterä, 2010; Warshawsky & Havens, 2014)

The origin of TQM is traceable to the manufacturing sector, from where the concept has made a meaningful and successful transition to a wide range of industries in the private-sector. The achievement of this transition is premised on the development of new TQM models to account for crucial differences in the many sectors. However, the major aim of developing the models was to enhance the commercial products and services quality and these have not had the same chance of being tested rigorously in

the health care sector which deal with a broad range of welfare-based services. In order to install TQM successfully in the health care system, Al-Ali (2014) and El-Tohamy and Al Raoush, (2015) argue that the peculiar nature of the health organisations and their broader environments would have to be noted and seriously taken into consideration.

TQM is heralded as a new way to manage organisations. In medical parlance, TQM aims to embed orientation of quality in all processes and procedures in the delivery of health care services (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), Tanzania, 2013). It is now widely used in the medical sector of many countries. Research done by Vituri and Évora (2015)on the literature on TQM in nursing administration, revealed that it has been fully implemented in some hospitals to manage nursing care, but very few intervention studies have been conducted. This highlights the necessity for clinical research in this area.

Previous research has indicated that the adoption or practice of TQM in an organisation has the capacity to improve the performance and commitment of not only the staff of the organisation, but also the organisation itself. TQM, with its 5S-Kaizen technique, is a participative, systematic management approach towards planning and implementing a continuous improvement process for an organisation (Wang, Chen, & Chen, 2012; Zu, Robbins, & Fredendall, 2010). Its major areas of focus are enhancing customer satisfaction, identifying organisational problems, commitment building, and promoting open and transparent decision-making among staff. On the one hand, the 5S approach is tailored towards the actualisation of TQM and stands for sort, set in order, shine, standardise, and sustain. The Kaizen aspect of TQM on the other hand, focuses on the philosophy of improvement within an organisation. It is regarded as the process of CQI through a non-stop process to improve the work environment and service standard to the highest quality, and as much as possible maintaining its convenience and user-friendliness (MHSW, Tanzania, 2013).

Discussing on the advantages of implementing TQM, Al-Ali (2014) declares that it will assist in improving the health care organisations financial status, and also get over numerous challenges such as shortage of manpower. Also, TQM tends to internally produce qualified medical personnel, bring about reduction in the number of complaints by the patients, and ultimately brings about a rise in efficiency-orientation. It will also help to boost the commitment and performance of nurses within the hospital, as a result of obtaining good feedback from patients who are satisfied with the services rendered to them (Al-Shdaifat, 2015).

Arising from the above discussion, this research, therefore, aims to design a TQM intervention model, with a specific emphasis on continuous quality improvement, and test its effects on nurses' commitment and performance in a Jordanian context.

1.2 Problem Statement

Literature has indicated that hospitals are confronted with many nursing challenges, which include medication errors, incorrect patient diagnoses, lower nursing time at patients' bedsides, patients falling down, health care-associated infections (nosocomial), and pressure ulcers (Hayajneh, Abualrub, & Almakhzoomy, 2010). In Jordan, nursing shortages serve as an impediment to the quality of care given to patients. Nurses in the country are leaving their jobs prior to attaining retirement age. Lack or absence of commitment may be accountable for this. As argued by the scholars (Alonso & O'Neill, 2009; Harrington & Heidkamp, 2013), employees normally abandon their organisations for many reasons. As one of the reasons, many scholars posit that organisational commitment is an important catalyst for employees turnover intention in many organizations and industries (Galletta, Portoghese, & Battistelli, 2011; Galletta, Rashid & Raja, 2011; Van Dyk & Coetzee, 2012) It has been established that some nurses in Jordan leave the country to work in Gulf countries simply because of the attainable better working conditions and of higher salaries in the countries. According to McHugh and Ma (2014) and Asegid, Belachew, and Yimam (2014), two factors comprising poor working conditions and unsupportive work environments are instrumental to the movement of nurses to other countries. Also, the potential rate of Jordanian nurses intending to leave the nursing profession is 18.4%, while the projected rate of turnover for RNs in the hospitals in Jordan is 36.6% (Abualrub, Omari, & Al-Zaru, 2009).

The role of nurses in the actualization of success of the hospitals cannot be underestimated because they represent a large proportion of health care organisations (Al-Shdaifat, 2015). The total population of Jordanian nurses is about 16,000, which translates in to 26 nurses and midwives for every 10,000 persons (Jmoh,2016). Nurse workforce outcomes can determine the quality of a hospital work environment, and hospitals that are rated as having an excellent performance by the patients indicated a greater working environment, higher satisfaction with management and lower burnout levels. Good nurse workforce outcomes meant that patients were treated with respect, listened to carefully, and given explanations in a clear manner(Aiken, Sermeus, Van den Heede, Sloane, Busse, McKee, Bruyneel, Rafferty, Griffiths, & Moreno-Casbas, 2012).

The problems confronting hospitals today are traceable to lack in three factors, namely, nurses' commitment, performance, and CQI. Despite the importance of nurses in a hospital setting, and the problems confronting hospitals, especially in Jordan, research on nurses' commitment, performance and CQI attracts little attention of researchers (AbuAlRub & AL-Zaru, 2008). A comprehensive survey of literature reveals the scantiness of research on these aspects in the Jordanian context.

Enhancing the commitment of nurses is paramount to the accomplishment of overall performance of hospitals and the establishment of effective health care systems (Awases, Bezuidenhout, & Roos, 2013). In health care settings where nurses' commitment is lacking, the outcomes would be detrimental to the system. Jafaraghaee,

Mehrdad, and Parvizy (2014) posit that lack of commitment in hospital employees such as nurses prevent them from discharging their duties to the best of their abilities during their day-to-day routines in the hospital. Commitment and performance are closely related, as committed nurses will demonstrate innovativeness or creativity which are reflection of extra-role behaviours.

Furthermore, nursing performance is a strong and long-standing factor influencing the quality of services rendered to the admitted patients in the hospitals. This, notwithstanding, literature has shown that there is a paucity of information on nurses' performance levels in Jordan.

It has been signified that workers' crises and work overload are some of the main causes of burnout and low performance in hospitals (Manzano-García & Ayala, 2017). Experiencing violence and dealing with others' pain and disease create continuous stress for nurses. This serves as a major bane, affecting the performance of nurses in most hospitals in Jordan. Thus, there is need for serious research attention to address the problem in the context of Jordan

Moreover, an aging workforce is another cause of increased concern for hospital management with regard to enhanced performance, since cognitive, perceptual, and physical capabilities drop with age. Mainly because of the shortage of nurses, the nursing workforce is overwhelmed with responsibilities for large numbers of patients, high nursing workloads and long hours of duty. For example, it has been shown that most nurses work for 12 hours or more in a day, and rarely get respite for meals or breaks (Stimpfel, Sloane, & Aiken, 2012).

In the same vein, there is an increasing consensus that nurses in the hospital must not be assigned to more than four to six patients or one to two in case of high-acute patients since this acute is seen as patients with severe illness (Curtin, 2012). Intensifications in such nursing workload can aggravate the risk of the low nurse performance, and lack of commitment to work, job dissatisfaction and exhaustion, which can also add to shortage of nurses (Dall'Ora, Griffiths, Ball, Simon, & Aiken, 2015).

Mrayyan and Al-Faouri (2008) posit that the commitment and performance of nurses can be enhanced with the aid of intervention programmes. They stated that research should continue to focus on factors that can enhance nurses' commitment towards their work as an attempt to improve quality of care and to control escalating costs. Understanding the factors that predict nurses' commitment towards their work is paramount for developing quality health care services, and such factors should be focused on and incorporated into organisational intervention strategies. They also argued that nurses are among the most important resources of health systems. The performance of a health organisation depends on the knowledge, skills and motivation of its individual employees. It is therefore important for employers to provide suitable intervention programmes that will guarantee that the performances of nurses meet the desired standards. Hospitals in Jordan, like other nations, face many quality management obstacles that impinge on the effective working and the establishment of quality services. In a study A'aqoulah, Kuyini, Ajlouni, Saif, and Raoush, (2016) found that the quality management improvement obstacles facing hospitals in Jordan contain absence of rewards for staff, inadequate specialist delegation, absence of staff training, poor staff motivation, inadequate material resources, and insufficient financial provisions to sustain quality management system in Jordanian hospitals. These quality management obstacles necessity to be resolved in order for the hospitals to purpose effectively and improved quality services (A'aqoulah, Kuyini, & Ajlouni, 2016).

Based on this, researchers have been studying TQM and its relationship to performance commitment in nursing services. To this end, very few studies have addressed certain TQM principles, particularly its CQI aspect, in nursing services such as teamwork, continuous improvement, leadership, education and training in relation to performance and commitment. It is generally believed that higher levels of TQM implementation will result in higher levels of nurse performance and complete commitment to the tasks appointed to them (El-Tohamy & Al Raoush, 2015)

According to Cummings and Woriey (2014), the CQI aspect of TQM is capable of coping with all of the problems facing hospitals, and determining all the problems that beset health organisations. TQM is generally recognized for continuous quality improvement, quality management, and total quality control (McClellan & Rivlin, 2014). From medical perspective and health care service delivery generally, the aim of TQM is to incorporate quality-orientation in all procedures and processes (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MHSW), Tanzania, 2013).

Also, Al-Shdaifat (2015) affirmed that the implementation of TQM and the CQI principles is poorly done in Jordanian hospitals, and the most commonly and widely principle implemented is focused on the patients. It is argued further by the author that the implementation of TQM principles is more in the private sector than the public sector. The study found no significant difference related to socio-demographic variables (age, gender, experience, education level, type of ward and attained to quality management program) in hospitals where there is no quality department.



In the Arab World generally, CQI as an integral part of TQM is a new phenomenon and most studies on TQM in this context have been theoretical, descriptive, and speculative (Al-Marri, Moneim M. Baheeg Ahmed, & Zairi, 2007).Few medical studies have examined the causal association between TQM and performance, and inconclusive findings were arrived at (Al Dhaafri, Yusoff, & Al Swidi, 2014). The conclusion from many studies is that TQM has a positive significant association with organisational performance (Zehir, Ertosun, Zehir, & Müceldilli, 2012; Zehir, Ertosun, Zehir, Müceldilli, & Sciences, 2012). However, the finding emanating from other studies is that there is no significant link between TQM and performance. Notwithstanding, other studies still found that sometimes TQM can negatively influence performance, thus the findings are mixed (Kober, Subraamanniam, & Watson, 2012; Koc, 2011; Sadikoglu & Olcay, 2014). Arising from this discussion therefore, this study aims at examining the effectiveness of the CQI aspect of TQM interventions on nursing performance and commitment in government hospitals in Irbid, Jordan. To the best knowledge of the researcher, this study might perhaps be the first interventional study of its kind in Jordan that will assess the effect of CQI intervention and implementation on nursing performance and commitment, together with some control variables.

1.3 Significance of Study

Drawing from the discussion in the previous sections, this study intends to assess the impact of TQM intervention and implementation on nurses' commitment and performance, with an aim to show the ways to enhance the quality of health care and improvement initiatives in future. Aside from the fact that the overall findings and outcomes of this study will be added to the existing literature, and significantly contribute to the body of knowledge theoretically and practically, its benefits can be classified into three categories: to nurses, hospitals, and Jordan as a whole.

The benefits to both the nurses and hospitals of a TQM implementation, with the application of 5S-KAIZEN, are definite: It allows all the workers in an organisation to carry out tasks to the best of their abilities and to attain good quality. It paves the way for effectiveness and efficiency because the application of the 5S methodology: that is to sort, set, shine, standardise, sustain; and continuous improvement is an assured way to accomplish appreciable improvements in performance and commitment. It also helps to boost operational productivity and safeguard the organisation from some wasteful expenses. In the long run, this provides more benefits to customers by way of value of service quality and prices, which automatically improves customer satisfaction.

Furthermore, the implementation of TQM also guarantees nurse performance and commitment when it comes to execution of tasks, and patient satisfaction. Similarly, implementation of TQM helps reduce the overall cost of production by 'sole sourcing', a method by which overall costs are shrunk by reducing the number of suppliers used by the organisation, and providing the chosen suppliers with essential technology and training. The effective running of an operation will then be determined by how effectively suppliers can meet with the demands of the organisation.

The implementation of TQM practices also decreases patient waiting time. Meanwhile, for nurses, it helps to improve performance and also reduce workload. This intervention is significant because it enables hospitals to reduce the burden of cost and equipment consumption, as well as accomplish organisational missions or goals. Previous studies in Arab countries, and from the global view, recommended the implementation and examination of the impact of TQM practices in improving nurse performance and nurse commitment to enhance patient satisfaction in hospitals(Alaraki, 2014).

Also, TQM assists in enhancing medical services quality, prevent potential nursing errors, and reduce medical services cost. It also fosters performance improvement by providing a collaborative approach to patient-centred care focussed on meliorating performance, safety, commitment, and patient results, and on identifying and enhancing best practices among nurses.

Furthermore, TQM implementation in hospitals make it possible to easily adapt to health sector environment changes, realise flexibility in solving the operational problem of nursing and optimal utilisation of opportunities. This brings about a great impact on the overall commitment and performance of nurses, which can only be achieved through teamwork among the nurses and hospitals directors, dedicated sustenance from top leadership and management, training and education involvement and empowerment of employees, customer focus, process management and continuous improvement initiatives.

Among the most important benefits of the present study is an increase in the level of insight into patients, pertaining to the issue of their satisfaction with hospitals' services to the community. The TQM practice implementation to measure and analyse the performance and commitment of nurses in Jordanian government hospitals is conceived as another benefit to the community. The current study may also provide empirical evidence to health care service providers, managers and government bodies of Jordanian hospitals, to embark on a generalised TQM practice to boost nursing performance with full commitment towards their appointed tasks, and thereby, improve patients' satisfaction rates in Jordanian government hospitals. Globally, the results of the current research will help hospitals and researchers to meliorate services related to good performance and work commitment among nurses.

Also, this study's findings tend to be of practically beneficial to the hospital practitioners, management, and other decision makers in improving the performance of nurses. Additionally, this research can be used as a model capable of being followed by Jordanian hospitals and any other hospital in other country. Finally, this research can be used as a base for creating certain rules and policies in the Jordanian government, with regard to practicing and applying the model of this study, to enhance the development, growth, excellence, and performance of their health care service organisations.

1.4 Research Question

- What are the differences of participant characteristics in social demographic variables (gender, age, education, and years of experience) between groups at baseline?
- What are the predicted variable of nurse's commitment and nurse's job performance?
- What are the differences in the level of nurse's commitment and nurse's job performance between and within intervention and control hospitals in

Jordanian Ministry of Health secondary hospitals at baseline, one month and six months after intervention in the Irbid, Jordan region?

• What are the differences in the level of nurse's commitment and nurse's job performance between and within intervention and control hospitals in Jordanian Ministry of Health secondary hospitals at baseline, one month and six months after intervention while controlling other variables in the Irbid, Jordan region?

1.5 Research Objectives

1.5.1 General Objective

In general, the aim of this study is to develop, implement and evaluate the effect of TQM intervention on the job performance and commitment of nurses in government hospitals in Jordan.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

- To determine the differences of participant characteristics between groups at baseline in:
 - I. nursing commitment II. nursing performance
- To determine the predictor variables of change in nursing commitment and job performance.
- To develop and implement TQM intervention and analyse its influence on nurse's job performance and commitment in Jordanian Ministry of Health secondary hospitals.
- To determine the influence of social demographic variables (gender, age, education, and years of experience) on nurses performance and commitment in Jordanian Ministry of Health tertiary hospitals.
- To determine the level of nurses' commitment and job performance between and within implementation and control hospitals in Jordanian Ministry of Health secondary hospitals before intervention, one month after intervention, and six months after intervention.
- To determine the level of nurse commitment and job performance between and within implementation and control hospitals in Jordanian Ministry of Health secondary hospitals before intervention, one month after intervention, and six months after intervention, while controlling other variables.

1.6 Research Hypothesis

- Social demographic variables (gender, age, education, and years of experience) have a significant influence on the effectiveness of TQM implementation on nurse job performance and nurse commitment.
- There is a significant difference in the level of nurse performance between and within intervention and control hospitals in Jordanian Ministry of Health tertiary hospitals before intervention, one month and six months after intervention.
- There is a significant difference in the level of nurse commitment between and within intervention and control hospitals in Jordanian Ministry of Health tertiary hospitals before intervention, one month and six months after intervention.



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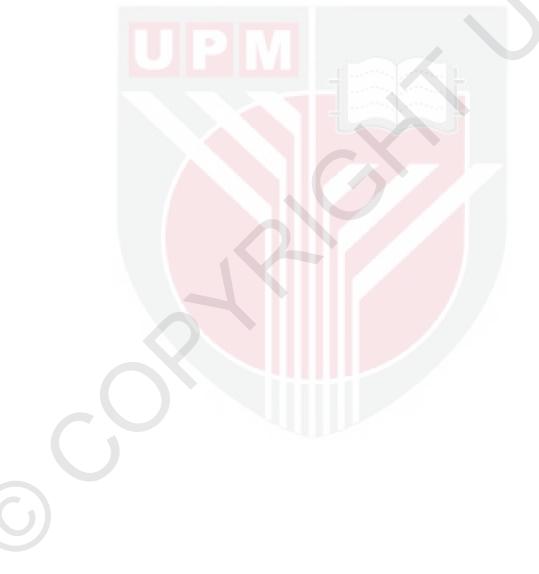
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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Majdi M. Alzoubi, *Hayati K. S., Rosliza A. M., Ahmad A. A., Al-Hamdan Z. M. (2018). Total quality management intervention for enhancing nursing commitment and performance in Jordanian hospital: protocol of a quasiexperimental study. International Journal of Advanced Scientific Research & Development.Vol. 05(10) Ver. I. Oct 2018. Pg. 1 – 12.
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