(*Assessment of Nurse`s Knowledge and Performance of Matrenal Health Services in Rural Health Units*)

Abstract

This study was undertaken to assess nurses`knowledge and performance regarding maternal health services in rural health units in Bilbies Disrect using a cross-sectional analytic study. **A sample** of 98 nurses was randomly selected from nurses in these units, the only inclusion criteria one year experience from working in primary health setting. **Tow tools** were used to collect data namely the self administered questionnaire was used to assess nurses` knowledge and an observation checklist served in assessment of their performance of nurses during case management. The total period of field was from November 2006 to February 2007. **The results** have shown that only a minority of them had satisfactory knowledge, with the best level related to antenatal care, and worst related to family planning. Nurses` level of adequate practice of maternal care was slightly better than their knowledge. Knowledge and practice had no relation with any of nurses' job or personal characteristics. However, a statistically significant positive positive correlation was revealed between nurses`knowledge and practice scores. **In the light of the findings**, intensive training and in-service education programs should be designed and regularly presented to theses nurses, which are necessary for keeping their knowledge and practice up to date.