

Leadership and Advocacy in Social and Health Care Professions Project



An-Najah National University team

An-Najah research project

The Effect of a Voluntary Psychosocial Support Program Offered to Dialysis Patients At An-Najah National University Hospital

An-Najah National University 1

- An-Najah National University (ANU), Nablus, Palestine was established in 1977.
- ANU offers a high-quality education aiming at promoting the development of qualified and competitive human resources.
- ANU has 5 different campuses (including a its own teaching hospital)
- ANU currently it has 23.000 students (65% Female)

An-Najah National University 2

- ANU 11 faculties offering 114 Bachelor's programs, 70 Masters' programs and 9 PhD programs.
- ANU has 9 research centers; each has its own subunits built according to the University's strategic and development plan.
- ANU is well known for its Community Engagement; was highly ranked on 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for its community impact.

ANU partners in the project 1

- The Community Service Center of ANU was founded in 1999. It is a community-based, university affiliated and voluntary-effort oriented community organization.
- CSC adopts the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) in its approach to community work. CSC has designed and implemented programs such as information and referral; supportive education for children; improving housing conditions of poor families; work with the elderly; and psychosocial support to patients in hospitals.

ANU partners in the project 2

- The department of sociology and social work became the Department of Social Work (DSW) in 2018 in recognition of the importance of the profession. It provides students with knowledge, skills, and ethics needed to practice in different fields of the profession.
- Relevant courses offered by DSW: SW methods, SW& human rights, medical SW, social policy.

Our Project/1: title and research question

- *Title:*

The Effect of a Voluntary Psychosocial Support Program Offered to Dialysis Patients At An-Najah National University Hospital

- *Research Question:*

What was the effect of the Voluntary Psychosocial Support Program Offered to Dialysis Patients At An-Najah National University Hospital & How did it affect?

Our Project/2: volunteers will be working in the context of medical social work.

- Medical social work primarily focuses on supporting patients and their families in hospitals, community clinics and other health care settings by coordinating patients' care with the larger medical team.
- social workers in this field play an essential role: helping patients and their families navigate the medical system, assessing and monitoring patients' and family members' mental and emotional health, providing short term counseling and therapy, and communicating patient needs and concerns to the larger medical team.

Our Project/3: context- What Do Medical Social Workers Do?

- Evaluate mental and emotional health
- Assess social, family and/or financial circumstances
- Communicate patient information to stakeholders on a patient's health team
- Provide counseling or psychotherapy to patients and families
- Maintain confidential patient records
- Connect patients and families with outside medical and non-medical resources
- Coordinate patient care in collaboration with health team stakeholders

Our project/4: Research sub questions

- What was the program effect on patients' wellbeing?
- What were the used needs assessment ways?
- What were the ways and areas of intervention?
- To what degree was the support successful according to RBA?
- What were the faced challenges and obstacles?

Our project/5: Methodology 1

- The research adopts qualitative methodology to analyze the voluntary team experience in offering psychosocial support to dialysis patients.

Data will be collected using the following qualitative research methods and tools:

- Volunteer journals contents: Participatory observations, reflections, and comments.

Our project/6: Methodology 2

- Interviews with targeted patients
- Interviews with medical and involved nursing teams
- Interview with hospital social worker/s
- Focus group discussion with family members of patients
- Review of any medical social work used by the hospital.

Our project 7: Procedural arrangement

- The voluntary team will consist of 6 volunteers including the students from the cooperation project,
- Inside the hospital the voluntary team will be supervised by the hospital social worker,
- A staff from the project will follow up the volunteers through biweekly revision sessions

Our project 8: Expected outcomes of the project/1

- It is planned to form a discussion forum from students from different relevant study programs to discuss issues related to voluntary issues related to psychosocial support to patients
- Voluntary team members will talk about their experience to students registered in **medical social work** course that will be taught next semester.

Our project 9: Expected outcomes of the project/2

- Voluntary team will be asked to sum up their experience and list their recommendation in protocol-like form to be submitted to the hospital administration
- A workshop will be organized to present and discuss the teams' experience
- Staff members will work on a publishable article

Questions, comments, ideas

- You are welcome to ask questions, to provide comments, as well as to criticize.
- Your insights and suggestions to improve our proposed project are most appreciated.



**THANK
YOU**