

ANAESTHETIC AND RECOVERY ROOM NURSE TRAINING IN SA

Exploring the utilisation of currently available resources



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BACKGROUND

- No registered qualification for Anaesthetic and/or Recovery room nurses is currently available in South Africa
- Anaesthetic and Recovery room nurses are essential members of the Anaesthetic team
- Lack of training opportunities potentially threatens theatre quality assurance, team efficiency, and patient safety
- “How do Anaesthetic and Recovery room nurses then learn and develop?”

METHODOLOGY

- A mixed-methods research study through an adapted¹, online, once-off, English-medium, anonymous, self-administered questionnaire
- Participants consisted of 43 Anaesthetic and Recovery room nurses (45% participation rate) who attended a Nurse refresher programme at the SASA 2022 Virtual Congress
- Categories explored were: Demographics; Background Training; Acquisition of Knowledge and Skills and Responses to some clinical scenarios

RESULTS

Demographics

- Participants represented 7 of 9 provinces in South Africa; 10 of 11 official South African languages; most were female (86%) and Registered Nurses (RN) (56%); with the biggest representation in the age group 31-40 years (44%)
- The majority qualified in the public sector (56%), but most were employed in the private sector (72%), with 33% stating 10-20 years of work experience in anaesthesia

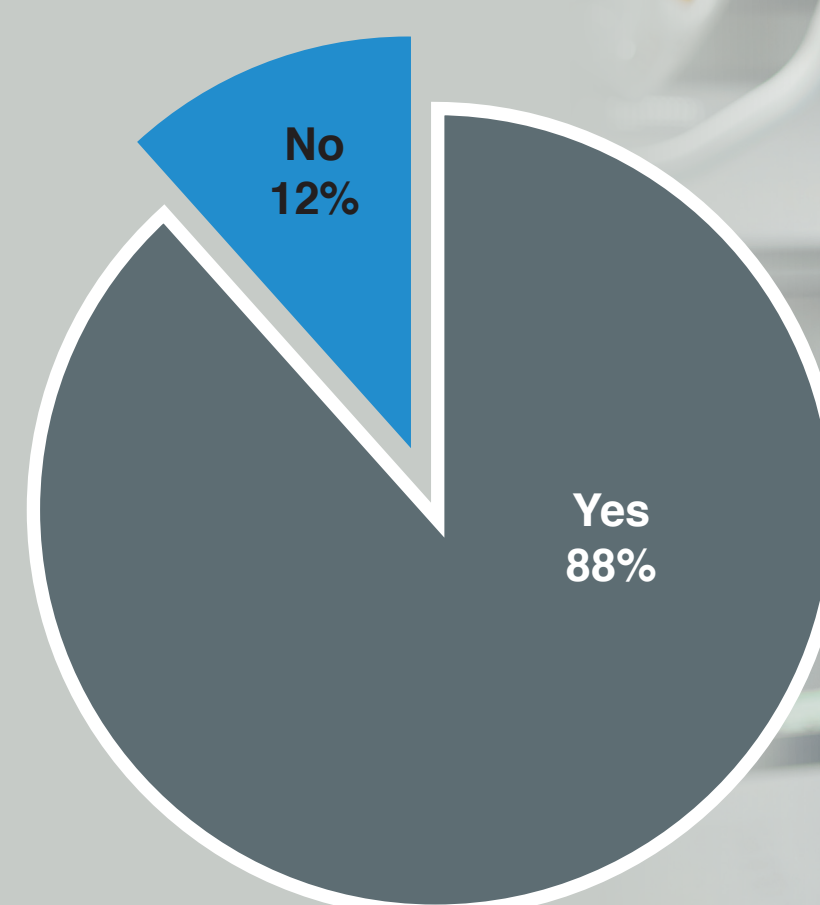
Background training in Anaesthetic nursing

- Only 26% of respondents felt that time allocated to anaesthesia in nursing school was sufficient for their daily work, and 64% noted that anaesthesia theory taught was applicable

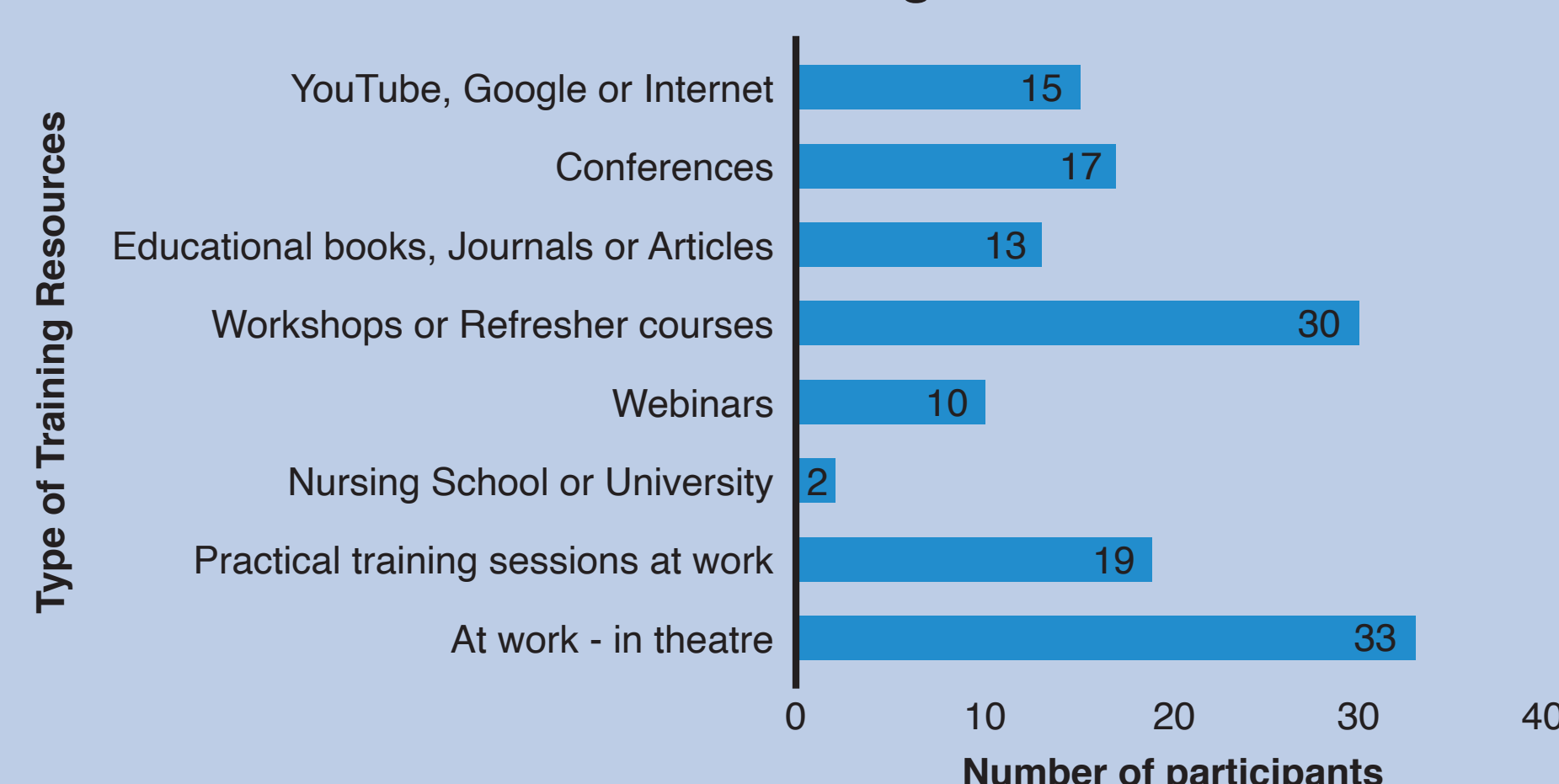
Acquisition of Knowledge and Skills

- Training was perceived as mainly the responsibility of SANC (South African Nursing Council) (70%), SASA (South African Society of Anaesthesiologists) (60%) and hospital institutions (53%), and not their own responsibility (28%)
- Participants showed interest in pursuing a post-graduate qualification in Anaesthetic and Recovery Room nursing: Post-graduate diploma (30%); Master's degree (5%); PhD (9%)

Participants updating their knowledge and skills



Utilization of training resources



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- The majority of participants indicated that they were updating their skills and would like to have the opportunity to pursue a qualification in Anaesthetic and Recovery room nursing
- All of the participants indicated increased confidence and job satisfaction when learning a new skill
- Future research and discussions with tertiary institutions should focus on the further development of training resources for Anaesthetic and Recovery room nursing

References

- ¹ Maharaj, Cronje & Jithoo, 2021. Anaesthetic nurse training in KwaZulu-Natal government hospitals: exploring strengths and deficiencies. Southern African Journal of Anaesthesia and Analgesia, 27(1), pp. 15-23.



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