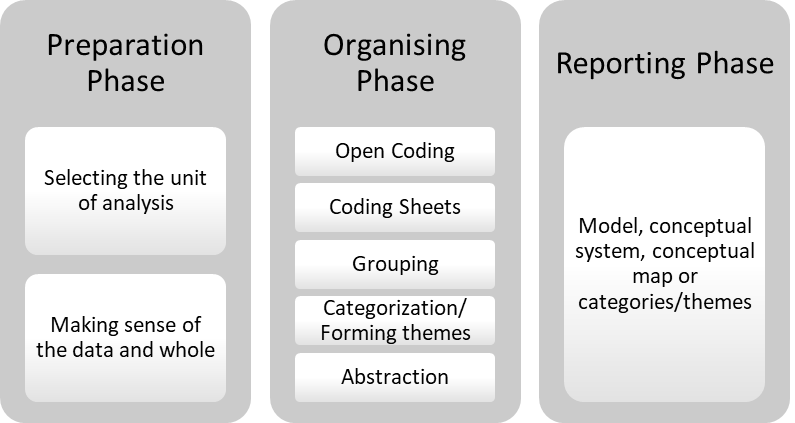
**Figure 1.1**

*Framework for Qualitative Content Analysis (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008)*



**Table 1.** Demographics of the nurses

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demographics** |  | **Hospital A**  **(Academic)**  **n=12** | **Hospital B**  **(Private)**  **n=11** | **Hospital C**  **(Tertiary)**  **n=12** | **Overall/Total**  **n=35** | **Test Statistic** | **p-values** |
| **Age - n (%)** | | | | | | | |
| Age | [Mean (SD)] | 45.25 (13.039) | 41.73 (7.030) | 40.67 (8.184) | 42.57 (9.760) | *F*(2, 32)=0.709 | 0.500 |
| **Highest qualification - n (%)** | | | | | | | |
| BNurs | | 1 (8.3%) | 2 (18.2%) | 2 (16.7%) | 5 (14.7%) | *z* range: -1.864 to 1.713 | *p* range:  0.062 to 1.000 |
| Certificate in neonatal nursing | | 0 (0.0%) | 3 (27.3%) | 2 (16.7%) | 5 (14.7%) |
| Additional qualifications | | 2 (16.7%) | 2 (18.2%) | 2 (16.7%) | 6 (17.6%) |
| Other (e.g., Nursing diploma) | | 8 (66.7%) | 4 (36.4%) | 6 (50.0%) | 18 (52.9%) |
| **Years of experience - n (%)** | | | | | | | |
| <5 years | | 4 (33.3%) | 5 (45.5%) | 3 (25.0%) | 12 (34.3%) | *z* range:  -1.600  to  1.600 | *p* range:  0.110  to  1.000 |
| 5-10 years | | 6 (50.0%) | 2 (18.0%) | 6 (50.0%) | 14 (40.0%) |
| >10 years | | 2 (16.7%) | 4 (36.4%) | 3 (25.0%) | 12 (25.7%) |

**Table 2.** Parental visitation regulations in the NICU ward across hospitals

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | **Hospital A (Academic)**  **n=12** | **Hospital B (Private)**  **n=11** | **Hospital C (Tertiary)**  **n=12** | **Overall/ Total**  **n=35** | **Significant z Test Statistics** | **Significant p-values** |
| **In-patient parents - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| No visitation | 4 (36.4%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\* | 2 (16.7%) | 6 (17.6%) | 2.211\* | 0.027\* |
| Less than 1 hour a day | 1 (9.1%) | 0 (0.0%) | 3 (25.0%) | 4 (11.8%) | - | - |
| 1 hour a day | 6 (54.5%)\*ꝉ | 0 (0.0%)\* | 1 (8.3%)ꝉ | 7 (20.6%) | 2.872\*  2.406ꝉ | 0.004\*  0.016ꝉ |
| 3 hours a day | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 2 (16.7%) | 2 (5.9%) | - | - |
| For as long as they wanted | 0 (0.0%)\* | 11 (100%)\*ꝉ | 3 (25.0%)ꝉ | 14 (41.2%) | -4.690\*  3.682ꝉ | <0.001\*  <0.001ꝉ |
| I don't know | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (8.3%) | 1 (2.9%) | - | - |
| **Out-patient parents - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| They were not allowed | 3 (27.3%) | 0 (0.0%)\* | 7 (58.3%)\* | 10 (31.3%) | -2.806\* | 0.005\* |
| Less than 1 hour a day | 4 (36.4%) | 1 (11.1%) | 3 (25.0%) | 8 (25.0%) | - | - |
| 1 hour a day | 4 (36.4%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\* | 1 (8.3%) | 5 (15.6%) | 2.203\* | 0.043\* |
| 3 hours a day | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (11.1%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (3.1%) | - | - |
| For as long as they wanted | 0 (0.0%)\* | 7 (77.8%)\*ꝉ | 0 (0.0%)ꝉ | 7 (21.9%) | -3.628\*  3.742ꝉ | <0.001\*  <0.001ꝉ |
| I don't know | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (8.3%) | 1 (3.1%) | - | - |

\*Asterisk (\*) and cross (ꝉ) are used to indicate respective significant differences

**Table 3**. Feeding methods prior to and during COVID-19 as reported by nurses

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feeding method** | **Hospital A (Academic)**  **n=12** | **Hospital B (Private)**  **n=11** | **Hospital C (Tertiary)**  **n=12** | **Overall/ Total**  **n=35** | **Significant z Test Statistics** | **Significant p-values** |
| **Prior COVID-19 – n (%)** | | | | | | |
| Bottle feeding | 1 (8.3%) | 3 (27.3%) | 0 (0.0%) | 4 (5.6%) | - | - |
| Breastfeeding | 5 (41.7%) | 2 (18.2%)\* | 9 (75.0%)\* | 16 (22.2%) | -2.725 | 0.006\* |
| Syringe feeding | 4 (33.3%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\*ꝉ | 7 (58.3%)ꝉ | 11 (15.3%) | 2.107\*  -3.037ꝉ | 0.035\*  0.002ꝉ |
| Cup feeding | 4 (33.3%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\*ꝉ | 6 (50.0%)ꝉ | 10 (13.9%) | 2.107\*  0.035ꝉ | 0.035\*  0.006ꝉ |
| Tube feeding | 6 (50.0%) | 6 (54.5%) | 9 (75.0%) | 21 (29.2%) | - | - |
| **During COVID-19 – n (%)** | | | | | | |
| Bottle feeding | 1 (8.3%) | 2 (18.2%) | 2 (16.7%) | 5 (6.9%) | - | - |
| Breastfeeding | 3 (25.0%)\* | 4 (36.4%) | 8 (66.7%)\* | 15 (20.8%) | -2.048\* | 0.041\* |
| Syringe feeding | 4 (33.3%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\*ꝉ | 7 (58.3%)ꝉ | 11 (15.3%) | 2.107\*  -3.037ꝉ | 0.035\*  0.002ꝉ |
| Cup feeding | 3 (25.0%) | 0 (0.0%)\* | 7 (58.3%)\* | 10 (13.9%) | -3.037\* | 0.002\* |
| Tube feeding | 4 (33.3%)\* | 2 (18.2%)ꝉ | 10 (83.3%)\*ꝉ | 16 (22.8%) | -2.484\*  -3.125ꝉ | 0.013\*  0.002ꝉ |

\*Asterisk (\*) and cross (ꝉ) are used to indicate respective significant differences

**Table 4.** Nurses’ work distribution in the NICU during the COVID-19 pandemic

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **Hospital A (Academic)**  **n=12** | **Hospital B (Private)**  **n=11** | **Hospital C (Tertiary)**  **n=12** | **Overall/ Total**  **n=35** | **Significant z Test Statistics** | **Significant p-values** |
| **Hours worked per week - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| <10 hours | 1 (8.3%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (2.9%) | - | - |
| 10-20 hours | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (9.1%) | 1 (8.3%) | 2 (5.7%) | - | - |
| 21-30 hours | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | - | - |
| 31-40 hours | 9 (75.0%) | 7 (63.6%) | 8 (66.7%) | 24 (68.6%) | - | - |
| >40 hours | 2 (16.7%) | 3 (27.3%) | 3 (25.0%) | 8 (22.9%) | - | - |
| **Patient load - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| Only COVID-19 positive infants | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | - | - |
| Only COVID-19 negative infants | 1 (8.3%) | 0 (0.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (2.9%) | - | - |
| All infants | 11 (91.7%) | 11 (100%) | 12 (100%) | 34 (97.1%) | - | - |
| **Workload during COVID-19 - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| Same as before | 0 (0.0%) | 1 (10%) | 2 (16.7%) | 3 (8.8%) | - | - |
| Increased slightly | 6 (50.0%) | 7 (70.0%) | 8 (66.7%) | 21 (61.8%) | - | - |
| Unmanageable | 4 (33.3%)\* | 0 (0.0%)\* | 2 (16.7%) | 6 (17.6%) | 2.018\* | 0.044\* |
| It improved | 2 (16.7%) | 2 (20.0%) | 0 (0.0%) | 4 (11.8%) | - | - |
| **Roles played in the NICU - n (%)** | | | | | | |
| Typical medical duties | 12 (100%) | 11 (100%) | 10 (83.3%) | 33 (94.3%) | - | - |
| Fed the infants | 10 (83.3%) | 9 (81.8%) | 11 (91.7%) | 30 (85.7%) | - | - |
| Help parents feed their babies | 9 (75.0%) | 9 (81.8%) | 10 (83.3%) | 28 (80.0%) | - | - |
| Processed discharge procedures | 8 (66.7%) | 7 (63.6%) | 11 (91.7%) | 26 (74.3%) | - | - |
| Monitored number of visitors | 8 (66.7%) | 9 (81.8%) | 8 (66.7%) | 25 (71.4%) | - | - |
| Performed administrative duties | 9 (75.0%) | 5 (45.5%) | 9 (75.0%) | 23 (65.7%) | - | - |
| Provided guidance to parents | 11 (91.7%) | 9 (81.8%) | 10 (83.3%) | 30 (85.7%) | - | - |

\*Asterisk (\*) used to indicate respective significant differences

|  |
| --- |
| “One parent per day, the parents had to alternate entering the unit.” (P3)  “Bonding and interactions between children and parents [were] cut off.” (P13)  “Mothers were not admitted in the lodge when they don't have negative results.” (P14) |

|  |
| --- |
| “Parents were scared that they were going to expose their sick babies to the virus if they hold them.” (P3)  “Mothers could only visit and breastfeed/KMC during specific times.” (P6)  “Fathers were not allowed to visit during the week, they were only allowed to visit on Sundays for one hour.” (P23) |