

Chapter 1

Nurses' Intentions to Implement Sustainable Practices in Public Hospitals: An Empirical Investigation

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ABSTRACT

Predicting environmentally friendly behaviors in the workplace is crucial for

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achieving sustainability, as human actions significantly impact the environment. In the healthcare sector, nurses' behaviors can play a pivotal role in environmental protection, such as reducing energy consumption and minimizing the waste of medical supplies and medications. However, research on sustainability behavior among nurses in the workplace remains limited. This study aims to extend the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) by incorporating environmental awareness to examine nurses' intentions to adopt sustainable practices in public hospitals in Algeria. Primary data were collected from a convenience sample of 132 participants working in public hospitals through a self-administered paper survey. The results indicate that attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioral control, and environmental awareness positively influence nurses' intentions to implement sustainable practices in the workplace. The findings are expected to assist various stakeholders in developing sustainable health policies.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change poses a significant danger to human health, impacting not only the natural environment but also various facets of both natural and human-made systems, such as social and economic conditions, and the operations of healthcare systems (WHO, 2023). In the same context, the healthcare sector contributes to high-density carbon emissions because hospitals and medical facilities consume a lot of energy to offer treatment, which raises concerns for both human health and the environment (Lee et al., 2023). Tiitta et al. (2024) emphasize that understanding the link between climate change and health is crucial for healthcare professionals, making it an important component of nursing education. Accordingly, this sector has a responsibility to take the initiative to reduce emissions and reduce resource waste. In fact, population growth, unhealthy lifestyles, chronic diseases, aging population, and increased access to healthcare will increase the demand for healthcare provision. This, in conjunction with the expected impacts of climate change, emphasizes the need for a sustainable and immediate transformation in the healthcare field (Gaudreau et al., 2024). WHO (2017) describes an environmentally sustainable healthcare system as one that enhances, preserves, or reinstates health while reducing adverse effects on the environment. Such a system seizes opportunities to enhance and rehabilitate the environment for the betterment of the health and well-being of present and future generations.

On the other hand, irresponsible behavior of both organizations and individuals has contributed to environmental degradation due to dramatically increased energy consumption and resource waste (Bouarar et al., 2023). For example, many employees, especially in developing countries, do not care about behaviors to reduce

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