International Journal of Novel Research in Healthcare and Nursing Vol. 10, Issue 2, pp: (227-243), Month: May - August 2023, Available at: <u>www.noveltyjournals.com</u>

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEADERSHIP STYLES AND NURSES' SPSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8276003

Published Date: 23-August-2023

Abstract: Background: Leadership has become an increasingly important in attempt in order to adapt to a turbulent working environment and has a strong influence on nurses' psychological and physical health. The study aimed to: examine the relationship between leadership styles and nurses' psychological well-being at Kafr El Dawar General Hospital. Design: A descriptive, correlational study was utilized to meet the aim of this study. Setting: The study was conducted at all inpatient units (medical and surgical) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs) at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital (N=22). The hospital is the second largest hospital at El-Beheira Governorate, with bed capacity (278). It is classified as follows: (1) medical units (n=7): medical, coronary, pediatrics, hematemesis, obstetrics and gynecology, burn and urology; (2) surgical units (n=6): general surgery (A and B), orthopedics, ear, nose and throat, neuro-surgery and vascular; (3) ICUs (n=9): general, pediatrics, neonatal, neuro-surgery, coronary care, dialysis, toxicology, eclampsia and burn. Subjects: Composed of 44 head nurses and 270 staff nurses who are working at previously mentioned setting. Tools: two tools were used for data collection; Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire 5X short form (MLQ-5XS) and Outcome Questionnaire (OQ) / Life Status Questionnaire (LSQ). Results: There were highly statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses toward total leadership styles. However, there were no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses toward total psychological well-being. Moreover, the highest mean±SD of leadership styles for both subjects was transformational leadership style; also, symptom distress for psychological well-being. Conclusion: based on the results of the present study it can be concluded that, there are positive significant correlations between leadership styles and nurses' psychological well-being. Recommendation: promote communication between head nurses and their staff nurses through regular meetings with them, allow staff nurses to participate in decision making process and problem solving and express their idea.

Keywords: Leadership styles, Psychological well-being, Head nurses, Staff nurses.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Leadership plays a crucial role in creating an enthusiastic atmosphere and culture in hospitals. <sup>(1)</sup> Effective leadership style could promote excellence in developing hospital's members. <sup>(2)</sup> Leadership is both a research area and a practical skill encompassing the ability of an individual, group or hospital to "lead", influence or guide other individuals, teams, or entire hospitals. Leadership is a complex and interactive process that is considered as one of the major predictors of the quality of nursing work-life. <sup>(3)</sup> Leaders have an essential role in quality improvement efforts to provide ongoing leadership and accountability for quality care issues. <sup>(4)</sup>

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Igbaeckemen (2014) <sup>(5)</sup> defined leadership as: "the art of influencing individuals to strive willingly towards the achievement of goals". Leadership has been also viewed by Northous (2010) <sup>(6)</sup> as: "a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal". Therefore, the process of leadership can be observed by the behaviors displayed by the leaders. Moreover, it was stated that leadership is how the leader communicates in general and relates to subordinates, the way in which the leader motivates and trains them and the way leaders provides direction to his/her team to execute their tasks. <sup>(7)</sup> Leadership style refers to a leader's characteristic behaviors when directing, motivating, guiding and managing. <sup>(8)</sup>

The Full Range Leadership Model (FRLM) is based on transformational, transactional and laissez-faire leadership styles. <sup>(9)</sup> According to it, the first style is transformational leadership, which is characterized by broading and elevating the interests of nurses; and inspiring them to look beyond their own self-interests. Transformational leaders are role model and also focus on nurses need for growth and sharing their vision. <sup>(10)</sup> Additionally, they are categorized into four subscales, namely: (1) idealized influence, which indicates highly credible and trustworthy leaders; (2) inspiration motivation, which clarify ideal future state; (3) intellectual stimulation, which challenge old ways and habits; and finally, (4) individualized consideration, which means understanding and developmentally focused. <sup>(11)</sup>

The second leadership style is transactional, which emphasizes the exchange that takes place among leader's colleagues and followers to accomplish the work. Transactional leader uses rewards to reinforce their followers' behaviors in order to achieve their goals. The transactional leadership style consisted of three subscales, as follow: (1) contingent reward, which clarify goals, and expectation; and finally, both management-by-exception (active or passive), which monitor and correct problems or wait and respond to problems as they occur. Lastly, the third leadership style is laissez-faire that is represented as being passive, avoidance of issues, decision making and accountability; however, passive or active is according to the extent to which the leader chooses to avoid taking actions.<sup>(12)</sup>

Leadership style affects the performance of nursing care directly either positively or negatively, as it is associated with staff turnover as negative effect or highly productivity as positive effect. <sup>(13)</sup> Leadership style can be one of the main hospital environment factors and sources of distress for nurses. <sup>(14)</sup> It has a dramatic influence on the working climate and outcome of the teamwork; as well as a dramatic impact on the psychological well-being of nurses. <sup>(15)</sup> Psychological well-being of nurses is the result of both individual and hospital behaviors including: work design and hospital structures. <sup>(16)</sup>

Psychological well-being is usually conceptualised as some combination of positive affective states, such as: happiness (the hedonic perspective) and functioning with optimal effectiveness in individual and social life (the eudaimonic perspective). <sup>(17)</sup> Psychological well-being is explained as: "the extent to which the nurses feel enthusiastic, active, and alert and function effectively for their work". Nurses` psychological well-being refers to their perceptions of how quality of their lives could affect their physical, emotional and social functioning. Psychological well-being consists of positive relationships with others, personal mastery, autonomy, feeling of purpose and meaning in life and personal growth and development. <sup>(18)</sup>

It is noted that positive leader behavior has an important role to play in the psychological well-being of nurses. Leadership styles have a positive association with positive measures of psychological well-being. <sup>(19)</sup> Reductions in turnover and absenteeism are an-evidence that it is not only the provision of support that results in greater psychological well-being but also the quality of the support. <sup>(20)</sup> Thus, leadership quality is evaluated as providing good developmental opportunities, work satisfaction, and good conflict solving relationships that is associated with lower levels of negative psychological well-being. <sup>(21)</sup>

## AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aimed to examine the relationship between leadership styles and nurses' psychological well-being at Kafr El-Dawar General hospital.

#### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

What is the relationship between leadership styles and nurses' psychological well-being at Kafr El-Dawar General hospital?

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## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Research design:

A descriptive, correlational study was utilized to meet the aim of this study.

### 2.2 Setting:

The study was conducted at all inpatient units (medical and surgical) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs) at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital (N=22). The hospital is the second largest hospital at El-Beheira Governorate, with bed capacity (278). It is classified as follows: (1) medical units (n=7): medical, coronary, pediatrics, hematemesis, obstetrics and gynecology, burn and urology; (2) surgical units (n= 6): general surgery (A and B), orthopedics, ear, nose and throat, neuro-surgery and vascular; (3) ICUs (n=9): general, pediatrics, neonatal, neuro-surgery, coronary care, dialysis, toxicology, eclampsia and burn.

### **2.3 Subjects of the study:**

All head nurses and staff nurses, who are working in the previously mentioned settings and who were available at the time of data collection, with at least one year of nursing experience, were included in the study. Head nurses (N=44), Nurses (N=270).

### 2.4 Tools of the study:

In order to collect the required data, the following two tools were used in this study:

### Tool (I): Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire 5X short form (MLQ-5XS):

This tool was updated by Bass and Avolio <sup>(22)</sup> and was adopted by the researcher, to assess nurses' perception of their head nurses' leadership styles and also head nurses for themselves. It consists of 36 items grouped into three leadership styles, namely: (1) transformational style (20 items): divided into five subscales, namely: (a) idealized influence attribute (4-item); (b) idealized influence behavior (4-item); (c) inspiration motivation (4-item); (d) intellectual stimulation (4-item); lastly, (e) individual consideration (4-item). (2) Transactional style (12 items): reflected into three subscales, as follows: (a) contingent reward (4-item); (b) management by exception passive (4-item); and finally, (c) management by exception active (4-item); lastly, (3) laissez faire style (four items). Responses were measured on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from (0) " not at all" to (4) "if not always". The overall score ranged from 0 to 144, where low score ranged from (0-48), moderate score (49-96) and high score (97-144).

## Tool (II): Outcome Questionnaire (OQ) / Life Status Questionnaire (LSQ):

This tool was updated by Lambert et al <sup>(23)</sup> and was adopted by the researcher, to assess nurses' psychological well-being. It consists of 45 items categorized into three subscales, namely: (1) social-role functioning (10-item); (2) interpersonal relationships (12-item) and (3) symptoms distress (23-item). Responses were measured on 5-point Likert scale ranging from (0) "never" to (4) "almost always". The overall score ranged from 0 to 180, where low score ranged from (0-60), moderate score (61-120) and high score (121-180).

In addition to that, a demographic characteristics data sheet was developed by the researcher to elicit demographic data related to: age, working unit, educational level, gender, years of nursing and unit experiences and marital status.

#### 2.5 Methods:

1- An official permission was obtained from the Dean of Faculty of Nursing, Damanhour University and the responsible authorities of the study settings at Kafr El-Dawar General hospital, after explanation of the purpose of the study.

2- The two tools were translated into Arabic language, and were tested for its content validity and translation by five experts from the field of the study. Accordingly, some modifications were done.

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3- The two tools were tested for its reliability, using Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient test to measure internal consistency of the items composing each subscales of the tools. The results were: tool I: Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire 5X short form (MLQ-5XS) ( $\alpha = 0.833$ ); and tool II: Outcome Questionnaire (OQ) / Life Status Questionnaire (LSQ) ( $\alpha = 0.870$ ); which indicating good reliability.

4- A pilot study was carried out on (10%) of total sample size; head nurses (n=4) and staff nurses (n=27) that were not included in the study sample, to test the wording of the questions, clarity and feasibility of the tools; to estimate the average time needed to collect the necessary data and to identify obstacles and problems that might be encountered during data collection. Based on the findings of the pilot study, no modifications were done.

5- Data collection was conducted by the researcher through hand delivered questionnaire to head nurses and staff nurses, after individualized interview with each one for about (5) minutes to explain the aim of the study and the needed instructions were given before the distribution of the questionnaire in their settings. Every subject took from 15 to 20 minutes to fill out the two tools. Data collection took a period of three months from the beginning of December 2019 to the end of February 2020.

#### Ethical consideration:

• The research approval was obtained from the ethical committee at the Faculty of Nursing, Damanhour University, prior to the start of the study.

- An informed written consent was obtained from the study subjects after explanation of the aim of the study.
- Privacy and right to refuse to participate or withdraw from the study were assured during the study.
- Confidentiality and anonymity regarding data collected were maintained.

#### Statistical analysis:

The collected data were organized, coded and analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 22. The reliability tests were confirmed by using the Chronbach's Alpha Coefficient tests. Data were presented using: (1) Descriptive statistics: In the form of frequencies and percentages for qualitative variables, mean and standard deviation for the quantitative variables. P value  $\leq 0.05$  was considered statistically significant, and P value  $\leq 0.01$  was considered highly statistically significant; (2) Analytic statistics: Deferential analysis was done for quantitative variables using chi square test in cases of two independent variables with parametric data.

## 3. RESULTS

#### Demographic characteristics of the studied subjects, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 1 represents that, according to age, the mean $\pm$ SD of head nurses was 34.61 $\pm$ 3.25; compared to 32.78 $\pm$ 6.60 for staff nurses. The highest percentage of head nurses (88.6%) and less than half of staff nurses (48.1%) had from 30 to less than 40 years old. Pertaining to working units, above one third of head nurses and staff nurses were working in surgical units (38.6%, 35.2%), respectively; compared to less than one third of them, working in medical units (29.5%, 30.0%), consecutively. Concerning educational level, all head nurses had Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing (100%); whereas above two thirds of staff nurses (67.4%) had Diploma of Technical Institute of Nursing.

Regarding gender, the majority of both head nurses and staff nurses were female (95.4%, 96.7%), respectively. In relation to years of nursing experience, mean $\pm$ SD of head nurses was 11.61 $\pm$ 2.58; whereas 10.99 $\pm$ 6.40 for staff nurses. Less than three quarters of head nurses had from 10 to less than 20 years of nursing experience (72.7%); while less than half of staff nurses had less than 10 years of the same experience (47%). As for unit experience, mean $\pm$ SD of both head nurses and staff nurses were (9.04 $\pm$ 2.06, 9.63 $\pm$ 5.6), consecutively. Above half of head nurses and staff nurses had from 1 to less than 5 years of unit experience (54.5%, 55.2%), respectively. The majority of head nurses and above three quarters of staff nurses were married (90.9%, 78.1%), consecutively.

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Table (1): Demographic characteristics of the studied subjects, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.(N=314)

|   |       | nurses |              | nurses |       | otal  |
|---|-------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Demographic characteristics               | (n=   | -44)   | ( <b>n</b> = | 270)   | (N=   | 314)  |
|   | No    | %      | No           | %      | No    | %     |
| Age (years)                               |       |        | -            | -      |       |       |
| 20-                                       | 2     | 4.6    | 88           | 32.6   | 90    | 28.6  |
| 30-                                       | 39    | 88.6   | 130          | 48.1   | 169   | 53.8  |
| $\geq$ 40                                 | 3     | 6.8    | 52           | 19.3   | 55    | 17.6  |
| Mean± SD                                  | 34.61 | ±3.25  | 32.78        | 8±6.60 | 33.6  | ±4.23 |
| Working units                             | -     |        | -            |        | -     |       |
| Medical                                   | 13    | 29.6   | 81           | 30.0   | 94    | 29.9  |
| Surgical                                  | 17    | 38.6   | 95           | 35.2   | 112   | 35.6  |
| Intensive Care                            | 14    | 31.8   | 94           | 34.8   | 108   | 34.5  |
| Educational level                         |       |        | -            |        |       |       |
| Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing           | 44    | 100.0  | 87           | 32.2   | 131   | 41.7  |
| Diploma of Technical Institute of Nursing | 0     | 0.0    | 182          | 67.4   | 182   | 57.9  |
| Diploma of Secondary School of Nursing    | 0     | 0.0    | 1            | 0.4    | 1     | 0.4   |
| Gender                                    |       |        | •            |        |       | •     |
| Male                                      | 2     | 4.6    | 9            | 3.3    | 11    | 3.5   |
| Female                                    | 42    | 95.4   | 261          | 96.7   | 303   | 96.5  |
| Years of nursing experience               |       |        |              |        |       |       |
| <10                                       | 10    | 22.7   | 127          | 47.0   | 137   | 43.6  |
| 10-                                       | 32    | 72.7   | 108          | 40.0   | 140   | 44.6  |
| $\geq 20$                                 | 2     | 4.6    | 35           | 13.0   | 37    | 11.8  |
| Mean± SD                                  | 11.61 | ±2.58  | 10.99        | )±6.40 | 11.30 | ±5.17 |
| Years of unit experience                  |       |        |              |        |       |       |
| <5  | 24    | 54.5   | 149          | 55.2   | 173   | 55.2  |
| 5-  | 18    | 40.9   | 95           | 35.2   | 113   | 35.9  |
| $\geq 10$                                 | 2     | 4.6    | 26           | 9.6    | 28    | 8.9   |
| Mean± SD                                  | 9.04  | ±2.06  | 9.63         | ±5.96  | 9.33  | ±3.79 |
| Marital status                            |       |        |              |        |       |       |
| Single                                    | 4     | 9.1    | 59           | 21.9   | 63    | 20.1  |
| Married                                   | 40    | 90.9   | 211          | 78.1   | 251   | 79.9  |
| Divorced                                  | 0     | 0.0    | 0            | 0.0    | 0     | 0     |
| Widow                                     | 0     | 0.0    | 0            | 0.0    | 0     | 0     |

## Mean scores of head nurses and their staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 2 reveals that highly statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and total leadership styles, transformational style, idealized influence attribute, idealized influence behavior, inspiration motivation and intellectual stimulation subscales, where ( $P \le 0.01$ ). Whereas, a statistically significant difference was found between head nurses and staff nurses and management by exception passive, where (P = 0.03). However, no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses. Where (P = 0.03). However, no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and transactional and laissez-faire styles, individual consideration, contingent reward and management by exception active subscales, where (P > 0.05).

Additionally, head nurses had high mean $\pm$ SD of total leadership styles (83.09 $\pm$ 8.01); compared to (77.95 $\pm$ 9.74) for staff nurses. The highest mean $\pm$ SD was transformational leadership style for both head nurses and staff nurses (51.77 $\pm$ 5.47, 46.58 $\pm$ 7.94), respectively; followed by transactional leadership style (24.52 $\pm$ 4.61, 24.29 $\pm$ 5.18), consecutively; and lastly, laissez faire leadership style (6.79 $\pm$ 2.85, 7.27 $\pm$ 2.96), respectively.

According to leadership subscales, the highest mean $\pm$ SD, for both head nurses and staff nurses, was idealized influence attribute (11.47 $\pm$ 1.63, 10.25 $\pm$ 2.46), respectively; whereas, the lowest mean $\pm$ SD was management by exception active (6.68 $\pm$ 3.01, 7.58 $\pm$ 2.93), consecutively.

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| Table (2): Mean scores of head nurses and their staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles, working at Kafr El- |
|---|
| Dawar General Hospital. (N=314)   |

| Leadership styles and subscales   |     | Head n<br>(n=4 |                  |     | Staff n<br>(n=2 | Т                | Р     |       |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------|------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-------|-------|
|                                   | Min | Max            | Mean±SD          | Min | Max             | Mean±SD          |       |       |
| 1- Transformational leadership    | 40  | 64             | 51.77±5.47       | 26  | 64              | 46.58±7.94       | 17.40 | .00** |
| a-Idealized influence attribute   | 9   | 16             | 11.47±1.63       | 2   | 16              | $10.25 \pm 2.46$ | 10.10 | .00** |
| b-Idealized influence behavior    | 8   | 15             | 10.90±1.68       | 3   | 15              | 9.58±2.39        | 12.40 | .00** |
| c-Inspiration motivation          | 8   | 14             | $10.38 \pm 1.48$ | 2   | 14              | $8.94{\pm}2.60$  | 12.70 | .00** |
| d-Intellectual stimulation        | 8   | 16             | 10.59±1.63       | 2   | 16              | $9.50{\pm}2.41$  | 8.20  | .04** |
| e-Individual consideration        | 2   | 13             | 8.40±2.69        | 2   | 13              | 8.28±2.59        | .09   | .76   |
| 2- Transactional leadership       | 13  | 32             | 24.52±4.61       | 11  | 33              | $24.29 \pm 5.18$ | .26   | .61   |
| a-contingent reward               | 4   | 12             | 8.31±2.20        | 2   | 12              | $7.96 \pm 2.44$  | .80   | .37   |
| b-management by exception passive | 5   | 16             | 9.52±2.56        | 1   | 16              | 8.54±2.72        | 4.93  | .03*  |
| c-management by exception active  | 0   | 13             | 6.68±3.01        | 0   | 13              | $7.58 \pm 2.93$  | 3.54  | .06   |
| 3- Laissez faire leadership       | 0   | 12             | $6.79 \pm 2.85$  | 0   | 14              | 7.27±2.96        | .99   | .32   |
| Total Leadership styles           | 58  | 110            | 83.09±8.01       | 57  | 108             | 77.95±9.74       | 11.00 | .01** |

\*\*Highly significant at P ≤0.01; \*Significant at P ≤0.05; Not significant at P >0.05

## Mean scores of head nurses' perceptions and their staff nurses' psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 3 reveals that no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and total psychological well-being, social role functioning, interpersonal relationship and symptom distress subscales, where (P > 0.05).

Pertaining to total psychological well-being, staff nurses had high mean $\pm$ SD of total psychological well-being (96.06 $\pm$ 12.53); compared to (95.36 $\pm$ 14.94) for head nurses. As regard to psychological well-being subscales, the highest mean $\pm$ SD of both head nurses and staff nurses was symptoms distress (46.68 $\pm$ 11.07, 48.10 $\pm$ 8.70), respectively; whereas, the lowest mean $\pm$ SD of both head nurses and staff nurses was social role functioning (23.40 $\pm$ 4.87, 22.56 $\pm$ 4.43), consecutively.

| Table (3): Mean scores of head nurses' perceptions and their staff nurses' psychological well-being, working at |
|---|
| Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital. (N=314)   |

| Nurses' Psychological well-           |     |     | nurses<br>=44)   |     | Staff<br>(n= | F                | р    |     |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|--------------|------------------|------|-----|--|
| being subscales                       | Min | Max | Mean ±SD         | Min | Max          | Mean± SD         |      | _   |  |
| Social-Role functioning               | 15  | 34  | 23.40±4.87       | 14  | 34           | 22.56±4.43       | 1.33 | .25 |  |
| Interpersonal relationships           | 12  | 36  | $25.29 \pm 4.70$ | 12  | 36           | 25.39±4.72       | .02  | .89 |  |
| Symptoms distress                     | 21  | 68  | 46.68±11.07      | 21  | 68           | $48.10 \pm 8.70$ | .93  | .34 |  |
| Total nurses' psychological wellbeing | 68  | 138 | 95.36±14.94      | 68  | 136          | 96.06±12.53      | .11  | .75 |  |

\*\*Highly significant at P ≤0.01; \*Significant at P ≤0.05; Not significant at P>0.05

## Correlation matrix between head nuses' leadership styles and their perceptions of nurses' psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 6 reveals that there was statistical significant correlation between total leadership styles and total psychological well-being, where (P=0.040). Moreover there were positive high statistically significant correlations between total leadership styles and all its related styles and subscales and social role functioning; except management by exception active. Moreover, there were positive high statistically significant correlations between total leadership, contingent reward, management by exception active and all its related subscales, where (P=0.000).

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Furthermore, there were positive high statistically significant correlations between transformational leadership and idealized influence attribute, idealized influence behavior, inspiration motivation, intellectual stimulation, individual consideration and management by exception passive. Additionally, the same correlations were found between transactional leadership and all its related subscales and idealized influence attribute, social role functioning, symptom distress and laissez faire leadership; as well as between laissez faire leadership and management by exception active. Additionally, the same correlations were found between symptom distress and social role functioning and interpersonal relationships, where (P=0.000).

Moreover, positive statistically significant correlations were found between laissez faire leadership and social role functioning, where (P=0.037). However, negative high statistically significant correlations were found between total psychological well-being and transformational leadership, idealized influence behavior and inspiration motivation; as well as between transformational leadership and management by exception active and symptom distress, where (P=0.000). Additionally, the same correlation was found between laissez faire leadership and interpersonal relationships, where (P=0.009).

In addition to that, negative statistically significant correlations were found between transactional leadership and idealized influence behavior, where (P=0.021). On the other hand, no statistically significant correlations were found between the other dimensions.

| Leadership styles                     | $\sim$           |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |             |        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Psychological well-                   | being            | (1) | (2)    | (3)    | (4)    | (5)    | (6)    | (7)    | (8)    | (9)    | (10)   | (11)   | (12)   | (13)   | (14)   | (15)        | (16)   |
| Transformational                      | r                | 1   | .673   | .644   | .747   | .554   | .562   | 090    | .045   | .239   | 418    | 079    | .743   | .082   | .020   | 295         | 168    |
| leadership (1)                        | P(2-tailed)      | 1   | .000** | .000** | .000** | .000** | .000** | .141   | .463   | .000** | .000** | .193   | .000** | .182   | .739   | .000**      | .000** |
| Idealized influence                   | r                |     | 1      | .369   | .302   | .144   | .331   | .208   | 066    | .024   | 336    | 158    | .390   | .067   | 010    | 047         | 013    |
| attribute (2)                         | P(2-tailed)      |     | 1      | .000** | .000** | .018*  | .000** | .001** | .281   | .696   | **000. | .009** | .000** | .271   | .875   | .000        | .837   |
| Idealized influence                   | r                |     |        | 1      | .436   | .102   | .167   | 140    | 077    | .104   | 280    | 107    | .418   | 068    | 170    | 244         | 260    |
| behavior (3)                          | P(2-tailed)      |     |        | 1      | .000** | .095   | .006** | .021*  | .209   | .089   | .000** | .079   | .000** | .271   | .003** | .000**      | .000** |
| Inspiration                           | r                |     |        |        | 1      | .452   | .176   | 050    | .029   | .204   | 303    | .073   | .605   | 010    | 110    | 300         | 250    |
| motivation (4)                        | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        | 1      | .000** | .004** | .410   | .636   | .001** | .000** | .231   | **000. | .866   | .071   | .000**      | .000** |
| Intellectual                          | r                |     |        |        |        | 1      | .082   | .094   | .198   | .168   | 155    | .009   | .504   | .208   | .212   | 091         | .090   |
| stimulation (5)                       | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        | •      | .182   | .125   | .001** | .006** | .011*  | .889   | .000** | .001** | .000** | .134        | .140   |
| Individual                            | r                |     |        |        |        |        | 1      | .016   | .058   | .251   | 253    | 076    | .444   | .065   | .150   | 240         | 091    |
| consideration (6)                     | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        | -      | .794   | .345   | .000** | .000** | .214   | **000. | .290   | .014*  | **000.      | .135   |
| Transactional                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .700   | .590   | .636   | .240   | .531   | .320   | .005   | .279        | .309   |
| leadership (7)                        | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        | _      | .000** | .000** | .000** | .000** | **000. | **000. | .937   | **000.      | .000** |
| Contingent reward                     | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .206   | .213   | .099   | .439   | .244   | .124   | .254        | .309   |
| (8)                                   | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |        | _      | .001** | .000** | .105   | .000** | .000** | .042*  | .000**      | .000** |
| Management by                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | 056    | .022   | .515   | .139   | 054    | 044         | .002   |
| exception passive (9)                 | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .356   | .715   | **000. | .023*  | .376   | .473        | .976   |
| Management by                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .312   | .095   | .234   | 045    | .323        | .290   |
| exception active (10)                 | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .000** | .118   | .000** | .464   | .000**      | .000** |
| Laissez faire                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .367   | .127   | 150    | .098        | .053   |
| leadership (11)                       | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .000** | .037*  | .009** | .109        | .388   |
| Total Leadership<br>styles (12)       | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .275   | 029    | 062<br>.309 | .243   |
| Social-Role                           | 3 P              |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .000** |        |             | .04*   |
|                                       | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .087   | .281        | .000** |
| functioning (13)<br>Interpersonal     | · · ·            |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .1.5   | .000***     | .527   |
| relationships (14)                    | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .1/1        | .000** |
| • • •                                 | - (              |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | .005**      | .858   |
| Symptoms distress<br>(15)             | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1           | .828   |
| Total psychological<br>wellbeing (16) | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |             | 1      |

 Table (6): Correlation matrix between head nurses' leadership styles and their perceptions of nurses' psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital. (N=44)

\* significant at  $P \le 0.05$ ; \*\* Highly significant  $P \le 0.01$  Interpretation of r: Weak(0.1-0.24); Intermediate(0.25-0.7); Strong(0.75-0.99); Perfect(1)

## Correlation matrix between staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles and their psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 7 reveals that there was statistical significant correlation between total leadership styles and total psychological well-being, where (P=0.030). Moreover, there were positive high statistically significant correlations between total leadership styles and all its related styles and intellectual stimulation, individual consideration, contingent reward and management by exception passive subscales. Moreover, there were positive high statistically significant correlations between total psychological well-being and all its related subscales and management by exception active, where (P=0.000).

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Furthermore, there were positive high statistically significant correlations between transformational leadership and idealized influence (attribute and behavior), inspiration motivation, intellectual stimulation and individual consideration; as well as between transactional leadership and contingent reward, management by exception active, laissez faire leadership and social role functioning. Additionally the same correlation were found between laissez faire leadership and contingent reward and management by exception active; as well as between social role functioning and symptom distress, where (P=0.000).

Moreover, positive statistically significant correlations were found between total leadership styles and inspiration motivation and social role functioning; as well as between total psychological well-being and transactional leadership and contingent reward, additionally the same correlation were found between transactional leadership and management by exception passive, where ( $P \le 0.05$ ).

However, negative high statistically significant correlations were found between transformational leadership and management by exception active and symptom distress, where (P=0.000). In addition to that, negative statistically significant correlation were found between total psychological well-being and transformational leadership and inspiration motivation, where (P $\leq$ 0.050). On the other hand, no statistically significant correlations were found between the other dimensions.

## Table (7): Correlation matrix between staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles and their psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital. (N=270).

| Leadership styles                     |                  |     |        |        |        |        |        | -        |      |               |        |        |        |        |      |        |                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|--------|----------------|
| Psychologica                          | l well-being     | (1) | (2)    | (3)    | (4)    | (5)    | (6)    | (7)      | (8)  | (9)           | (10)   | (11)   | (12)   | (13)   | (14) | (15)   | (16)           |
| Transformational                      | r                |     | .550   | .435   | .570   | .562   | .771   | 158      | 088  | .285          | 421    | 036    | .579   | 037    | 018  | 441    | 345            |
| leadership (1)                        | P(2-tailed)      | 1   | .000** | .003** | .000** | **000. | .000** | .305     | .569 | .060          | .004** | .818   | .000** | .809   | .907 | .003** | .022*          |
| Idealized influence                   | r                |     | 1      | .050   | .220   | .179   | .250   | 185      | 011  | 011           | 129    | 108    | .234   | .074   | .074 | 215    | 062            |
| attribute (2)                         | P(2-tailed)      |     | 1      | .747   | .152   | .244   | .102   | .230     | .944 | .944          | .404   | .485   | .125   | .632   | .632 | .161   | .689           |
| Idealized influence                   | r                |     |        | 1      | .014   | .096   | .162   | 284      | 186  | 167           | 157    | .015   | .139   | 171    | 067  | 196    | 233            |
| behavior (3)                          | P(2-tailed)      |     |        | -      | .926   | .534   | .293   | .062     | .226 | .280          | .307   | .921   | .369   | .266   | .666 | .201   | .147           |
| Inspiration                           | r                |     |        |        | 1      | .249   | .315   | .000     | 010  | .386          | 321    | 019    | .383   | 229    | 143  | 328    | 363            |
| motivation (4)                        | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        | -      | .102   | .038*  | .998     | .949 | .001**        | .034*  | .901   | .010*  | .136   | .353 | .030*  | .016*          |
| Intellectual                          | r                |     |        |        |        | 1      | .229   | .063     | 028  | .313          | 150    | .017   | .426   | .121   | .125 | 132    | 019            |
| stimulation (5)                       | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        | .135   | .685     | .859 | .038*         | .331   | .915   | .004** | .434   | .419 | .393   | .902           |
| Individual<br>consideration (6)       | r                |     |        |        |        |        | 1      | 074      | .071 | .288          | 411    | 016    | .478   | .038   | .139 | 497    | 312            |
| .,                                    | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        | .635     | .645 | .058          | .006** | .918   | .004** | .805   | .369 | .001** | .039*          |
| Transactional<br>leadership (7)       | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        | 1        | .732 | .367<br>.014* | .685   | .525   | .656   | .476   | .013 | .257   | .350<br>.020*  |
| Contingent reward                     | r (2-tanca)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      | 010           | .397   | .457   | .524   | .494   | .049 | .198   | .323           |
| (8)                                   | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          | 1    | .951          | 008**  | 002**  | 000**  | 001**  | .752 | .193   | .032*          |
| Management by (9)                     | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        | <u> </u> |      |               | 282    | .040   | .421   | 084    | 011  | 169    | 156            |
| exception passive                     | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      | 1             | .063   | .795   | .004** | .586   | .943 | .272   | .310           |
| Management by(10)                     | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               | 1      | .436   | .263   | .440   | 006  | .394   | .434           |
| exception active                      | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               | 1      | .003** | .085   | .003** | .967 | .008** | .003**         |
| Laissez faire                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        | 1      | .635   | .175   | .032 | .158   | .184           |
| leadership(11)                        | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        | 1      | .000** | .256   | .835 | .305   | .231           |
| Total Leadership                      | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        | 1      | .311   | .007 | 096    | .332           |
| styles (12)                           | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        | 1      | .040*  | .966 | .534   | .036*          |
| Social-Role                           | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        | 1      | .115 | .381   | .645           |
| functioning (13)                      | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        | 1      | .456 | .011** | **000.         |
| Interpersonal                         | r                |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        |        | 1    | .079   | .411           |
| relationships (14)                    | P(2-tailed)      |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        |        | 1    | .610   | .006**         |
| Symptoms distress<br>(15)             | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        |        |      | 1      | .980<br>.000** |
| Total psychological<br>wellbeing (16) | r<br>P(2-tailed) |     |        |        |        |        |        |          |      |               |        |        |        |        |      |        | 1              |

\* significant at  $P \le 0.05$ ; \*\* Highly significant  $P \le 0.01$  Interpretation of r: Weak(0.1-0.24); Intermediate(0.25-0.7); Strong(0.75-0.99); Perfect(1)

## Multivariate regression analysis to illustrate predictors of head nurses' leadership styles, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 8 Present the results of multivariate regression analysis between leadership styles as dependent variable and age, gender, nursing experience, unit experience and psychological wellbeing as predictors, where adjusted  $R^2$ =0.456. It was found that approximately 45.6% of the leadership styles is related to psychological well-being, where the model is significant (F=1.47, P=0.03).

However, coefficients table of regression analysis has displayed that age, gender and psychological well-being were relatively significant predictors of leadership styles, where (P=0.03, 0.04, 0.02), respectively; and also years of nursing experience and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of leadership styles.

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 Table (8): Multivariate regression analysis to illustrate predictors of head nurses' leadership styles, working at

 Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital. (N=44)

|                         | Unstandardized<br>Coefficients |                       | standardized<br>Coefficients |          |          |  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|--|
|                         | В                              |                       | β                            | Т        | P. value |  |
| Age                     | 2.63                           |                       | 2.73                         | 3.15     | .03*     |  |
| Gender                  | 2.21                           |                       | 2.24                         | 1.43     | .04*     |  |
| Nursing experience      | 09                             |                       | 01                           | 03       | .98      |  |
| Unit experience         | 1.01                           |                       | 07                           | .37      | .71      |  |
| Psychological wellbeing | 3.00                           |                       | 3.02                         | 4.03     | .02*     |  |
|                         | ANOV                           | VA VA                 |                              |          |          |  |
| Model                   | Df.                            | <b>R</b> <sup>2</sup> | F                            | P. value |          |  |
| Regression              | 5.00                           | 0.456                 | 1.47                         | 0.03*    |          |  |

a. Dependent Variable: leadership styles

b. Predictors: (constant): age, gender, nursing experience, unit experience and psychological well-being.

\*\* Highly significant P  $\leq$  0.01\*, significant P  $\leq$  0.05

df= degree of freedom, F= One Way Anova

T=Independent samples t- test, R2= Coefficient of multiple determination

## Multivariate regression analysis to illustrate predictors of staff nurses' psychological well-being, working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital.

Table 11 Presents the results of multivariate regression analysis between psychological well-being as dependent variable and age, gender, nursing experience, unit experience and leadership styles as predictors of psychological well-being, where adjusted  $R^2$ =0.384. It was found that approximately 38.4% of psychological well-being is related to leadership styles where the model is significant (F=2.37, P= 0.02).

However, coefficients table of regression analysis has displayed that age and leadership styles were relatively significant predictors of psychological well-being, where (P=0.03, 0.02), respectively; and also gender, years of nursing experience and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of psychological well-being.

| Table (11): Multivariate regression analysis to illustrate predictors of staff nurses' psychological well-being, |
|--|
| working at Kafr El-Dawar General Hospital. ( N=270)  |

|                    | Unstandardized<br>Coefficients |                | standardized<br>Coefficients |       |          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------|----------|
|                    | В                              |                | β                            | Т     | P. value |
| Age                | 3.64                           |                | 3.71                         | 2.91  | .03*     |
| Gender             | -2.12                          |                | 03                           | 49    | .62      |
| Nursing experience | -3.11                          |                | 17                           | -1.11 | .27      |
| Unit experience    | 1.85                           |                | .09                          | .76   | .45      |
| Leadership styles  | 2.05                           | `              | 2.05                         | 3.91  | .02*     |
| ANOVA              |                                |                |                              |       |          |
| Model              | Df.                            | $\mathbb{R}^2$ | F                            | P. v  | alue     |
| Regression         | 5.00                           | 0.384          | 2.37                         | .0    | 2*       |

a. Dependent Variable: psychological well-being

b. Predictors: (constant): age, gender, nursing experience, unit experience and leadership styles.

\*\* Highly significant P  $\leq$  0.01\*, significant P  $\leq$  0.05

df= degree of freedom, F= One Way Anova

T=Independent samples t- test, R<sup>2</sup>= Coefficient of multiple determination

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## 4. DISCUSSION

### Leadership styles

The findings of the present study revealed that highly statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and total leadership styles, transformational leadership, idealized influence attribute, idealized influence behavior, inspiration motivation and intellectual stimulation subscales. Moreover, a statistically significant difference was found between head nurses and staff nurses and management by exception passive. However, no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and transactional and laissez-faire leadership, individual consideration, contingent reward and management by exception active subscales. Moreover, the first leadership style was transformational; followed by transactional, and lastly, laissez-faire.

This may be related to head nurses and staff nurses, who are likely to work as team, with collaborative decisions and taking into account hospital objectives. However, these decisions are generally post pond due to their work overload and staff shortage, which make it more serious and challenging. Furthermore, head nurses usually feel uncertain of the capabilities of her staff, leading to not giving them to take their own decisions, she is always with them.

This is congruent with Humphreys and Zettel (2002), <sup>(24)</sup> reported that leaders, who described themselves as more transformational, are more effective than other leaders. Moreover, Bass and Riggio (2006) <sup>(25)</sup> found that transformational leadership is the most used and effective between leaders. Furthermore, Failla and Stichler (2008) <sup>(26)</sup> and Bass and Bass (2008) <sup>(27)</sup> found that staff nurses believed that transformational leadership was widely used by head nurses. Mabrouk, (2009) <sup>(28)</sup> also stated that transformational leadership is proposed as empowering leadership style that better fits with today's hospital and nursing environment, it aims to empower nurses and help to grow in their personal and professional development. Ibrahim at el. (2011) <sup>(29)</sup> found that leadership styles are dominant in all hospital especially between head nurses and the most used style was transformational leadership style. Also, the results of Garg and Ramjee (2013), <sup>(30)</sup> indicated that leadership in the said Para statal is more transformational leadership was dominant. This was also, in same line with Elmezin et al. (2016) <sup>(33)</sup>, who showed in their study that nurses favor transformational leadership over transactional. Additionally, Abdelhafiz et al. (2016) <sup>(34)</sup> stated that transformational leadership were the most used followed by transactional leadership by head nurses in hospitals.

On the other hand, this result is contraindicated with Jaffe et al. (2012) <sup>(35)</sup>, who reported that staff nurses rated head nurses are equally using all three leadership styles: transformational, transactional and laissez faire with minor individual variances among them. Mubark et al. (2015) <sup>(36)</sup> found that staff nurses believed that their head nurses used transactional style and laissez faire style quite often.

## **Psychological well-being**

The findings of the present study revealed that no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses and total nurses' psychological well-being, social role functioning, interpersonal relationship and symptom distress subscales. Additionally, the first psychological well-being subscales was symptoms distress; followed by interpersonal relationships, and lastly, social role functioning. This may be due to that nurses staff are experienced to deal with stress due to their continuous exposure to emergency situations at their units. Moreover, as nursing is a stressful career that requires dealing with acute ill patients and life threatening situations; therefore it needs a lot of physical effort and interpersonal relationships.

These findings are compatible with Kuniek (2017), <sup>(37)</sup> stated that great relationship between nurses and symptom and physical distress. In addition to that, Faisal and Abdullah (2019) <sup>(38)</sup> revealed that the relationship between psychological well-being and symptom distress in nurses may be due to poor working conditions and shortage of nursing staff. On the other hand, Madhchandra and Srimathi (2016) <sup>(39)</sup> studied psychological well-being among nurses and doctors in india and found that positive relationship between them. Moreover, Akbari et al. (2019) <sup>(40)</sup> reported that psychological well-being of nurses are depending on social relationships. Sobhi et al. (2020) <sup>(41)</sup> indicated that social role functioning is the dominant psychological well-being subscale between nurses. Moreover, Siris and Owens (2021) <sup>(42)</sup> reported that nurses experienced psychological distress.

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### Relationship between leadership styles and psychological well-being

The findings of the present study revealed that there was positive statistical significant correlation between total leadership styles and total psychological well-being, for both head nurses and staff nurses. This may be due to the working relations between head nurses and her staff that is reflected on her staff psychological well-being, so, the more positive and collaborative leadership style, the more positive psychological well-being and a positive work climate.

These findings go in the same line with Zopitas and Constanti (2010), <sup>(43)</sup> who found that transformational leadership was positively correlated with personal accomplishment and well-being. Moreover, Millia (2012) <sup>(44)</sup> found that the impact of leadership styles on interpersonal trust and well-being is positive. In addition to that, Halder (2014) <sup>(45)</sup> showed that there was a positive and significant effect of transformational leadership and psychological well-being. However, this result is partially consistent with Skogbrott et al. (2016), <sup>(46)</sup> who found a negative relation between leadership behaviors and psychological distress. Furthermore, Amir (2018) <sup>(47)</sup> concluded that a highly positive relationship was found between leadership styles and nurses psychological well-being and also interpersonal communications.

Furthermore, there were positive high statistical significant correlations between total leadership styles and all its related styles and subscales. Moreover, there were positive high statistical significant correlations between total psychological well-being and all its related subscales for both head nurses and staff nurses. Additionally, the same correlations were found between total leadership styles and social role functioning; as well as between total psychological well-being and transactional leadership and contingent reward for head nurses, also between total psychological well-being and management by exception active for both head nurses and staff nurses. Furthermore, there were positive high statistical significant correlations between transformational leadership and idealized influence attribute, idealized influence behavior, inspiration motivation, intellectual stimulation and individual consideration for both head nurses and staff nurses. This may be due to the increase awareness of head nurses, who are dealing with more respect to them.

These findings are in accordance with Woodman and Hauser (2013), <sup>(48)</sup> who reported that acceptance of responsibilities and social role were related to low levels of psychological well-being. Moreover, Secil (2014) <sup>(49)</sup> demonstrated that psychological well-being of nurses are contributed with relationships in work and their social role. In addition to that, Davood et al. (2014) <sup>(50)</sup> noted that transformational leaders are more innovative and considering individuality. Anderson (2015) <sup>(51)</sup> revealed that there was a very strong correlation between transactional leadership and transformational leadership. Additionally, Lizette and Frida (2016) <sup>(52)</sup> stated that idealized influence behavior, nurses motivation and consideration are positively connected. Manjale (2017) <sup>(53)</sup> found that transformational leadership style is determinant of nurses' self-esteem and individual consideration. Moreover, Frank at el. (2018) <sup>(54)</sup> concluded that transactional style is more contributed to nurses' leadership styles.

Furthermore, Rinaldi et al. (2018) <sup>(55)</sup> found that transformational leadership has a positive relationship with nurses motivation. Moreover, Kiran et al. (2019) <sup>(56)</sup> found a positive correlation between transactional style and laissez faire style. This result is partially inconsistent with Mohammad et al. (2014), <sup>(57)</sup> who found that there is a positive weak correlation between transformational leadership and nurses' psychological well-being. On the other hand, Tebogo et al. (2015) <sup>(58)</sup> mentioned that leadership styles were not statistically significant with laissez faire nurses.

The present study illustrated that there were positive statistical significant correlations were found between laissez faire leadership and social role functioning for head nurses whereas, the same correlation between total leadership styles and inspiration motivation and social role functioning; as well as between total psychological well-being and transactional leadership and contingent reward, additionally the same correlation were found between transactional leadership and management by exception passive for staff nurses. This may be related to head nurses, who are more enthusiastic and optimistic and seek different perspectives when solving problems. Head nurses spend time teaching her staff and help in develop their strengths and provide others with assistance. They are also eager about their family troubles, feeling loved and wanted, feel stressful, working too hard to solve problems and avoid taking important decision.

These findings are supported by Arnold and Connelly (2013), <sup>(59)</sup> who found that nurses, who are more enthusiastic, are more caring with their family and positive well-being. Raja et al. (2021) <sup>(60)</sup> also stated that more good relations with health team tend to more well-being climate in hospitals. On contrary, this is not in agreement with Sophon (2013), <sup>(61)</sup> who

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contends that transformational leaders facilitate communication and delegation among nurses. In addition, Long et al. (2014) <sup>(62)</sup> stated that leaders are able to assign nurses tasks, which are comfortable doing. Furthermore, Barine and Minja (2014) <sup>(63)</sup> found that inspirational motivation is concerned with motivating nurses to higher level of contribution and productivity. Finally, Mariela (2021) <sup>(64)</sup> stated that no statistical significant relationship was found between both transformational and transactional leadership styles and management by exception passive.

The findings of the present study illustrated that there are negative high statistical correlations between total psychological well-being and transformational leadership, idealized influence behavior and inspiration motivation; as well as between laissez faire leadership and interpersonal relationships for head nurses. Additionally, the same correlations were found between transformational leadership and management by exception active and symptom distress for both head nurses and staff nurses. This may be due to head nurses keep track of all mistakes and concentrate her full attention to deal with it and with failures. They also had sense of power and confidence to get involved in issues and making decisions. This is supported by Robert and Vandenberghe (2020), <sup>(65)</sup> who stated that laissez faire leaders are negatively affected in making decisions. These findings are incompatible with Gregory (2007), <sup>(66)</sup> who found that there is a positive correlation between transformational leadership style and nurses' motivation and dealing with problems. Willis et al. (2017) <sup>(67)</sup> also found that less strongly relation between transformational leadership and management by exception active.

The findings of the present study also showed that there are negative statistical significant correlations between transactional leadership and idealized influence behavior for head nurses; and between total psychological well-being and transformational leadership and inspiration motivation. This may be related to head nurses, who have values and beliefs and sense of purpose deal with their staff nurses with fairness and individuality to promote their psychological well-being. This finding is incompatible with Dvir et al. (2002), <sup>(68)</sup> who found that transactional leadership is less correlational with higher performance and behavior than transformational leadership. Moreover, Wang et al. (2004) <sup>(69)</sup> stated that transformational and transactional leadership were positively linked with nurses' behavior and attitude.

#### Predictors of leadership styles and psychological well-being

The present study revealed that age, gender and psychological well-being were significant predictors affecting the level of head nurses' leadership styles. However, nursing experience and psychological well-being were relatively significant predictors of staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles. Additionally, years of nursing experience and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of head nurses' leadership styles and also age, gender and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of staff nurses' perceptions of leadership styles. Moreover, the present study showed that age, gender and leadership styles were relatively significant predictors of psychological well-being of head nurses perceptions, however age and leadership styles were relatively significant predictors of psychological well-being of staff nurses. Additionally, years of nursing experience and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of staff nurses are relatively significant predictors of psychological well-being of head nurses perceptions, however age and leadership styles were relatively significant predictors of psychological well-being of staff nurses. Additionally, years of nursing experience and unit experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of psychological well-being of nursing experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of psychological well-being of nursing experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of psychological well-being of nursing experience are not significant predictors affecting the level of psychological well-being of staff nurses.

This is supported by Gelfan et al. (2007), <sup>(70)</sup> who found that gender is significant predictor of leadership styles because female differ from male in using leadership styles. In addition to that, Basel and Kagman (2021) <sup>(71)</sup> stated that gender and psychological well-being had a strong effect on leadership styles and decision making, female leaders are more effective and have huge impact than male. The finding goes partially in the same line with Vecchio and Bullis (2001), <sup>(72)</sup> who found, that based on gender, nurses are likely to display different psychological reactions and job habits. In addition to that, Liu et al. (2010) <sup>(73)</sup> indicated that leadership styles affect nurses' psychological well-being. Kara and Ctheriene (2013) <sup>(74)</sup> also stated that leadership had effect on psychological well-being; and that, transformational leadership is combined with positive psychological well-being. Moreover, Nurul and Che (2016) <sup>(75)</sup> found that there was no difference between male and female toward psychological well-being. On the other hand, John et al. (2007) <sup>(76)</sup> found that nursing experience influence leadership styles and behaviors. Finally, Casey and Rebecca (2011); <sup>(77)</sup> Perez (2012); <sup>(78)</sup> and Amran and Khairian (2014) <sup>(79)</sup> concluded that there are no statistical significant differences of general psychological well-being toward gender.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study concluded that a positive significant correlation was found between total leadership styles and total psychological well-being at Kafr El-Dawar General hospital. In addition to that, there were highly statistically

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significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses toward total leadership styles. However, there were no statistically significant differences were found between head nurses and staff nurses toward total psychological wellbeing. Moreover, the highest mean±SD of leadership styles for both subjects was transformational leadership style; also, symptom distress for psychological well-being. Furthermore, above three quarters of both head nurses and staff nurses had moderate level of total leadership styles. Moreover, half of head nurses and less than three quarters of staff nurses had moderate level of total psychological wellbeing.

## 6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Based on the findings of the present study, the following recommendations are suggested:

#### **1-** Hospital administrators should:

• Conduct training programs and conferences for nurse managers to enhance their leadership skills and talents for delegate responsibilities and duties to staff nurses, for positive relationships with staff nurses through being good listener and giving them feedback.

• Communicate clear goals and expectation to nurses, through sharing new ideas, which make them motivated and give them a sense of trust to maintain their psychological well-being.

• Conduct regular meetings with head nurses to promote effective interpersonal communications, solving problems and fulfill their needs.

• Apply training program to monitor level of psychological well-being of staff nurses through providing constructive feedback, encourage engagement and provide a competitive advantage.

• Foster a positive work climate for staff nurses to participate in decision making process and problem solving in order to promote working environment, to enhance their psychological well-being.

#### 2- Head nurses should:

• Build autonomy in nursing staff by providing them with more authorities and responsibilities through applying delegation system, to encourage them to act in constructive and flexible manner and become role model for them.

• Increase staff nurses' satisfaction to increase their psychological well-being through competitive salaries, regular scheduling incentives, encourage team spirit and establish regular meetings to discuss their problems.

• Provide staff nurses with continuous positive feedback about their performance to boost their self-confidence and stimulate feeling of belonging to organization, to increase their psychological well-being.

• Foster positive work environment through encouraging team building and team work to improve workflow, which positively will impact their psychological well-being.

#### **3-** Staff nurses should:

• Communicate openly with their head nurses to discuss their problems.

• Attend training programs to improve their abilities and skills to work effectively; thus, increase their psychological wellbeing.

### Further research:

- Impact of head nurses' leadership styles on nursing staff performance.
- Relationship between styles of leadership and productivity of work.
- Relationship between nurses' psychological well-being and their turnover.
- Relationship between nurses' psychological well-being and their work performance.

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