The nursing associations have many roles and activities. However, nursing is faced with a multitude of fores, which at times place nursing associations in a position where what may be best for public is not best for the profession. In all the activities of professional bodies, there needs to be a balance between professional bodies and public so as to promote nursing care. The statutory body has specific roles in clarifying and disseminating documents, lobbying and regulating and advocating for nursing education and related issues.

A study was therefore undertaken to assess the influence of state registration council on clinical practice among staff nurses working in selected hospitals in Bhopal (MP).

Objectives
The study had the following objectives: (1) Assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding state registration council on clinical practice; (2) Seek the opinion of staff nurses regarding state registration council on clinical practice; (3) Determine the association between knowledge of staff nurses and selected demographic variables; and (4) Recommend strategies for better effectiveness of state registration council on clinical practice.

Review of Literature: Holleman et al. conducted a literature review for examining the activities of professional nursing associations in the promotion of evidence-based practice. A literature and internet search was undertaken using PUBMED, CINHAHL, SCIRUS, INVERT and COCHRANE databases using the term evidence-based practices which were then combined with nursing association and nursing council. Publications in English, French or German from 1993 to 2004 were used. The findings of the study suggest that 60 nursing associations described the dissemination of evidence-based practice using one or more types of activities. All of these activities were of a voluntary nature, with a predominant focus on intrinsic motivation of nurses. More specifically, most of the activities were aimed at nurses’ competencies and attitudes in relation to evidence-based practice. Other types of activities deserve to be explored, include behaviour-oriented approaches, approaches using structural, social or financial influence measures and perhaps methods based on ‘involuntary involvement’.

Methodology
A descriptive survey approach was utilized for the study. The study was conducted in selected hospitals of Bhopal (MP). Stratified Random sampling technique was used. The sample comprised of 100 staff nurses working in clinical area of selected hospitals.

The tools developed for data collection are as follows: Section A: Structured Questionnaire related to demographic variables. Section B: Structured Questionnaire to assess the knowledge of staff nurses regarding state registration council on clinical practice. Section C: Structured Opinionnaire on influence of state registration council on clinical practice. Further, the reliability and validity of the tool was established. Pilot study was done to find out the feasibility of the study. Structured Questionnaire and Opinionnaire were administered to the staff nurses.

The content of Structured Questionnaire and Opinionnaire included: Roles and Responsibility of State Registration Council; Continuing Professional Accreditation; Licensure Accreditation; Special Certification; Maintenance of records and reports; Communication of Information and recent updates; Power dissemination; Institutional review; Monitoring of nursing practice and education; Awareness and sensitisation of state registration council; Central recognition of state registration council.

Data gathered were analysed and interpreted in the light of objectives using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results
The majority of study participants were females (90%) and between the age group of 36-45 years (82%). The study revealed that majority (87%) of staff nurses did not possess knowledge on role and responsibilities of state registration council, continuing professional education, special certification etc. The role responsibility known to the staff nurses was licensure for practice. Majority (94%) of study participants were of the opinion that state registration council has no influence on clinical practice.

Conclusion
State registration council has a pivotal role in setting standards for clinical practice. It exists to safeguard the health and well being of the society. Council needs to act with integrity, accountability, exhibit professionalism, look for innovative solutions and positive responsive feedback mechanism. The state registration council and nursing personnel should have close interaction to achieve excellence.