

A Descriptive Cross-Sectional Survey on Attitude of Nursing Students Towards Chosen Profession in India

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Abstract

Introduction: Attitude plays a vital role in molding the shape of the individual as a person and a professional. Attitude of Nursing students influences their further career path selection, which is of significant interest. *Method:* Under a quantitative approach, a descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted with 434 nursing students studying GNM, B.Sc (Nsg), PBBSC, and M.Sc (Nsg) to assess the attitude towards chosen profession by covering all regions of India. The samples were accessed through direct contact, WhatsApp, phone call, or other mode (survey app). Nonrandom snowball sampling technique was adopted in this study to select the sample. The tool has demographic variables and a 5-point Likert scale to measure the attitude of the nursing students, which covers total 15 statements. Data collection method was self-report technique, a structured questionnaire was distributed to students through direct face-to-face contact and through Survey Monkey mobile app. Consent was obtained from the participant based on the mode of conduct. The collected data were compiled for data analysis. *Result:* The level of attitude of nursing students towards chosen profession was favorable as the mean score was 63.41 with SD of 6.92. There were 99% of samples with favorable attitude towards chosen profession and no subgroup had significant association at $p < 0.05$ with level of attitude and all subgroups had favorable attitude towards chosen profession. Despite of different geographic region and different levels of professional qualification, the samples had no much difference in level of attitude. *Conclusion:* It was concluded that nursing students had highly favorable attitude towards chosen profession. The GNM, BSC nursing, PBBSC nursing and M.Sc nursing students all had favorable attitude despite of having different professional qualification.

Keywords: Attitude; Nursing students; and Profession.

Introduction

Nursing education is a challenge in a developing country like India. Nurses represent the largest

share of (38%) of the total workforce in India.¹ Globally health systems are experiencing major shifts in health sector and creating an increasingly diverse yet interconnected world. Nurses are health professionals who are the corner stones of the health care system in each country. Nursing is an integral part of the health care delivery system and share responsibilities in collaboration with other allied health professions for the attainment of optimal health for all members of the society.²

The nursing scenario at the time of independence was not bright, the hospitals were grossly understaffed, nursing lacked professional and social status, and the working and living conditions of nurses were far from satisfactory. The low status can be attributed to the low socio-economic status of Indian women and nursing is primarily a women's profession. On average, India's nurse-to-

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population ratio is 1:475 including registered nurses and midwives and lady health visitors. There are 2,958 institutions for general nurse midwives with an admission capacity of 118,406 students, 1,921 institutions for auxiliary nurse midwives with an admission capacity of 54,859.⁴

As of 2014, there were 1.79 million registered nurses/midwives and 786,796 auxiliary nurse midwives in India.⁵ India is short of 1.94 million nurses.⁶ Government hospitals in the State are facing a shortage of over 2,000 fulltime nurses.⁷ In India seats in nursing colleges are increasingly falling vacant and the annual supply of nurses is dwindling. Furthermore, those who are qualifying are eagerly looking for better paid jobs in richer countries.⁸ There was large-scale migration of nurses to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia, the European continent and other countries which offered better salaries and facilities.

Nursing as career choice is often perceived as a hard work involving high pressure and stress. The negative images and stereotypes about nurses in India and in other countries such as Australia, Europe and America and in other Arab countries which have led to shortage of nurses.⁹

India is the only country where a nurse who has worked in the ICU for 20 years is legally not allowed to prescribe simple painkillers or give an injection without the presence of a doctor. The nursing profession is given low social status in India because of the prevalent religious and societal traditions. "Admissions to nursing colleges have come down by nearly half across the country. Half of south Indian nursing colleges are in the process of shutting down."¹⁰

The frustration, disappointment and regret among nurses due to increased workload, low pay, and lack of financial incentives, recognition and appreciation unfortunately influenced their work satisfaction and retention and getting into nursing profession.¹¹ Therefore, attitude place a vital role in molding the shape the individual as a person and a professional. Attitude of Nursing students influence their further career path selection which is of significant interest to educators and professional agencies.¹² Hence study was undertaken to explore attitude of nursing students.

Objectives

- a) To assess attitude nursing students towards chosen profession.
- b) To associate the selected demographic variable with level of attitude nursing students towards chosen profession.

Hypothesis

There will be a significant association exist between selected personal variables and levels of attitude of nursing students towards chosen profession.

Materials and Methods

Under quantitative approach a descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted among 434 nursing students to assess the attitude towards chosen profession by covering all regions of India. The samples were GNM, B.Sc (Nsg), PBBSC, and M.Sc (Nsg) students who was available through direct contact and other mode (mobile survey app). The sampling technique adopted for this study was nonrandom snowball sampling technique. The tool was developed after obtaining suggestions from expert of nursing field. Some relevant articles were referred to frame the suitable question. The tool has two sections. Section -1 was demographic profile and section -2 was 5-point Likert scale to measure attitude of the nursing students, which covers total 15 statements with a maximum score of 75 and minimum of 15.

The internal consistency of the tool was .803 and it was assessed by using Cronbach alpha. The tool was validated by experts in the field of nursing. Ethical certificate was obtained from Dr. SMNC Jodhpur. Data collection method was self-report technique, a structured questioner was distributed to samples through direct contact and through mobile app (what app, email, twitter, and Facebook) Consent was obtained from the participant based on the mode of conduct. The collected data were compiled for data analysis. The obtained was coded and analyzed in SPSS version 16.

Results

From Table 1 it was interpreted that the level of attitude of nursing students towards chosen profession was favorable as the mean score was 63.41 with SD of 6.92. It was also interpreted that 99% of samples were having favorable attitude towards chosen profession. From the Table 2 it was interpreted that most of the samples were belongs to South Indian, females, aged between 20–23 years, studying B.Sc Nursing 4th years, preferred job was clinical practice, self-deciding factor, some other reason to choose nursing, and Students of private institution. Very few samples were belongs to North East Indian, < 20 years, studying PBBSC,

few GNM, B.Sc, PBBSC and MSC Nursing students of first year, who wish to do other than nursing job, decision influenced by classmates, with one or two parents are nurses, studying in deemed institution. It was inferred that subgroup have no significant association at $p < 0.05$ with level of attitude, and all subgroup attitude had favorable towards chosen

profession. In spite of different geographic region and different levels of professional qualification and other variables mentioned in the table 2, still samples had no much difference in their level of attitude. It was clearly evident from the mean score of each sub variables shown in the Table 2.

Table 1: Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance of Level of Attitude of Nursing Students Towards Chosen Profession

No of sample	Level of attitude	Percentage	Mean	Std. Deviation (SD)	Variance
434	Favorable attitude (> 45)	99% (430)	63.41	6.920	47.891
	Neutral attitude (< 45)	1% (4)			

Table 2: Frequency, Percentage Distribution of Samples, Mean and Standard Deviation of Level of Attitude and χ^2

Personal Variables	Frequency	Percentage	Mean \pm SD	p value
N = 434				
1. Geographical region				
a. South India	234	53.9	64.44 \pm 6.58	>0.05
b. West India	82	19.4	63.19 \pm 6.47	
c. North India	74	17.1	59.73 \pm 8.46	
d. North east India	42	9.7	64.57 \pm 4.27	
2. Age in years:				
a. < 20	62	14.3	62.29 \pm 8.69	>0.05
b. 20 to 23	176	40.6	63.17 \pm 7.19	
c. 23 to 26 years	116	26.7	64.12 \pm 6.04	
d. >26	80	18.4	63.78 \pm 6.01	
3. Sex of the students				
a. Male	126	29	64.43 \pm 6.3	>0.05
b. Female	308	71	62.99 \pm 7.11	
4. Studying in				
a. Central Govt college	108	24.9	66.56 \pm 7.6	>0.05
b. State Govt college	66	15.2	61.58 \pm 7.19	
c. Deemed university	52	12	64.23 \pm 8.1	
d. Private college	208	47.9	64.75 \pm 5.75	
5. Qualification				
a. GNM	44	10.1	65.95 \pm 6.58	>0.05
b. B.SC	300	69.1	64.44 \pm 6.58	
c. PBBSC	16	3.7	64.44 \pm 6.58	
d. M.SC	74	17.1	64.44 \pm 6.58	
6. Years of studying				
a. 1 st year	52	12.4	64.44 \pm 6.6	>0.05
b. 2 nd year	102	23.5	62.74 \pm 7.03	
c. 3 rd year	92	21.2	65.425 \pm 4.71	
d. 4 th year	186	42.9	64.22 \pm 6.73	
7. Job preference:				>0.05
a. Clinical practice	220	50.7	64.24 \pm 5.94	
b. Teaching	158	36.4	63.49 \pm 7.03	
c. Others	56	12.9	59.93 \pm 9.05	
8. Deciding factor for job preference:				>0.05
a. Parents	118	27.2	63.69 \pm 6.93	
b. Self	276	63.6	63.41 \pm 6.74	
c. Classmates	8	1.8	68.50 \pm 0.57	
d. Others	32	7.4	61.06 \pm 8.65	
9. Social background information about nursing:				>0.05
a. One or two of the parents are nurses	14	3.2	68 \pm 4.7	
b. Relatives are nurse	92	21.2	64.11 \pm 6.3	
c. Friend is a nurse	54	12.4	66.37 \pm 6.4	
d. Other factors	274	63.1	62.36 \pm 7.06	
10. Have you been cared by nurse in hospital/clinical/home				>0.05
a. Yes	294	67.7	65.20 \pm 5.66	
b. No	140	32.3	59.64.44 \pm 7.8	

Table 3: Mean \pm SD of level of attitude for each statement

N = 434

S. No	Item	Mean \pm SD
1.	Nursing is a respectable profession	4.23 \pm 1.04
2.	I am proud for being a nurse	4.22 \pm .99
3.	I am comfortable in caring and being with patient	4.33 \pm .83
4.	Nursing is a challenging career.	4.41 \pm .812
5.	Nursing is secured profession	3.99 \pm 1.01
6.	The pay in nursing is reasonable	3.74 \pm 1.22
7.	It's very satisfied to see patient getting better	4.63 \pm .61
8.	It provides opportunity to travel around the world	3.82 \pm 1.01
9.	I can find a job in nursing wherever I go	3.89 \pm .96
10.	Nursing profession need more tolerance	4.47 \pm .67
11.	Nurses are back bone of the patient care	4.71 \pm .54
12.	Nursing is a more responsible job than any other job	4.53 \pm .69
13.	Nurses are equality important in patient care like doctors	4.71 \pm .602
14.	People have respect on nursing profession.	3.35 \pm 1.24
15.	Nursing is the profession for both gender	4.41 \pm .71

From the Table 3 it was inferred that most of the samples were strongly agree with all the statement and very few were strongly disagreeing with few statement (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 14). From the mean score of each statement it was further inferred that the samples had strongly agree with the statement 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 and agree with the statement 5, 6, 8, and 14.

Discussion

The present study interprets that there was favorable attitude among nursing students towards chosen profession. Almost 99% of samples had favorable attitude. Similarly, Patidar, A.B. (2011). A cross sectional survey was conducted in Punjab on future nurses' perception towards profession and carrier plans among a group of 530 nursing students (GNM, BSC, and Post Basic Nursing) in Punjab, India. The study revealed that 83.2% students were self-motivated to join nursing, 99.1% students' perceived nursing profession as on opportunity to serve humanity. This study concluded that perception of nursing profession among nursing student is changing towards positive side.¹³ Similarly, Pugsley, L.M. (2011) Conducted a study to assess the nurse attitude towards their profession on 45 junior nursing students. The study revealed that 100% of students stated that the role of the bed side nurse was vitally important in this era of health care and that they believe other profession recognizes the important of nursing and work they perform.¹⁴ This study finding also concordance with Belete A (2015) study about attitudes towards nursing profession among nursing and non-nursing personnel. It revealed

that 64 (50%) of the respondents shown favorable attitude towards nursing profession and 64 (50%) shown unfavorable attitude and majority 4 (63.6%) of the physicians shown unfavorable attitude.¹⁵ Also this finding concordance with the study of result of Kaur L (2016), were the majority of nursing students 624 (90.83%) have a favorable attitude towards nursing profession.¹⁶

In this present study half of the students preferred to do job in clinical side (50.7%), nearly 36.4% were preferred teaching and 12.9% preferred todo job other than nursing (preferred to change the profession). Similarly Poreddi V (2012) conducted a cross sectional study with 129 nursing students from Bangalore to assess the attitudes and perceptions of nursing professionals and their desired future practices. Upon graduation 69 (53.5%) of the subjects preferred to pursue the nursing career, 36 (27.9%) in academics, 12 (9.30%) wanted to change the profession.¹⁷ This finding were contradict with Swarna S (2015) study about the perception of 100 outgoing B.Sc nursing students towards nursing profession and carrier plans. Findings of the study were 56% of students expressed their desire to change profession, almost all of students felt nursing profession gives opportunity to serve the humanity but majority stated it is not equal to other professions. Less than half prefer to be employed at bedside and nursing administration.²

In this study most the samples (222) were strongly agreed that nursing is the profession for both the gender. Similarly Hatamleh A W, and Sorio E (2017) investigated on the knowledge, attitude and intention towards nursing profession among 128 pre-clinical students. In general, the participants had good knowledge of the nursing

profession and most of the students disagreed that nursing is a job for females only.¹⁸

From the Table 3 it was interpreted that most of the students were satisfied with services provided to the patient, and they strongly agree that this profession has scope all around the world, and can get job where every they go and 28 samples were strongly disagree that nursing profession is respected by the public. This finding was supported by a qualitative descriptive study conducted by Ludmila M, (2016) with 76 third-year nursing students to investigate reasons why students had chosen the nursing profession. The identified reason was desired to help others, family tradition, desire to work abroad, failure to get into another course, pure chance, and low admission requirements (relative to medical studies). The participants also identified reasons for there being low regard for the nursing profession.¹⁹

Conclusion

The present study concludes that almost 99% of nursing students have favorable attitude towards chosen profession. In spite of different levels of professional qualification all nursing students had positive attitude towards the profession. Most of the students strongly agree with the statement that nurses are equally important in patient care like doctors and nurses are back bone of the patient care. Even though most of the samples belong to female gender most of them are agree that nursing is the profession for both the gender. The reason given in the statement like the satisfaction which students receive after providing care to the patient and the job opportunity available all around and other positive side of experienced was the reason to have favorable attitude towards chosen profession.

Limitations and Recommendation

The study was limited to 434 samples and it is recommended to conduct study with large samples. The study focused on attitude of nursing students towards chosen profession and it is recommended that the study can be conducted to assess perception and compare attitude and perception in mixed approach, as well as it could be conducted to assess knowledge and attitude of public towards nursing profession. The questions framed were positive aspects only. It could be of both mixed type of questions (positive and negative both) to identify the actual attitude of nursing students. Most of

the samples were from south India, it could be equally from all four regions of India to make better generalization.

Conflict of Interest: No

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