

A Study to assess Future Plans and Perception about Profession among Nursing Students

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ABSTRACT

Perception is the in sight and view point of nursing students towards their profession. It could be positive and negative which both affect the quality of care and professional identity in two different ways. Due to change in time, this field is now having wide prospective regarding the future. Future plans are the possible career options which they can opt after their graduation. The aim of the study is to assess the future plans and perception about profession among nursing students studying in Khalsa College of Nursing, Amritsar so as to determine the change in behavior and out look towards profession due to broader future prospective from past few years. In order to assess future plans and perception about profession among nursing students, a socio-demographic profile, a self-structured likert scale and a questionnaire was prepared. Study was conducted in Khalsa College of Nursing Amritsar (Punjab). By using convenient sampling technique and 100 nursing students were selected from Khalsa College of Nursing. The result showed that majority (53%) nursing students have desire to join nursing administration followed by (39%) will opt for teaching institutes and only (8%) will join bed side nursing. More over (81%) of Nursing students have plans to go Abroad while only (19%) wants to stay in their own nation.

Keywords: Perception; Future Plans; Nursing Students.

INTRODUCTION

Background of Study: Nursing is a health care profession which is focused on the care of individuals, families, maintain or recover optimum health. Nurse care for individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds who are healthy and ill in

holistic manner based on individuals physical, emotionally, psychological, intellectual, social and spiritual needs. ¹The largest work force within the health care system, nurses represent a major role in the provision of front line care. Whilst this may be the case, the question is whether or not the general public has clear understanding as to what nurse's role is and the process involved in becoming a nurse. Students are generally knowledgeable about nursing but are reluctant to pursue nursing as a career. ²

Nursing students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that involve over years of education enabling them to be professionally socialized into nursing career. Students' definitions evolved from a 'lay' to 'professional' image of nursing remained same. Professional socialization besides recruitment, planning in nursing human

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resources must simultaneously consider retention. Professional socialization is a dynamic process of coming to know professional role that is influenced by variety of social experiences over time.³

Perception as one's awareness and understanding of sensory information attained through inter play between past experiences, one's own culture and interpretation of the perceived.⁴ The image of nursing as a profession is affected by numerous factors and accordingly affecting the choice of nursing as a career. These factors include media, public image, social prestige, nurses themselves, having a family member relative or any friend who is a nurse, role models, physician nurse interaction, nursing educators, risk of violence, exposure to the health hazards and nursing education programs.⁵

Need of the study

According to TNAI in India variety of factors like low state of women, pardha system, illiteracy, poverty and political unrest hindered the attitudinal change of society towards this profession. There is lack of description for nurse, poor working conditions, lack of criteria for various nursing administrative costs, lack of autonomy of the profession and no involvement of nurses in policy decision, all of which make the profession as low profile in the society. The students joining the profession are influenced by this negative attitude of society towards the profession. The other factors promoting students to join profession are relatively better employment including teaching job in a school or college of nursing and job in foreign countries to improve conditions of the family.⁶ Although nursing student's perception of nursing and factors influencing it were well instigated in west, this was less examined in Arab Islamic region. The profession implicitly implied a positive perception of profession among students with Higher school grades those who choose to study nursing as a priority of university education.⁷

Based on review of literature and researchers own observation and discussion with nursing students find out that India was facing acute shortage of bedside nurses which is hindering the improvement of quality of health care in the nation. If the upcoming generation has inadequate interest in the profession the goal of quality nursing care will not be achieved in coming years. Hence, researcher interested to know about plans and determine the perception of nursing students.

Problem Statement

A Descriptive Study to assess the Future Plans

and Perception about Profession among Nursing Students studying in Khalsa College of Nursing Amritsar, Punjab

Aim of Study

The aim of the study is to assess the future plans and perception about profession among nursing students studying in Khalsa College of Nursing so as to determine the change in behavior and outlook towards profession due to broader future prospective from past few years.

Objective

To assess the future plans about profession among nursing students.

Review of Literature

A study on nursing students in south Jordan to assess the perception towards nursing profession and future job prospectives. 100 students were randomly selected for the study and the questionnaire was used to collect data from nursing students. The result shows that more than 1/3 (41.21%) of students want to join the faculty of nursing due to financial reason, (30.9%) due to their average in secondary school and (20.6%) join the faculty of nursing according to their family advice. The desire to help others was the reason for (7.4%) of the subjects, (80.9%) had a family or a friend in the nursing profession. Majority of students family reactions (92.6%) was positive.⁸

A cross sectional study to assess the attitude and perception of nursing profession among selected college of nursing in Bangalore. 129 students were selected as sample for the study. The data collected by using questionnaire. The result shows that 44 (34%) were enrolled because of their own interest; 43 (33.3%) as a result of their financial condition, 4 (3.1%) stated that they have to protect the rights and dignity of the patients. 45 (34.9%) of the subjects indicates that the nurse patient relationship should be both professional and a relation of sympathy. 69 (53.3%) of the subjects prefer to pursue the nursing career, 12 (9.30%) wanted to change the profession.⁹

A study on male nursing students' perception about the image of nursing perception in America. The study sample was 370 male nursing students. The data collected by using questionnaire. The result revealed that (62.16%) had positive image towards nursing, (37.8%) perceived nursing as a women's profession and (91.4%) perceived that both male and female can be a good nurse.¹⁰

A cross sectional survey on future nurses' perception towards profession and career plan in 12 selected nursing colleges of Punjab. 530 students were selected as sample by using Stratified Random sampling technique. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The result showed that (83.2%) students were self-motivated to join nursing, (99.1%) students perceived nursing profession as an opportunity to serve humanity and (69.6%) students perceived a way to get due recognition in the society regarding their future plan. (46.4%) students planned to join teaching, (45.5%) join Bed side Nursing. After graduation (93.4%) of students were not interested to change their profession.¹¹

A survey to explore the career preferences to Australian bachelor Nursing Students. 68 Students were selected as a study sample & data collected three times through questionnaire. The result shows that acute care nursing of the adult child and midwifery were the most popular career choices in 1st years students. Where as less were Interested in mental health or aged care nursing and two fifths were undecided.¹²

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

Quantitative research approach

Research Design

Non-experimental descriptive research design

Research Setting

Study was conducted at Khalsa College of Nursing, Amritsar, Punjab.

Sample & Sampling Technique

Convenient sampling technique was followed to select 100 nursing students as study participants.

Research Tool

Part A: Socio-demographic profile

Part B: Likert Scale regarding perception of Nursing as a profession.

Part C: Questionnaire regarding future plans about profession.

Inclusion Criteria

Present at the time of data collection.

Willing to participate in study.

Exclusion Criteria

Not present at the time of data collection.

Content Validity

The content of tool was validated by language experts after translation in Punjabi and Hindi.

Reliability

Reliability of tool was checked by split half method after translation.

Ethical Consideration

1. Written permission was taken from local authority of municipal corporation to organize daily evening class of laughter therapy for visitors in park.
2. Written consents were taken from each study subject.

RESULTS

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of sample characteristics

| Demographic variables | Frequency (n) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Gender</i> | | |
| Male | 12 | 12% |
| Female | 88 | 88% |
| <i>Age</i> | | |
| 18-19 years | 34 | 34% |
| 20-21 years | 51 | 51% |
| 22-23 years | 15 | 15% |
| <i>Annual family income in Rs.</i> | | |
| Less than 1 lakh | 52 | 52% |
| 1-4 lakh | 33 | 33% |
| More than 4 lakh | 15 | 15% |
| <i>Stream in the secondary school</i> | | |
| Medical | 50 | 50% |
| Non Medical | 23 | 23% |
| Commerce | 8 | 8% |
| Arts | 19 | 19% |
| <i>Place of Residence</i> | | |
| Rural | 60 | 60% |
| Urban | 40 | 40% |
| <i>Any family member or relative in nursing</i> | | |
| Yes | 46 | 46% |
| No | 54 | 54% |
| <i>Reason to join Nursing</i> | | |
| Self-Motivated | 44 | 44% |
| Forced by Parents | 9 | 9% |
| Financial reasons | 5 | 5% |
| To settle in abroad | 42 | 42% |

Table 1 reveals the frequency and the percentage distribution of sample characteristics. It shows that according to Gender, majority (88%) students were females and only (12%) were males. According to Age, majority (51%) students were from the age group 20-21 years followed by (34%) were from 18-19 years old and only (15%) from age group of 22-23. According to stream in secondary school, majority (50%) were medical students, (23%) were non-medical and only (8%) were from commerce and (19%) were from the Arts. Respectively, according to Place of Residence, majority (60%) nursing students belongs to rural areas and remaining (40%) were from urban areas. (54%) students had no one from nursing background while (46%) had some relatives in nursing field. The reason behind joining nursing profession here (44%) were self-motivated followed by (42%) have desire to settle down abroad and (9%) forced by parents and only (5%) joined it due to financial reasons.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing students according to the future plans

N=100

| Future Plans | Frequency (n) | Percentage (%) |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Plans to join after graduation</i> | | |
| Teaching institute | 39 | 39% |
| Bedside Nursing | 8 | 8% |
| Nursing Administration | 53 | 53% |
| <i>Plan to go abroad</i> | | |
| Yes | 81 | 81% |
| No | 19 | 19% |
| <i>Plan for higher education</i> | | |
| Yes | 88 | 88% |
| No | 12 | 12% |
| <i>Plan to change the profession</i> | | |
| Yes | 17 | 17% |
| No | 83 | 83% |
| <i>Plan to become an registered nurse in Abroad</i> | | |
| Yes | 80 | 80% |
| No | 20 | 20% |

Table 2 reveal the frequency and percentage of nursing students according to their future plans. Regarding plan to join after graduation, majority (53%) nursing students want to join Nursing administration followed by (39%) preferred

teaching institutes and only (8%) want to go for bedside nursing.

Moreover (81%) nursing students desired to go to abroad and only (19%) students wants to stay in their country. (88%) of nursing students planned to enroll for higher education while (12%) do not want to do higher education. In addition (83%) of nursing students were not in favor of changing their profession and only (17%) of students want to change it. With regard to planned to become RN (80%) students wanted to become RN in abroad while only (20%) wants to serve their country.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that majority of nursing students aspired to join teaching institutes but students showed reluctance to join the bedside nursing. Moreover (81%) of nursing students desired to go abroad, (88%) of nursing students also aimed to acquire higher education and (83%) were not in favor of changing their profession (80%) plan to become RN in abroad. There were many opinions regarding the future plans and perception about profession among nursing students of various nursing institutes.

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