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Knowledge and attitude toward nursing as profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary students

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Abstract

A descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary students of selected schools in Faridabad. The objective of the study was to assess the level of knowledge towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career, to assess the level of attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career, to find out the association between the knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career with selected demographic variables. Pilot study was conducted during the month of 19th October 2012 on 10 Senior Secondary School Students in Govt. Sen. Sec. School Jasana Faridabad. The actual data collection procedure was carried out in the month of 12th November 2012. The samples were taken from 100 Senior Secondary Students Jasana Faridabad. Checklist was used to assess the level of Knowledge and 5-point likert scale to assess attitude towards nursing as a profession and their Preference for Nursing as a Career. Findings depicts that 74% of the total subjects had good knowledge, 24% had average knowledge, 2% had poor knowledge. 96% of the total subjects had positive attitude, 4% had neutral attitude, 0% had negative attitude. No significant association was found between knowledge and demographic variables. No significant association was found between attitude and demographic variables.

Keywords: Nursing, profession, career, senior secondary, preference

1. Introduction

The nursing workforce seems to be an exciting crossroad of change, both in recruiting and in curriculum. The environment of healthcare has changed and so has nursing, resulting in students asking, what is nursing? In order to attract and retain bright, capable students in nursing, there must be changes in prenursing curricula to provide and assure accurate and definitive perception of nursing. Factors which currently contribute to students perceptions of nursing must be identified in choosing a nursing career, find job satisfaction following graduation and remain in nursing as a career.

Nursing is a one of the oldest and noblest profession. The responsibilities and duties of the nurses are diverse and the work of a nurse depends on the qualifications skills and situations. Nursing is a profession that combines physical science, social science, nursing theory and technology, in the care of others many years ago nursing was seem to have numerous career advantages. These include that there is a large demand for nurses nationwide, many job opportunities, various nursing career choices, good benefits, many choices both in terms of speciality of speciality areas and opportunities for advancement.

Need of the study

Nursing is highly popular professions according to the bureau of labour statistics, more than two and half million peoples in the U.S. Hold a registered nursing license.

Many studies worldwide report that interest in nursing as a career is low. Only 5.2% of a sample of high school respondents in Saudi Arabia intended to pursue nursing after school. A study in Tanzania showed that, of all the medically related profession, nursing was the least popular with only 9% of students expressing an interest, whilst among Asian students in

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Australia less than 10% were interested in nursing as a profession.

The perception that nursing is becoming less popular as a career choice amongst South African school leavers required further investigation. Improving the complement of nurses in the country is crucial to improving quality of care. Only by investigating the multitude of factors that influence school leavers in their career choices can attempts be made to attract more nurses into the profession. Some of these factors may be unique to the South African context, while others may reflect wider international trends. However, once they are identified, targeted efforts can be made to change the attitudes and perceptions and so recruit more school leavers into the nursing profession [24].

Based on above facts the researcher felt that nursing is less popular and low status profession. Hence investigator felt need to assess the level of knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a Profession and their Preference for Nursing as a career among senior secondary students of selected schools.

A Descriptive study to assess the level of knowledge and attitude toward nursing as profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary students of selected schools in Faridabad.

2. Objectives

- To assess the levels of knowledge towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career
- To assess the level of attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career
- To find out the association between the knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career with selected demographic variables

3. Methodology

Research Approach: Quantitative research approach

Research Design: A descriptive design was used to assess the knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary school students.

Setting of The Study: The study will be conducted in Selected Students of Govt. Sen. Sec. School. Village Jasana Faridabad

Population: All the student studying in Higher Secondary Schools in Faridabad, during the period of data collection was the population of the study.

Criteria for selection of sample:-

Inclusion criteria

The students who are,

- 16-18 years of age.
- Willing to participate in the study.
- Able to speak and understand Hindi and English.
- Available during the period of data collection.

Sample and Sampling Technique:-

Sample: The students of higher secondary school was the sample for this study.

Sample Size: The sample size was 100 students of higher secondary school residing in Faridabad.

Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling was used to collect data in the presence study.

Development of the tool: Based on objective, check list was prepared to assess the knowledge regarding nursing as a career and 5 point likert scale was prepared to assess the

attitude regarding nursing as a career.

Content validity: Content validity of the tools was determined by expert's opinion and suggestions on relevance of items. Tool was given to 5 experts. Their suggestions were incorporated into the final draft of the tool.

Ethical considerations: Approval from the research and ethical committee of Lingaya's Institute of Health Sciences (Nursing). Prior to data collection written permission was obtained from the principal of Higher Secondary School (Jasana) Faridabad. Further, before collection of data informed consent was obtained from the Students.

Pilot study: A pilot study conducted on 10 Higher Secondary School Students, Faridabad to assess the knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession and their preference to nursing as a career. It was done to check clarity of items, ambiguity of language, reliability and feasibility of tool. For this investigator obtained formal permission from the Principal of Govt. Senior Secondary School Jasana Faridabad. Investigator themselves made conducive environment for assessment.

4. Reliability of tool

Reliability: The reliability of 5 point likert scale was determined by split half method, using Spearman's Brown Prophecy formula, reliability of structured attitude scale was 0.95. Hence it was highly reliable tool.

Data collection procedure: A formal permission was sought from the Principal of Govt. Senior Secondary Schools Faridabad to conduct the study in their Schools.

5. Result

- Majority of Students (86%) were in age Category of 17-18 years, 52% of the Students were Female, Unmarried Students (81%) were in Marital Status, 95% Students belonged to Hindu Religion, 80% of Students belonged to the Joint Family. Most of the Students (73%) had the Family Income from 15,000-20,000, 29% of the Students belongs to the Urban Residency, 46% had Source of Information about Nursing as a Career from Print Media (books and newspaper).

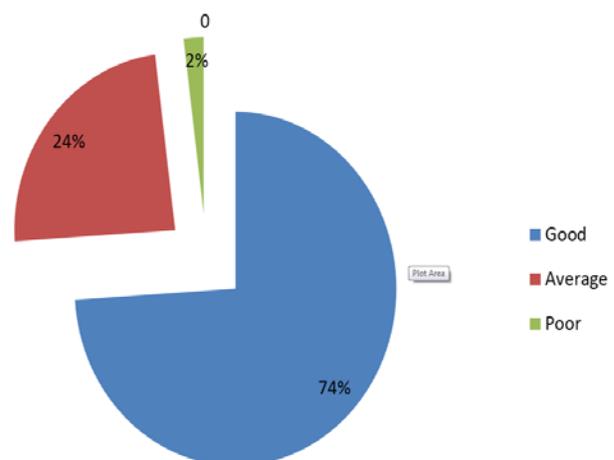


Fig 1: Percentage distribution of knowledge regarding nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career

- 74% of the total subjects had good knowledge, 24% had average knowledge 2% had poor knowledge.
- 96% of the total subjects had positive attitude, 4% had neutral attitude, 0% had negative attitude.

Table 1: Mean knowledge score of Senior Secondary Students about nursing as a Profession and their Preference for nursing as a career

N=100			
	Mean	SD	Range
Knowledge of Senior Secondary School Students regarding Nursing as a Profession and their Preference for nursing as a career	17.92	±3.18	7-23

Table 2: Mean attitude score of Senior Secondary School Students toward Nursing as a Profession and their preference for nursing as a career

N=100			
	Mean	SD	Range
Attitude of Senior Secondary school Students towards Nursing as a Profession and their Preference for Nursing as a career.	98.55	±6.9	82-114

- By using chi square test it was found that there was no Significant Association found between the knowledge Levels of Students with Age, Sex, Marital Status, Religion, Type of Family, Total Family Income, Residence, Source of Information.
- By using chi square test it was found that there was no Significant Association found between the Attitude Levels of Students with Age, Sex, Marital Status, Religion, Type of Family, Total Family Income, Residence, Source of Information.

Implications

Nursing education: Education is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, research, or simply through auto didacticism. Nurses serve as front-line caregivers. Preparing highly educated nurses to provide expert care, formulate policy, administer health care delivery systems, and educate the next generation of health care providers is a critical step for increasing access to quality health care and improving health care outcomes. About Nursing should be specifically explained so that they can counsel the parents to have informed choice.

Nursing Practice: Nursing is often marketed as “caring” and “meaningful”. Men may want to do something caring and meaningful, but place a higher emphasis on the extrinsic attributes of a career. There is a lack of communication and co-ordination between nursing school administrators and high school career counsellors, which in turn creates a knowledge-gap about the benefits of nursing. There is a need to establish open lines of communication between parents, career counsellors and nursing administrators. There is a lack of role models for men choosing to enter nursing. There is a need for male nurses to take an active role in recruiting more men into nursing.

Nursing Research: There is a need to explore the nursing as a career in order to understand the general and complete picture of nursing image in this country. Further study on the knowledge and attitude toward nursing as a career is a vital before planning an educational intervention to assess the knowledge and attitude toward nursing as a career current level of knowledge. It might be valuable to study to assess the knowledge and attitude toward nursing as a career among senior secondary school students and combat misconceptions during “Career Day”.

Recommendations

- The study can be undertaken with large sample to generalize the findings.
- A comparative study could be done to assess the knowledge and attitude on nursing as profession among male and female students.
- A study can be conducted to assess the level of knowledge and attitude toward nursing as a profession and their preference for nursing as a career among Sen. Sec. School Students.
- An experimental study could be undertaken with the control group.

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