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Assess the attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession

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Abstract

Introduction: Attitude plays a principal role in guiding human behavior toward achieving goals, awareness of its consequences and effective processing of complex information about living environment. The study aim is to assess the attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession in selected nursing institutes Ambala, Haryana.

Material and Methods: A non-experimental research approach and descriptive survey design was used. Nursing students from the M.M. Institutes of Mullana, Ambala, Haryana was used to collect the data. Total sample of the study was 687. Total enumerative sampling technique was used to select the sample. The structured attitude scale to assess the attitude of nurses towards nursing profession was used to assess attitude of nursing students.

Results: The majority of nursing students 624 (90.83%) have a favorable attitude towards nursing profession. Among 687 students majority of nursing students 319 (46.4%) were in the age group of 17-19 years. Majority of the students 591 (86.0%) were female. The majority of students were from B.Sc. Nursing, 53 (7.7%) were from Post basic B.Sc. Nursing and 160 (23.3%) were from GNM Nursing course. Majority of the students 212 (30.9%) were from B.Sc., Post Basic and GNM Nursing first year.

Conclusion: Majority of the nursing students had favorable attitude towards nursing profession. B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students, GNM students and Post Basic Nursing 1st year students had more favorable attitude than other students/ other classes.

Keywords: Attitude, Nursing students.

1. Introduction

One of the most pleasurable arts, which need amalgamation of knowledge, skills, and values can be considered as Nursing. Nowadays, an individual has number of crafts, fields and occupations to choose from, but choosing an occupation out of one's vocational interest doesn't emerge suddenly. A developmental process guides this emergence. The definition of a 'Nurse' can be understood as someone who cultivates and harbors certain traits of a person, generally a woman, deployed as the curator and caretaker of the ill ^[1].

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes promotion of health, prevention of illness and care of ill, disabled and dying people ^[2]. Nursing is the protection, promotion and optimization of health and abilities: prevention of illness and injury; alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human responses and advocacy in health care for individuals, families, communities and population ^[3].

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was one of the remarkable example of the profession Nursing, a lady with a perception and the beginner of this occupation. Hence, Nursing is undoubtedly a respectable profession in the world. Nightingale's contribution in this field are many and varied like teaching of women, her development of theories in Nursing practice and sanitary techniques, with the stress on the training of nurses for the cure of the sick, safeguard and advocacy of well being of the people and community are the integral are the integral facts of Nursing gamut today ^[4].

The most booming sector of the health care at present workforce are registered nurses (RNs), who are achieving graduate degrees as Advanced practice Nurses (APNs).

Advanced practice nurses are deployed as physician extenders so as to give continual quality patient care and for the assurance of cost effectiveness in the field of healthcare. Hence, Nurses should practice in autonomous roles, thereby maximizing patient care and providing enough ability to the patients to take care of themselves as a result of wonderful patient education [5].

In guidance of behavior of a human towards achieving his goals and its consequences, attitude plays a chief role. It is also effective in gathering different information about the individual surroundings. A Nursing candidate should have an attitude rich in beliefs, ideologies about the ongoing programme of nursing and the occupation as a whole [6].

There has been a tremendous growth in the Nursing profession over the past 100 years and the attitude of the society towards it has transformed significantly. Though, in India, this field is not receiving its required respect, which can be determined by various factors like its low reputation in the society, no specific description of workers, no syllabus or subject for different administrative fractions in Nursing, no fruition of higher degrees for influential post, the governance of doctors, nor the sovereignty to the field and unattractive salary packages for nurses [7].

The vision of students towards the Nursing profession only consists of the bedside care and administration of the medication over shadowing the highly skilled and well qualified nurses with a significant role to play in healthcare field. This is because most of the students run from spending their valuable time with that of the nursing professional or might have never volunteered in the backdrop of a healthcare, and is in the vain without the required informed career decision making qualities. The personality dimension of nursing candidates is closely related to that of the attitude of nursing profession and their successes [8].

The profession of nursing is a respectable occupation where one toils day and night for the common people, which existed as a crude form in the times of Florence Nightingale. The nurses at that time were not having good social status & often those nurses were belonging to lower class of the society. But at present, the conditions have changed a lot. It has now got a better status in the society. But the standard of candidates coming to the Profession especially in Bangalore has declined from past two years [9].

The amount of financial reimbursement and the type of person who enters into the occupations qualifies a great deal of public image on it. After completion of tertiary education, a career awaits for each and everyone. Most of the youngsters who have different ideas opt for engineering or medical fields because of the lack of information. Specifically in nursing profession, majority of the people are unaware of the different career prospects that nursing profession can offer, though they know about the helping nature of nurses [10].

An exploratory study conducted to assess the attitudes of students towards the nursing profession in Sultan Qaboos University. The total sample of 377 students (male = 130; female = 247) were selected from the different colleges of Sultan Qaboos University by using the convenience sampling. The attitude questionnaire was constructed (The items were rated on a 4-point Likert scale (strongly agree = 4, agree = 3, disagree = 2, strongly disagree = 1). and were validated. Findings of study disclose that both the male and female students in all the academic years and colleges had a positive

attitudes toward the nursing profession. The findings also divulge that gender and academic year generate no significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among the study participants, but that the students' college affiliation did have a significant effect on their attitudes. The study concluded that the serious efforts should be made to promote the nursing profession and so guard that it remains positively regarded by all concerned [11].

A descriptive study conducted to assess the attitude of nursing students towards their profession in Andhra Pradesh, India. The total 437 samples were selected for the study by using a simple random sampling technique. The data was collected by using the sample characteristics Performa and attitude scale. The data was collected by using the paper pencil technique. The study results divulge that there was a significant difference between male and female students in the total attitude (t value 2.24*). The study concluded that the college management has to provide a good infrastructure and institution facilities to the student teachers, If all the facilities are good, automatically the attitude towards the nursing profession will be favourable [12].

A study conducted to determine the knowledge and attitude towards Nursing Profession among male and female students in selected higher secondary schools at Gujarat. The objective of study was to evaluate the perceptions of the Nursing image by high school students. There were total 200 samples (100 male and 100 female students) who opted science group in their pre-university and were selected by cluster sampling method. Structured questionnaire and 1-4 likert scale was used as a tool for data collection and data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The results showed that the students knowledge about Nursing was low. Female students showed slightly better knowledge than male. There was a positive attitude towards Nursing among students. However, the positive attitude was not transmitted into a desire to join Nursing. There was no significant difference in attitude among male and female students. Students from monthly high income group showed less positive attitude towards Nursing compared to medium and low income group students.¹³

2. Methodology

A descriptive survey design was used to collect data from Nursing students. A total of 687 students were enrolled into the study by using total enumerative sampling technique. A formal approval was obtained from the authorities and ethical consent was obtained from all subjects. The structured attitude scale to assess the attitude of nurses towards nursing profession was used to collect data. The study was conducted in Nursing Institutes of M.M University Mullana, Ambala, Haryana. Attitude scale is a standardized tool i.e. comprised of 40-item questionnaire developed by Gullen to assess attitude towards nursing profession. Each statement had five responses. The total score of attitude scale was 200. The minimum score was 40 on this questionnaire. The attitude scale was categorized into 3 factors i.e. factor-1 properties of nursing profession (1-18) factor-2 preference to nursing profession(19-31) factor -3 general position of nursing profession (32-40). The reliability co-efficient of the Attitude Scale, calculated using cronbach alpha was found to be 0.77 and the acceptable range is 0.6-1 and according to the author the reliability was found to be 0.91. The data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics i.e. mean, mean percentage, median, standard deviation, t-test and Anova.

3. Results

Among 687 students majority of Nursing students 319 (46.4%) were in the age group of 17-19 years. Majority of the students 591 (86.0%) were female and majority of students 494 (71.9%) live in nuclear family. The majority of students father's education and mother's education also 272(39.6%) and 241(35.1%) was higher secondary. 474 (69.0%) students were from B.Sc. Nursing, 53(7.7%) were from Post basic B.Sc. Nursing and 160 (23.3%) were from GNM Nursing course. Majority of the students 212 (30.9%) were from B.Sc., Post Basic and GNM Nursing first year. Among nursing students most of the students 276 (40.2%). monthly family income was above 15001 Rs.

Table 2: Area wise range, mean, mean percentage, median, Standard Deviation of Attitude Scores on Attitude Scale of Nursing Students towards Nursing Profession. N = 687

| Areas | Range | Mean± S.D | Mean% | Median |
|--|----------|--------------|---------|--------|
| Factor -1 | | | | |
| Properties of Nursing profession | 50-90 | 78.23 ± 6.69 | 86.92 | 79.00 |
| Factor -2 | | | | |
| Preference to Nursing profession | 31-65 | 50.21 ± 6.70 | 77.24 | 50.00 |
| Factor-3 | | | | |
| General position of Nursing profession | 22-45 | 34.25 ± 3.05 | 76.11 | 34.00 |
| | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor3 | |
| Maximum score- | 90 | 65 | 45 | |
| Minimum score - | 5 | 5 | 5 | |

Mean, ANOVA, t value of Attitude scores with course of the study is shown in table 3

Table 3: Mean, ANOVA of attitude scores among nursing students in terms of their course N=687

| Name of course | Mean | F value | df | p value |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| GNM Nursing | 173.84 | | | |
| P.B. B.Sc. Nursing | 164.52 | 27.10 | 3/683 | .000* |
| B.Sc. Nursing | 161.33 | | | |

Significant* ($p < 0.05$), $F(3/683) = 2.68$

4. Discussion

The present study reveals that there is a favorable attitude towards nursing profession among nursing students. Similarly, Ali Noruzi Kooshali, Zahra Haji Amini, Abbas Ebadi (2012) found that that 25.28% of CCUs nurses and 28.5% of and other wards nurses had negative or neutral attitudes towards their profession, and in spite of higher percentage of positive attitude among CCUs nurses [6]. This finding is also in concordance with Banaderakhshan's study in which 1.7% of nurses have been reported to have negative attitude in their occupation, but it is not in accordance with the results achieved by Joulaee *et al.*, reporting 18.3% negative attitude toward the nursing profession. Similarly Ali Noruzi Koushali, Zahra Hajiamini, Abbas Ebadi (2012) represented that 72.6%, 26.7%, and 0.7% of clinical nurses, respectively, had positive, neutral, and negative outlook toward their occupation. However, 65.4% of nursing students had positive and 34.6% had neutral views on nursing profession [14].

5. Conclusion

The following conclusion drawn from the study findings:

- Majority of the nursing students had favorable attitude towards nursing profession.

Frequency and percentage of attitude scores in terms of Range of Attitude Scores on Attitude scale is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage Distribution of Attitude Scores in terms of Range of Attitude Scores on Attitude Scale N = 687

| Attitude | Range of Scores | f(%) |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Unfavorable | 40-93 | 00(00) |
| Moderately favorable | 94-147 | 63(9.17) |
| Favorable | 148-200 | 624(90.83) |

Maximum Score = 200 Minimum Score = 40

Area wise Range, Mean, Mean percentage, Median, and Standard Deviation of Attitude Scores on Attitude Scale of Nursing Students towards Nursing Profession is shown in table 2

- B.Sc. Nursing 1st year students, GNM students and Post Basic Nursing 1st year students had more favorable attitude than other students/ other classes.

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