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A study to assess preferred learning style of nursing students from selected nursing colleges in Maharashtra

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Abstract

Learning is the acquisition of knowledge or skills through study, experience, or being taught. Every student have her or his different type of learning.

Purpose: to assess preferred learning style of nursing students from selected nursing colleges in Maharashtra.

Objectives: To assess the preferred learning style of nursing students and to correlate the findings with performance.

Method: This was a quantitative descriptive survey study of 185 nursing students, aged 19-25 years. The students selected for study were Bachelors of Nursing Science of Pune, Wardha, Nasik and Aurangabad regions of Maharashtra during February 2016 to March 2017. Non-probability purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of nursing students. To obtain necessary data for the study, the tool used for data collection were assessment of the preferred learning style. The assessment of the preferred learning style were done by learning style inventory from school and college students by self-reporting and structured interview and in depth information collected according data collection tool.

Results: 45% of the nursing students had often preferred visual learning style, 43% of them had sometimes preferred visual learning style and 12% of them had seldom preferred visual learning style. 42% of the nursing students had often preferred auditory learning style, 36% of them had sometimes preferred auditory learning style and 22% of them had seldom preferred auditory learning style. 33% of the nursing students had often preferred tactile learning style, 31% of them had sometimes preferred tactile learning style and 31% of them had seldom preferred tactile learning style.

The majority of nursing students i.e. overall 44.79% of them had often preferred visual learning style and 43.24% of them had sometimes preferred visual learning style as compared to auditory and tactile learning style

Conclusion: The learning style nursing students many times are interconnected with learning. So it is necessary to know and understand the preferred learning style of nursing students. If we understand the preferred learning style of nursing students then we can help them to plan learning, teaching activities which will help for achievements and good career opportunities.

Keywords: Preferred, learning style, nursing students

1. Introduction

Learning is the act of acquiring new, or modifying and reinforcing existing, knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, or preferences which may lead to a potential change in synthesizing information, depth of the knowledge, attitude or behavior relative to the type and range of experience^[3].

Educators have determined that most adults, adolescents, and children learn best by experiencing a blend of activities that promote the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and behavioral. Cognitive refers to knowledge or a body of subject matter, affective refers to attitudes and beliefs, and behaviour refers to practical application⁴

2. Objectives

The objectives of study were,

1. To assess the preferred learning style of nursing students
2. To correlate the findings with performance

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3. Method and material

This was a quantitative descriptive survey study of 185 Nursing students, aged 19-25 years, students studying Bachelors of Nursing Science selected Nursing colleges selected Nursing colleges of Pune, Wardha, Nasik and Aurangabad regions of Maharashtra during February 2016 to March 2017. Non-probability purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of nursing students. To obtain necessary data for the study, the tool used for data collection were assessment of the preferred learning style. The assessment of the preferred learning style were done by learning style inventory from college students by self reporting and structured interview and in depth information collected according data collection tool

4. Result

4.1 The findings of sample characteristics

100% of the nursing students had age 22-25 years. 83.2% of the nursing students were females and 16.8% of them were males.

4.2 Findings of preferred visual learning style of nursing students

Table 1: Preferred Visual Learning Style of Nursing Students n=185

Auditory	Frequency	%
often	83	44.79%
sometimes	80	43.24%
seldom	22	13.78%

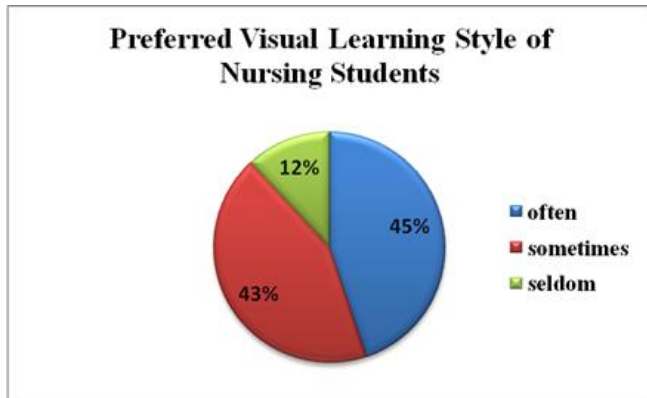


Fig 1

Table no. 1 and figure no.1 shows that, 45% of the nursing students had often preferred visual learning style, 43% of them had sometimes preferred visual learning style and 12% of them had seldom preferred visual learning style.

4.3 Findings of preferred auditory learning style of Nursing students

Table 2: Preferred Auditory Learning Style of Nursing Students n=185

Auditory	Frequency	%
Often	67	36.42%
Sometimes	89	48.48%
Seldom	29	15.10%

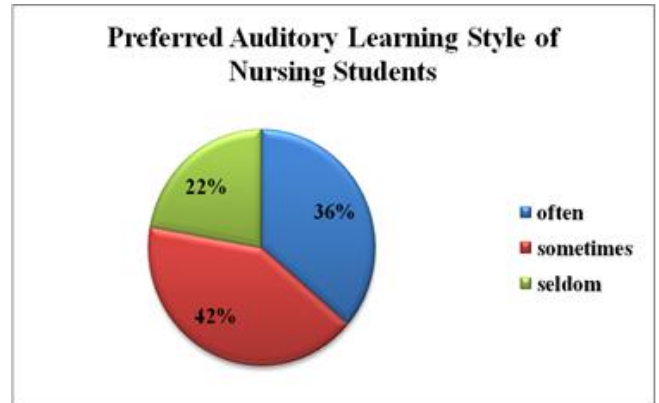


Fig 2

Table no. 2 and figure no.2 depicts that, 42% of the nursing students had often preferred auditory learning style, 36% of them had sometimes preferred auditory learning style and 22% of them had seldom preferred auditory learning style.

4.4 Findings of preferred tactile learning style of nursing students

Table 3: Preferred Tactile Learning Style of Nursing Students n=185

Tactile	Frequency	%
Often	67	36.42%
Sometimes	89	48.48%
Seldom	29	15.10%

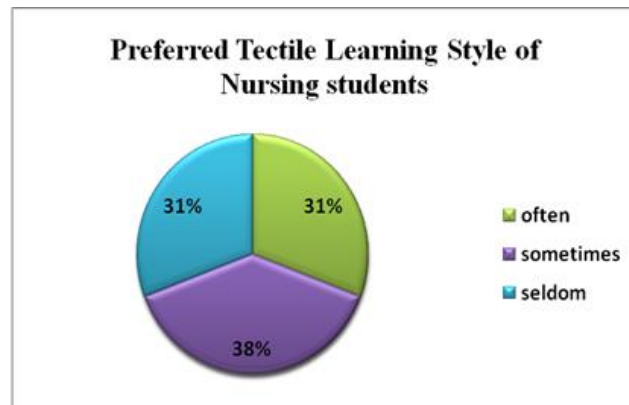


Fig 3

Table no. 3 and figure no.3 shows that, 33% of the nursing students had often preferred tactile learning style, 31% of

them had sometimes preferred tactile learning style and 31% of them had seldom preferred tactile learning style.

4.5 Findings of overall preferred learning style of nursing students

Table 4: A. Overall Preferred Learning Style of Nursing Students n=185

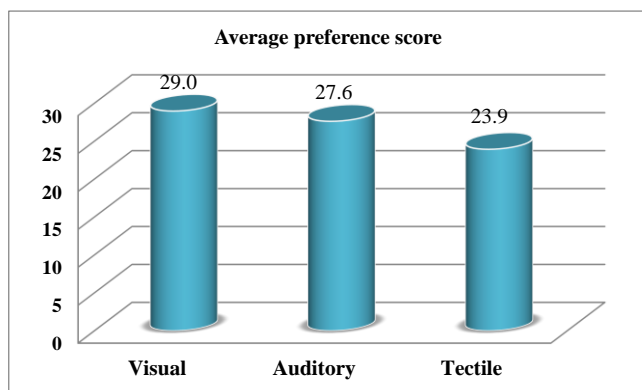
Preferred learning style	Often		Sometimes		Seldom	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Visual	83	44.79%	80	43.24%	22	13.78%
Auditory	67	36.42%	77	41.82%	41	21.75%
Tactile	57	30.81%	71	38.38%	57	30.81%

Table no. 4. shows that majority of nursing students i.e. 44.79% of them had often preferred visual learning style and 43.24% of them had sometimes preferred visual learning style. As compared to auditory and tactile learning style. Visual learning style is the most preferred among nursing students.

Table 5: B. Average preference score of Preferred Learning Style of Nursing Students n=185

Pair	Mean	SD	z	df	p-value
Visual	29.0	5.1	2.6	368	0.004
Auditory	27.6	4.8			
Visual	29.0	5.1	9.9	368	0.000
Tactile	23.9	4.7			

Table no. 5 shows that average visual style score was 29 which was 27.6 for auditory style. Z-value for this comparison was 2.6 with 368 degrees of freedom. Corresponding p-value was 0.004 which is small (less than 0.05), Visual style score is significantly higher than that for auditory style score. Average Tactile style score was 23.9 which was 29 for visual style score. Z-value for this comparison was 9.9 with 368 degrees of freedom. Corresponding p-value was 0.000 which is small (less than 0.05), visual style score is significantly higher than that for tactile style score. Visual learning style was found to be most preferred among the three learning styles (visual, auditory and tactile).



4.6 Findings of data related to correlation between performance and the Visual, Auditory and Tactile learning style scores of nursing students.

Table 6: Correlation between performance and the Visual, Auditory and Tactile learning style scores of nursing students n=185

Statistic	Visual	Auditory	Tactile
r	0.15	0.04	-0.05
t	2.04	0.49	-0.69
p-value	0.022	0.312	0.754

Table no. 6 shows the correlation between the performance of nursing students and their scores in three learning styles was assessed using Pearson’s correlation coefficient. Correlation coefficient for Visual style was 0.15, that for auditory style was 0.04 and that for tactile style was -0.05. The correlation coefficients were positive for visual and auditory styles of learning, whereas tactile style was found to have negative correlation with performance. The significance of this correlation was assessed using t-test for significance of correlation coefficient. P-value for this test for Visual style of learning was 0.002, which is small (less than 0.05), the correlation between visual learning score and performance is significantly positive. P-value for this test for auditory style of learning was 0.312, which is large (greater than 0.05), the correlation between auditory learning score and performance though positive is not significant. P-value for this test for tactile style of learning was 0.754, which is large (greater than 0.05), the correlation between tactile learning score and performance though negative is not significant. Visual learning style was found to be significantly positive which indicates that the performance of the students had significant impact of their visual style of learning.

5. Discussion

Overall nursing students had often and sometimes preferred visual learning style as compared to auditory and tactile learning style. Visual learning style is the most preferred among nursing students.

6. Conclusion

The learning style nursing students are always interconnected and engaged with learning. So it is necessary to know and understand the preferred learning style of nursing students for excellent performance. If we understand the preferred learning style of nursing students then we can help them to plan learning, teaching activities which will help for achievements and good career opportunities.

7. Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks to all the Participants of the study who made this study possible. Our sincere thanks college authority for permitting us to conduct our research. So finding suggests that, this type of study will helpful not only for the nursing students but teachers can also to understand the students learning style and can modify teaching method.

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