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## Assess the attitude and perception of secondary high school and junior college students towards nursing profession from Uttan community

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### Abstract

**Background of the study:** Nursing, a profession that recalls the name of Florence Nightingale is indeed one of the noblest professions in the world. Nursing education is becoming more demanding each day. Future nurses have to consider theoretical, practical, ethical and legal aspects of their careers especially in the area of rights of the patients. The poor knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession has made nursing a low profile course, and hinders its advancement even more. The public's attitudes towards nursing appear to depend upon the degree of knowledge and economic power nurses receive. To attract more individuals to the profession, a positive image of nursing needs to be engendered by nurse education and the general community. To improve nurse's social image is to intervene in the social image of nursing that exists in the general public and among professionals<sup>4</sup>.

**Aim of the study:** The present study was conducted to assess the attitude and perception of secondary high school and junior college students towards nursing profession from Uttan community.

**Methods:** A descriptive study with survey design was selected to assess the attitude and perception of secondary high school and junior college students towards nursing profession at selected school. A total number 104 subjects were selected by using non probability purposive sampling. The checklist was prepared to assess the attitude and perception regarding nursing nursing profession and 5 point likert scale was used to assess the attitude and perception.

**Results:** Majority of the students 76 (73.07%) had moderately favorable attitude and 28 (26.93%) subjects had favorable attitude and none of the student had unfavorable attitude towards nursing profession. Regarding attitude revealed that, majority 49.03% agreed that they enjoy to care and to be with the people in need. The majority of 53.84% students believed that nursing is challenging procedure and 54.80% of students believed that they can be found nursing jobs wherever they go. Majority of 33.65% of the students disagree that the nursing profession is for females only. Regarding the perception revealed that majority 47.11% agreed that nursing is a technical occupation. While majority 59.61% agreed that the nurses earns good salary, majority of 57.69% also agreed that nurses have a lot of people to take care of, majority of 51.92% agreed that it takes intelligence to be a nurse. Majority 46.15% agreed that nursing is interesting, challenging and offers variety. Majority of 50.96% agreed that nursing is primarily for women.

**Keywords:** Attitude, perception, nursing profession

### Introduction

Nursing, a profession that recalls the name of Florence Nightingale is indeed one of the noblest professions in the world. Nursing education is becoming more demanding each day. Future nurses have to consider theoretical, practical, ethical and legal aspects of their careers especially in the area of rights of the patients. Individuals enter the profession with a strong perception of what it involves and how they will practice; indeed nursing is not only a job but a career, profession and also service to mankind.

The poor knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a profession has made nursing a low profile course, and hinders its advancement even more. The public's attitudes towards nursing appear to depend upon the degree of knowledge and economic power nurses receive. Perceptions of advanced secondary school students of nursing are important because they offer strategic clues towards successful recruitment of the next generation of nurses.

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**Problem Statement**

A descriptive study to assess the attitude and perception of secondary high school and junior college students towards nursing profession from Uttan community.

**Objectives**

1. To assess the attitude level secondary high school students towards nursing profession.
2. To assess the perception level secondary high school students towards nursing profession.

**Methodology**

A descriptive study was conducted with objective to assess the attitude and perception of secondary high school and junior college students towards nursing profession from Uttan community. A quantitative, evaluative survey research approach was considered to carry out the study. The study subject comprised of secondary high school and junior college students in the selected school. The Non Probability, purposive sampling technique was used to select the subjects for the present study. The total numbers of 104 subjects were selected for the present study. The data was collected by using the attitude and perception checklist. The data were analyzed by frequency and percentage.

**Result**

**Section 1: Sociodemographic Data:**

Majority of the subjects 89 (85.58%) belonged to the age group of 16-18 years and only 15 (14.42%) belonged to the age group of 13-15 years. Majority of the subjects 70 (67.30%) were female and 34 (32.70%) were male. Majority

of the subjects 71 (68.26%) were from the 11<sup>th</sup> class and minimum 07 (6.74%) were from the 9<sup>th</sup> class. Majority of the subjects 86 (82.70%) were Christian and minimum 06 (5.77%) were Muslim. Majority of the subjects fathers were 40 (38.47%) primary educated and minimum 01(0.97%) was having diploma. Majority of the subjects mothers were 49 (47.12%) primary educated and minimum 01 (0.97%) was having diploma. Majority of the subjects fathers 36 (34.61%) were having a fishery as a occupation and minimum 4 (3.84%) were having a government job. Majority of the subjects mothers 90 (86.53%) were housewife and minimum 1 (0.96%) were having government job.

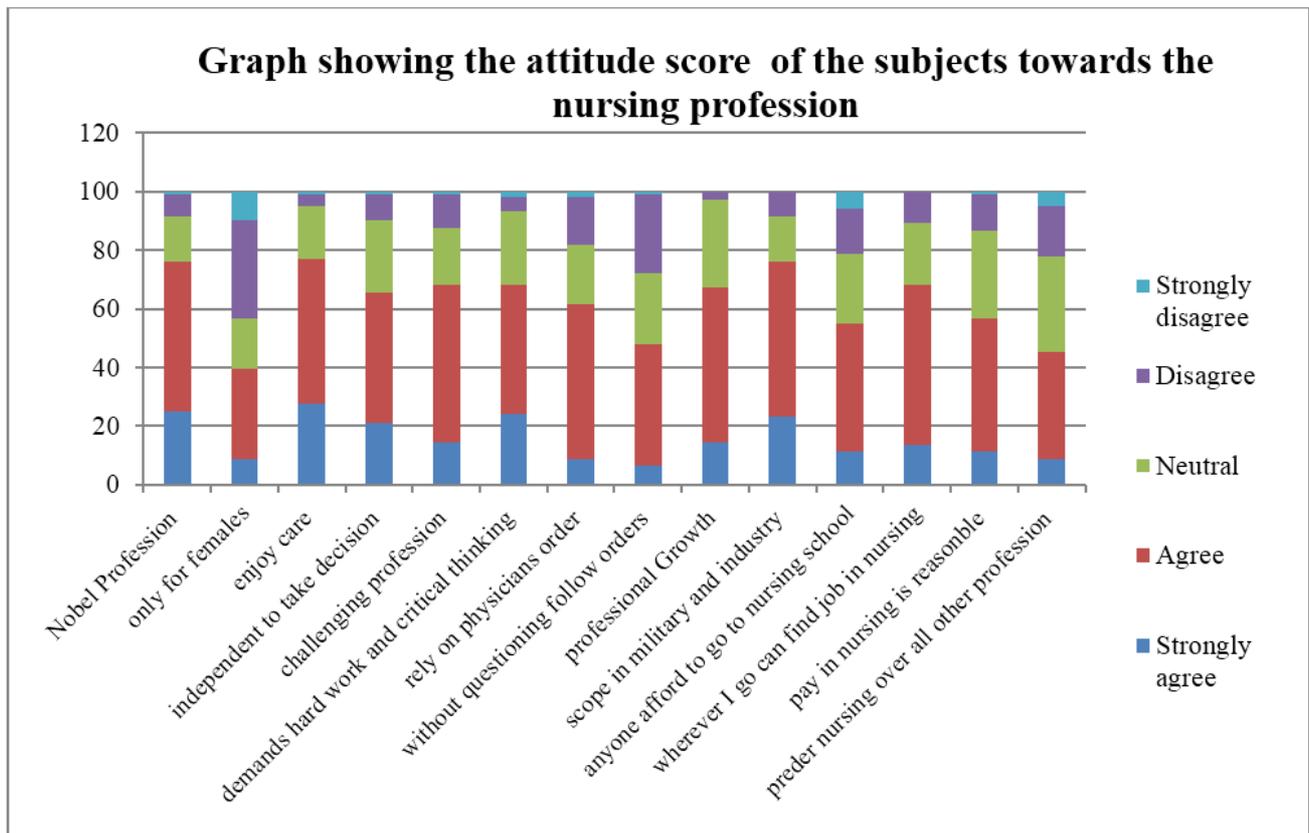
**Section 2: Analysis of attitude score of subjects towards nursing profession**

**Table 1:** Frequency and percentage distribution of Attitude scores of high school and junior college students towards nursing profession. n=104

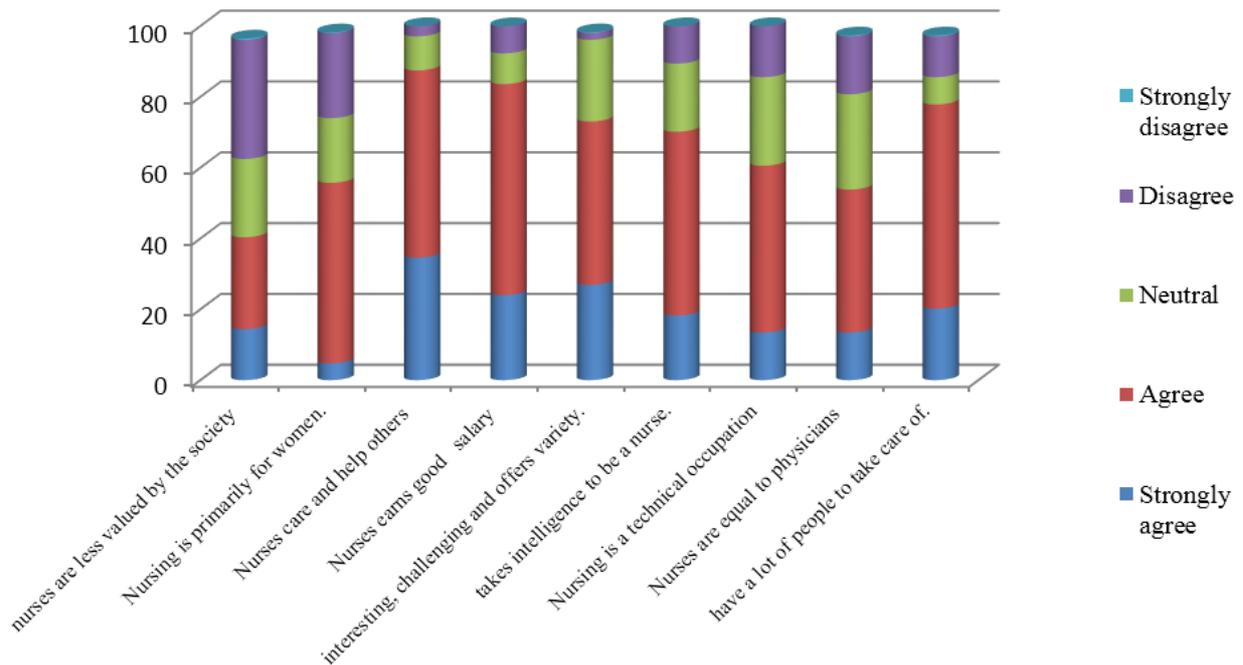
Attitude Score	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Favourable(52-70)	28	26.93
Moderately favourable(33-51)	76	73.07
Unfavourable(14-32)	00	00

Table 1: Indicates that,

Majority of the students 76(73.07%) had moderately favorable attitude and 28(26.93%) subjects had favorable attitude and none of the student had unfavorable attitude towards nursing profession.



**Graph showing the Perception score towards the nursing profession**



**Discussion**

In present study, regarding attitude revealed that, majority 49.03% agreed that they enjoy to care and to be with the people in need. The majority of 53.84% students believed that nursing is challenging procedure and 54.80% of students believed that they can be found nursing jobs wherever they go. Majority of 33.65% of the students disagree that the nursing profession is for females only.

The similar study was conducted by Wajed A Hatamleh, Erik Hans L Sorio, on knowledge, attitude and intention towards nursing profession among pre-clinical students, the results regarding attitude revealed that, the participants only scored above 50% in four statements. Majority agreed that it is very fulfilling to see patients getting better with 77.3% and about 73.5% enjoy caring and being with people. The participants also believed that nursing is a challenging career and nursing jobs can be found wherever they go. Remarkably, around 76.6% of the participants disagree that the nursing profession is a job for females only.

In the present study, Majority of the students 76(73.07%) had moderately favorable attitude and 28 (26.93%) subjects had favorable attitude and none of the student had unfavorable attitude towards nursing profession.

The similar study was conducted by Akoijam Mamata Devi, Akoijam Sangita Devi on knowledge and attitude toward nursing as profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary students, the results of the study revealed that,96% of the total subjects had positive attitude, 4% had neutral attitude, 0% had negative attitude.

In the present study regarding the perception revealed that majority 47.11% agreed that nursing is a technical occupation. While majority 59.61% agreed that the nurses earns good salary, majority of 57.69% also agreed that

nurses have a lot of people to take care of, majority of 51.92% agreed that it takes intelligence to be a nurse. Majority 46.15% agreed that nursing is interesting, challenging and offers variety. Majority of 50.96% agreed that nursing is primarily for women.

The similar study was conducted by Lamiaa Ismail Keshk, Fathia A. Mersal, on Preparatory Students’ Perception about the Nursing Profession and Its Impact on Their Career Choice. The results of the study revealed that majority of students (83.3%, 84% and 82.1%) agreed that nursing is a profession and technical occupation and nurses don't get paid well. While nearly two-thirds (65.5% and 63%) disagreed that nurses are kind nurses have to take responsibility for the people, nurses have many opportunities for advancement and nursing is a low-level skill occupation respectively. More than half of them (54.8%, 54.2%, 53% and 55.2%) agreed all nurses must have a university degree to practice nursing, nursing is stimulating and challenging work, Nurses have high standards of behavior and nurses work under stress. While nearly half (58.3%) disagreed that only women should be nurses.

**Conclusion**

The present study showed that the students were having moderately favorable attitude towards the nursing profession. The overall perception of nursing profession among the Uttan community is changing toward positive in most of the areas. An extended and constant effort is needed to educate the community about nursing careers, give more benefits such as increase the salary, reduce working hours; provision of on-site child care, more training, scholarship and upgrading opportunities may attract more applicants.

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