

Attitude of Nursing Students Towards Nursing Profession: Digital Survey

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52403/ijshr.20221003>

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nursing is considered a Nobel profession and the future of nursing is dependent upon the student nurses who will lead the nursing in the future. The perception and attitude of nursing students towards their profession is an important factor for the better future of the profession.

Aim: This study aimed to assess the attitude of nursing students towards the nursing profession.

Method: A digital survey was conducted in December 2021 in Maharashtra using exponential snowball sampling. 497 nursing students participated in the study. The attitude of nursing students towards the nursing profession was assessed by using a self-structured questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data using SPSS software.

Result: 95.97 % of participants showed Positive attitude towards the nursing profession and only 4.02% found negative attitude. The reasons for selecting nursing as a career were also assessed using one open-ended question. Factors such as caring nature, parental influence, financial security, good opportunities, pursuing a career in the medical field, and as a part of luck were identified as factors influencing career selection as nursing. The association between the attitude score and demographic variables such as age and class in which the students are studying was found significant at the level of 0.05.

Conclusion: Data suggest that the nursing students have a positive attitude towards the nursing profession in Maharashtra.

Keywords: Attitude, Nursing profession, Nursing students, Digital survey

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is considered a Nobel profession, which is autonomous and provides collaborative care to the sick and well individuals of all ages, races, families, backgrounds, groups, communities, countries, and in all settings. The main objective is to promote health and prevent illness among people. Other roles involve the care of the dying, disabled and sick, promoting health education, research in health care, managing the health care system, and participating in the policymaking related to health care.(1)

The other most popular definition of nursing is given by American Nurses Association (ANA) Nursing, as an integral part of the health care system, encompasses the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and care of physically ill, mentally ill, and disabled people of all ages, in all health care and other community settings. Within this broad spectrum of health care, the phenomena of particular concern to nurses are individual, family, and group "responses to actual or potential health problems"(1)

Choosing nursing as a career is a complicated task for the students especially when there are many options available. It can be influenced by many factors such as interest, values, background, standards, luck, environmental circumstances, etc. for selecting the profession student needs a desirable attitude towards the profession. This attitude can be affected by the both environmental and internal factors of the student. When students select the profession

and start learning about it, the student develops a favorable view of it.(2)

The factors such as serving humanity, personal growth, professional upliftment, nursing service are vital to human and social welfare, the nursing profession has economic security, and recognition in society can affect the student's perception towards the nursing profession.(3)

This study is the approach to generate the data regarding the attitude of nursing students towards the nursing profession to identify and if necessary to correct the attitude and view of nursing students towards the nursing profession.

Need of the study

A study conducted in Jordan with a similar methodology found that the nursing students have a positive perception about the image of the nursing profession and it is changing positively. There are many reasons identified such as financial security, availability of work, the impact of professionalism, etc.(4) Similar study is conducted in Saudi among nursing students and found a similar result with a positive attitude towards the nursing profession.(5)

A study conducted in Osman among nursing students found that the negative perception of the nursing profession is more prevalent. And the author conducted an awareness program regarding the positive value of nursing in view to attract more students towards nursing. (6) another study conducted in China suggests that the clinical experience has no impact on the attitude but the curriculum design plays important role in shaping the attitude of nursing students towards nursing.(7) The study conducted in hong kong among high school children suggests that the students who are socially acquainted with the nurse show more likely to choose nursing as a career rather than the other students(8). This indicates the negative social impact of nursing among the population. Another study shows that the role of tutors and mentors is more important to shape the individual's perception and attitude of nursing students.(9) All the data

shows that the attitude can be positive as well as negative but if it is found negative then it is important to change the attitude of nursing students towards the profession. This study focuses on generating data about nursing students' attitudes towards the nursing profession.

Objectives of the study

To assess the attitude of nursing students towards the nursing profession

To associate the findings with selected demographic variable

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is a Non-Experimental descriptive research study. The study was conducted in December 2021.

Study sample

The sample of study includes both male and female nursing students across Maharashtra. Exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling was used to collect data. The total sample participants were 503 nursing students who respond to the online survey. Among 503 respondents 2 nursing students decline to participate and didn't give consent. 4 participants filled the invalid details in the form so disqualified and not considered under the study.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

1) Inclusion criterion:

- a) The nursing students who can understand the English language
- b) The nursing student willing to participate in the study

2) Exclusion criterion:

- a) The nursing student who don't have online access to digital form

Tool of the study

A self-structured questionnaire includes two sections, section 1 having the questions related to the demographic profile of the Nursing Students and section 2 having 14 questions based on domains such as Social status of Nursing, Nursing as a profession, Patient care, Career in nursing. In the demographic profile, one question was open-ended. The tool is validated by experts in the field of nursing. The reliability of the

tool was calculated by using Cronbach's alpha and found reliable (0.75) and valid.

Procedure

The tool is made online by using the Google form. Google form is available free and it is very easy to use. The tool is made in 3 sections including informed consent, demographic profile, and 3 point scale with questions related to students' attitudes towards the nursing profession. For the sampling, the snowball sampling method was adopted. The online link is generated and shared among the student and asked to share among the known nursing students in Maharashtra. Many nursing students from different parts of Maharashtra participated in the study. In one month total of 503 students were responded to the online link and 497 responses were validated and considered for the analysis.

Funding: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Statistical analysis

The data were coded and transferred onto an Excel sheet, and statistical analysis was done using SPSS software version 13. Descriptive statistics and inferential

statistics were used for data analysis. Frequency, percentage, means, and standard deviation has been used to describe the socio-demographic variable, attitude of nursing students towards the profession. Chi-square test had been used to check the association of attitude score with selected socio-demographic variables.

RESULT

In the present study, nearly half of the participants were from the age group 18-20 years that is 47.8% and 48% were from 21-23 years of age. Only 4% of participants were from 24-26 years of age. Almost all the participants that are 92.8% were female and only 7% were male. The participants were qualifying General Nursing Midwifery (GNM), Basic BSc. Nursing, Post Basic BSc Nursing and MSc nursing that is 22.33%, 73.03%, 3.21%, and 1.40% respectively. Among all participants 36.61% belongs to the first year, 7.64% belongs to the second year, 24.74% were to the third year and 30.98% were from the fourth year. Almost all the nursing students were unmarried that is 95.97% whereas, 3.21% separated and only 0.8% were married. Nearly half of the participants that is 48.49% were residents of the urban area and 51.5% were from the Rural area. (Table 1)

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of participants in terms of demographic variable (N=497)

S. no.	Personal variable	F	Percentage
1	Age		
	18-20	238	47.8
	21-23	239	48.0
	24-26	20	4
2	Gender		
	Male	35	7.0
	Female	462	92.8
3	Current Qualification		
	General Nursing Midwifery (GNM)	111	22.33
	Basic BSc. Nursing	363	73.03
	Post Basic BSc. Nursing	16	3.21
	MSc. Nursing	7	1.40
4	Class		
	First Year	182	36.61
	Second-year	38	7.64
	Third-year	123	24.74
	Forth year	154	30.98
5	Marital Status		
	Unmarried	477	95.97
	Married	4	0.80
	Separated	16	3.21
6	Background		
	Urban	241	48.49
	Rural	256	51.50

The one open-ended question was asked to the Nursing students in digital form and every sample needed to fill the answer. All participants answered the question and the answers were read repeatedly for the familiarity of the content and general understanding. After that 23 responses were disqualified due to the poor quality of data. Different themes were identified from the written responses of the students. From the themes, individual factors were identified for the selection of nursing as a career. (Table 2)

Table 2: Frequency, percentage and mean attitude score of samples (N=497)

s. no.	Score	f	%	Mean ± SD
1	Negative	20	4.02414	33.93±3.6
2	Positive	477	95.9759	

Among all the participants almost all the nursing students that are 95.97% participants show a positive attitude towards the nursing profession and only 4.02% of participants show a negative attitude towards the nursing profession. (Table 3)

Table no. 3: Illustration of theme generation and factors identification

Nursing students' responses	Theme	Factors identified
I like to take care of others	Taking care of other	Caring nature
Got selected in nursing college and my parents suggested it has good scope further on	Parental suggestion	Parental influence
I selected nursing as a carrier profession bcoz, I like to do work in the hospital side and also this profession is an easier and faster way for earning money at a young age...	Like to do work in a hospital Earning money at a young age	Financial security Pursue carrier in the medical field As part of luck
Well, it happens by luck	Happen by luck	
I didn't get what I want so my dad suggest either I choose MBBS or if I didn't get selected then must go for BSc nursing coz it has a lot of job opportunities.	Parental suggestion 2 nd option for carrier	

For calculating the association between the emotional and behavioral problems with demographic variables chi-square test was used. Among all demographic factors age

were found significant at the level of 0.05 significance with a p-value of 0.013,. (Table 4)

Table 4: Association between Attitude score of nursing students and selected demographic variables(N=497)

S. no.	Personal variable	The attitude of Nursing students		Df	Chi-square value	P-value
		Negative	Positive			
1	Age					
	18-20	4	234			
	21-23	16	223	2	8.636	0.013 ^S
	24-26	0	20			
2	Gender					
	Male	0	35	1	1.579	0.209 ^{NS}
	Female	20	442			
3	Current Qualification					
	GNM	4	107			
	Basic BSc. Nursing	16	347	3	1.153	0.764 ^{NS}
	Post Basic BSc. Nursing	0	16			
	MSc. Nursing	0	7			
4	Class					
	First Year	0	182			
	Second year	0	38	3	20.234	0.00 ^S
	Third year	12	111			
5	Marital Status					
	Unmarried	20	457		0.874	0.646 ^{NS}
	Married	0	4	2		
	Separated	0	16			
5	Background					
	Urban	8	233	1	0.602	0.438 ^{NS}
	Rural	12	244			

S: Significant at the level of 0.05, NS: Not significant at p level > 0.05,

DISCUSSION

In the present study attitude of 497 nursing students studying in different courses such as General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM), Basic BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing towards the nursing profession were assessed. It is found that 95.97% of participants show a positive attitude towards the nursing profession and only 4.02% of participants show a negative attitude towards the nursing profession.

A study was conducted in Mangluru in 60 nursing students in which nursing attitudes were assessed. It was found that 43.33 % of participants were had a favorable attitude and 56.67 % of the participant had a moderately favorable attitude. Among all the demographic variables age was found significantly associated with attitude score.(14)

A qualitative study conducted by Saxena and ukande in the attitude of nursing students towards the nursing profession found that most of the participants give favorable view towards the nursing profession and also mention the situations faced by nursing students that can affect their perception such as facing stigma in nursing and embarrassing situation.(10)

A study conducted on 129 nursing students on attitude and perception of nursing profession and future desired found that 53.5% of nursing students want to continue nursing as a career, 34.1% of students pursue nursing by interest, and 33.3% of students join nursing for the financial benefit. The author suggests that there is a need of improving the image of nursing in society so that more students can join the nursing profession voluntarily.(15) Among all the other researches the attitude of nursing students varies. The findings of the present study are keeping up with large sample studies. Reasons for selecting nursing as a career also vary according to study and sample. Qualitative study findings suggest that careers involve caring, parental and friends suggestion and job security are the reasons for selecting nursing as a career.(11) Another descriptive study shows

that provision of care, easy employment, and master's education are the reasons.(12) A qualitative study conducted on 76 participants shows a desire to help others, to work abroad, failure to get another course, by chance, low admission requirement and family tradition are found reasons for selecting nursing as a career.(13) Another qualitative study shows able to help others and care for people, job opportunities, can continue education to masters and enjoy practicing nursing.

In the present study, similar reasons were identified such as caring nature, parental influence, financial security, wanting to pursue a career in the medical field, and as part of luck.

CONCLUSION

Almost all the participants have a positive attitude towards the nursing profession. Many factors contribute to the selection of nursing as a career such as the caring nature of the student, Parental influence, financial security, pursue a career in the medical field, as part of luck. The association was found between age and the scoring of the participants.

Relevance to clinical practice

The attitude of nursing students affects the working ability and compliance in the clinical area as well as study. If the students have a positive attitude towards the profession, then the students will show positivity in learning nursing science and practice nursing skills. If students have a negative attitude towards the nursing profession, then the learning nature can be hampered and that can affect the clinical practice.

Ethical compliance section: Informed consent: Digital written informed consent was obtained from the participant before participating in the study. Participants were assured of confidentiality with autonomy to withdraw themselves from the study before data collection.

Conflict of Interest: None

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How to cite this article: Sushil Humane. Attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession: digital survey. *International Journal of Science & Healthcare Research*. 2022; 7(4): 13-19. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52403/ijshr.20221003>
