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“Perception of Nursing students towards Nursing Profession.”

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ABSTRACT

Background : Nursing is a health care profession, which is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities; so that they can attain, maintain, or recover optimum health. Most of the nursing students believed to have negative attitude towards profession as they thought it has low reputation in society, no well - defined job description, very few administrative posts and no use of higher qualification, more dominance of medical professionals and no autonomy of the profession. The objective of the study was to assess the perception of nursing students towards nursing profession. **Methodology:** A cross sectional study was conducted using stratified random Sampling method a total of 154 students of GNM and B.Sc nursing 1st year students were selected for the study using lottery method. Pre tested semi structured questionnaires were used whose reliability value was 0.8 and the questionnaire consist of two parts: Socio demographic characteristics and Perception of the students towards nursing profession. The Perception was assessed using 5 point Likert scale as strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics. **Results:** The study showed that students majority of the 81.17% students have Positive Perception towards nursing Profession.61.0% students strongly agreed to the statement Nursing is a Helpful Profession similarly, 35.1% agreed to the statement it provides Leadership opportunities similarly, 49.4% agreed to the statement profession significant in patients recovery, 38.3% students are neutral about the statement there are more other respected profession than nursing, 35.7% students disagreed to the statement anyone can become nurse is easily **Conclusion:** Thus, the study concluded that still some of the 18.83% of the students have neutral perception. So, Guidance counsellors are important to help to improve interest in nursing and helping students dive into exploration about this career.

Key words: Nursing students, Profession, Perception

Introduction: Nursing is a health care profession, which is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities; so that they can attain, maintain, or recover optimum health. Most of the nursing students believed to have Low level of attitude towards profession as they thought it has no well - defined job description, very few administrative posts and no use of higher qualification, more dominance of medical professionals and no autonomy of the profession.¹ The image of nursing has been changed and developed throughout history and the outward image of nursing has been improved remarkably within the past 50 years. Professional

perception has a great influence on the development of nursing students and the future quality of nursing.²In India entry level courses in nursing are Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM), General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.Sc. Nursing) Opportunities are also available for higher education after basic nursing education. Most of the B. Sc. (N) or M. Sc. (N) qualified nurses choose their carrier as a teacher in college of nursing as it provides them some autonomy in their work, increase job satisfaction, higher profession a recognition and better salary. Students Perception of nursing care are based on visual images that are often limited to bedside care drug administration instead of that of highly skilled well educated nursing professionals or volunteered in a health care setting to acquire a background on which to limited their opportunities for more informed career decisions making skills. Literature suggest that students career perception are highly individual, and are the product of contracted images of jobs they see for themselves, derived images from media and delegated images from parents and friends. Students often view the status of a job linked to value judgment about the visible dimension of the job.⁴In India, the picture of Nursing Profession is changing day by, day, while Nursing Profession still suffers a mild degree of so called stigma in certain states of the country. It is very essential that we must target a younger population. If we have to attract younger students, we must emphasize lifelong learning & possibilities that a bound with further education & credentialing. Nursing students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into the nursing career. A small number of research studies that addressed the impact of nursing students' perceptions of the public image of nursing were found. There are 2,958 institutions for general nurse midwives with an admission capacity of 118,406 students, 1,921 institutions for auxiliary nurse midwives with an admission capacity of 54,859, according to data from the National Health Profile 2016. On average, India's nurse-to-population ratio is 1:475.14, including registered nurses and midwives and lady health visitors, according to NHP 2016. The WHO recommends a nurse-to-patient ratio of 1:500. In the public health system, the government has a norm of one nurse per primary health center and seven per community health center.⁹ Previous research studies,

reported that most students decided to join nursing profession because they had a desire to help others, and nursing was perceived as caring and serving humanity job; on contrary, Lai HL et al conducted a study in Taiwan and found that 65.4% of the nursing students would not choose nursing as career after graduation. Attitude of junior nursing students toward their future profession was alarming. Many of the students were not planning to practice nursing at bedside nor did they consider quality bedside care a priority for their career.¹ It is the need of hour that bedside nursing should be made attractive in terms of working conditions so that demands of nurses in direct patient care can be met. In India there very few studies which explored the Perception of nursing students. So, the present study was under taken to explore the perception of nursing profession among nursing students.

Materials and Methods:

A cross sectional study was done by using Descriptive approach and study was done on 154 students of GNM and B.Sc(N) Ist year students at selected colleges. Stratified Random sampling technique was used to select the sample. So, considering class as a strata, strata wise sample has calculated. From each strata 77 students were chosen randomly by using lottery method. Students of GNM and B.Sc 1st year who were available at the time of data collection and who were willing to participate in the study were included in the study and the students who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded from the study. Ethically permission was obtained from the principal of the nursing colleges. Anonymity and confidentiality of the students was maintained. Self - introduction and purpose of the data collection was explained. Verbal and written consent was taken from each student. Data analysis was done using descriptive and inferential statistics. Data processing was done using SPSS version 21 under the guidance of the expertise who was in the field of nursing and statistics.

Results

Table1: Frequency and percentage distribution according to the socio-demographic variable of the respondent's. **n= 154**

Sr. No.	Demographic profile	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age in years		
	16-18	61	39.6
	19-21	93	60.4
2.	Gender		
	Male	75	48.7
	Female	79	51.3
3.	Class		
	GNM	77	50
	B.Sc	77	50
4.	Religion		
	Hindu	119	77.3
	Muslim	5	3.2
	Christian	30	19.48
5.	Family		
	Nuclear	115	73.5
	Joint	37	25.0
	Extended	2	1.3
7.	Father's education		
	Illiterate	0	0
	Non – formal education	2	1.3
	Primary level	15	9.7
	Secondary level	30	19.5
	Higher secondary and above	107	69.5
8.	Mother's education		
	Illiterate	5	3.2
	Non- formal education	12	7.8
	Primary level	30	19.5
	Secondary level	42	27.2
	Higher secondary and above	65	42.2
9.	Occupation of father		
	House wife	103	66.2
	Business	20	13.6
	Farmer	2	1.3
	Governmental services	17	13.0
	Non-governmental services	12	5.8
10.	Occupation of mother		
	Business	7	51.3
	Farmer	9	5.8
	Governmental services	41	26.6
	Non-governmental services	25	16.2
11	Place of residents		
	Own house	98	63.6
	Rental house	17	11.0
	Hostel	39	25.3

12.	Monthly family income		
	10,000- 20,000	14	9.1
	20,001- 30,000	17	11.1
	30,001- 40,000	47	30.5
	Above 40,000	76	49.4

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage of the students according to perception level n=154

Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Positive (91 -135)	125	81.17
Neutral (46- 90)	29	18.83
Negative (>45)	0	0
Total	154	100

The above table shows that, majority of the students 81.17% had positive perception towards nursing profession and 18.83% of the students had neutral perception similarly, no students had negative perception towards their profession.

Table 3: Percentage of the Students according to the various items on Perception related to Nursing Profession. n = 154

Statement	Strongly agree %	Agree %	Neutral %	Disagree %	Strongly disagree %
A respectful Profession	42.9	34.9	22.1	6	0
Helpful profession	61.0	31.8	5.8	1.3	0
Nursing is a feminine Profession	22.1	24.0	26.0	12.3	15.6
A well appreciated Profession in the society	16.2	51.9	24.0	6.5	1.3
Nursing is a humane Profession	34.4	39.6	18.8	3.2	3.9
An occupation not a Profession	9.7	7.8	31.8	35.7	14.9
An independent Profession by which nurse make decision by themselves	19.5	21.4	26.6	22.1	10.4
There is variety of opportunities in the profession of nursing	22.7	40.3	22.1	8.4	6.5
An opportunity to go abroad easily	18.8	31.2	32.5	12.3	5.2
To become nurse good grades are essential	25.3	31.2	33.1	10.4	0
Nurses waste a lot of time doing nothing	10.4	11.0	18.2	37.0	23.4
Nurses are appreciated	17.5	46.1	29.9	5.2	1.3

Nurses are patients advocates	17.5	40.9	36.4	3.9	1.3
The service given by nurse is as much important as the service given by physician	43.5	34.4	18.8	3.2	0
A mean to earn blessings	35.7	34.4	22.7	7.1	0
Anyone can become a nurse easily	6.5	7.8	31.2	35.7	18.8
A way to enjoy economic security	13.6	22.7	33.1	20.8	9.7
An extremely hard profession that does not receive enough appreciator	6.5	20.1	24.7	31.2	17.5
Profession significant in patients recovery	23.4	49.4	20.1	5.2	1.9

Discussion

The findings of this study shows that 81.17% were having positive perception and 18.83% were having neutral perception. Present study findings are consistent with the findings of the study conducted by Dave (2007) which concluded that majority of the students 89.5% have positive attitude towards Nursing Profession¹⁶ and Emmanuel (2015) at Nigeria concluded that majority of the students have positive Perception Towards Nursing Profession.²⁵ The findings of the study shows that 42.9% strongly agreed that nursing is a respectful profession while the study concluded by Achilles (2010) shows that 76% of the students agreed that nursing is a respectful profession,²⁰ whereas the study conducted by Emmanuel (2015) shows that 64.8% of the students strongly agreed that Nursing is a noble Profession.²⁵ The findings of this study shows that 46.6% agreed that nurses are well appreciated in the society. Which is supported by the finding conducted by Emmanuel (2015) concluded that 33.9% of the student agreed that nursing is admired by many people in the society.⁸ The findings of this study showed that most of the students 33.1% were neutral to the statement a way to enjoy economic Security, which is consistent with the findings of the study conducted by Emmanuel (2015) which reported that 39% strongly agreed to the statement Good pay in nursing offers positive view about the choice of nursing.⁸

Conclusion

Nursing is the care which puts a person to best possible condition for nurses to restore or preserve health, to prevent or to cure disease or injury. Majority of the nursing Students have positive perception towards Nursing Profession. However, still findings showed that students are having neutral perception towards nursing profession. There is still the need to develop a better image of nursing and its profession and to pay attention on various areas to maintain the professional standard which might be helpful for the positive perception of the nursing profession. In order to help student perceive nursing in more positive way the present study emphasis on the need of Guidance counselors are important within the school system itself to help identify students with interest in many fields including nursing and helping students dive into exploration about this career. Furthermore research can be done because nursing is a flourishing Profession and it is important to know the perception of students towards nursing Profession. The study would generate literature for students and nursing authorities for guidelines and taking corrective actions to retain more nurses in the profession.

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