



Original Research Article

## A Study to Assess the Attitude towards Nursing Profession among the Nursing Students in the Selected College at Mangalore

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### ABSTRACT

Nursing is a noble profession that requires the total commitment of a nurse to provide comprehensive care to the suffering humanity. The basic concept is still remotely the same but the knowledge required has become greater with the advancing science and technology. Attitude of Nursing Students can be viewed as either positive or negative. However, within the basic division of positive and negative, it can be argued that even the positive attitudes towards nursing, may have negative connotations. We may view positive attitudes as; nurse and the nursing as highly skilled, which involves a caring and nurturing attitude towards others. However, as we all know, nurses are often referred to as “angels” or “martyrs” who have a dedication to a cause and this dedication is viewed as sufficient reward for undertaking the task.

#### Objectives of the study

- To assess the attitude of the nursing students towards nursing profession.
- To find an association of attitude towards nursing profession with the selected demographic variables.

**Methods:** A descriptive survey design was used for the present study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the subject and the total population was 60. Tool used to collect the data was baseline proforma and a 5 point rating scale to assess the attitude.

**Results:** The result of the study findings shows that 26 (43.33%) of nursing students had favorable attitude and 34 (56.67%) of them had moderately favorable attitude had towards Nursing Profession. There is a significant association between age and the attitude of the nursing students towards nursing profession ( $0.024 < 0.05$ , at 0.05 level of significance).

**Interpretation and conclusion:** Pooled results showed that the overall attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession is favourable.

**Keywords:** Attitude; Nursing students; Nursing Profession.

### INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a noble profession. It is one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge, skills and values.

Nurses, care for individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds that; are healthy and ill; in a holistic manner based on the individuals physical, emotional,

psychological, intellectual, social and spiritual needs. Nurses could also bring up themselves personally, professionally, psychologically and socially.

In ancient times, nursing was considered as the job of the women who belongs to the poor families and those who have low reputation in the society. Due to this nursing had a very low reputation. Florence Nightingale the lady with the lamp, who was the founder of the modern nursing, was a well educated woman from an affluent family became a nurse and improved the profession drastically in 19<sup>th</sup> century. There after the society gradually began to accept nursing as a respectable profession. [1]

Nursing profession continued to grow and the attitude of the society towards it has been changed to some extent. But the attitude of most of the nursing students is believed to be negative towards this profession in India. [2] As per a cross sectional study conducted to assess attitude and perceptions of nursing professions among 129 undergraduate nursing students in a selected college in Bangalore using modified version of Beliefs, results revealed that 44(34.1%) of the subjects agreed that they enrolled in nursing out of their own interest. At the same time 43(33.3%) to improve their financial situations. Upon graduation 69(53.5%), subjects prefer to pursue the nursing career, 12(9.3%) wanted to change the profession. Nearly 63(48.8%) of the subjects agreed that social prejudice has a great influence on nursing students in choosing nursing profession as their career. [3]

Though nurses are the largest group of health care professionals, they failed to get adequate recognition in the health care system. A number of factors which determine the negative attitude of students may include: the socio-economic welfare of nurses are poor or inadequate, some nurses work in very difficult conditions, in both

developed and developing nations, nurses are burned out by increased workloads, the nursing shortage make nurses to work long hours under stressful conditions, which can result in fatigue, injury, and job dissatisfaction. And also it includes the low reputation of the profession in the society, no definite job description for nurses, no criteria for various administrative posts in nursing, no use of higher degrees for higher post, dominance of doctors everywhere in all job settings, no autonomy to the profession and low salary of the nurses.

#### ***Objectives of the Study***

1. To assess the attitude of the nursing students towards nursing profession.
2. To find an association of attitude towards nursing profession with the selected demographic variables

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A descriptive study was conducted in the month of June in a selected nursing college at Mangaluru. A sample consisted of 60 nursing students who met the inclusion criteria and were assigned in the group. A 5 point rating scale was used to assess the attitude of the nursing students along with their demographic proforma.

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

- Students pursuing nursing in a selected college at Mangalore
- Students who are willing to participate in the study

#### **HYPOTHESIS**

H<sub>1</sub>: There will be significant association between attitude and selected demographic variables.

#### **Data Collection Instruments**

1. Demographic Proforma
2. Attitude scale to assess the attitude of the nursing students towards Nursing Profession

**Data Collection Process:** A formal written permission was obtained from the authority concerned and data was collected from

nursing students of selected college. Prior to the data collection the investigators familiarized themselves with the subjects and explained to them the purpose of the study. An informed consent was obtained from 60 subjects selected through purposive sampling method. The average time taken by the subjects to complete the tool was 10-15 minutes. The collected data was compiled for analysis.

## RESULTS

The data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. Half of the subjects had moderately favorable attitude (56.67%) and less than half had favorable attitude (43.33%) towards nursing profession.

Figure 1 shows Frequency and Percentage distribution of Attitude of Nursing Students towards Nursing Profession

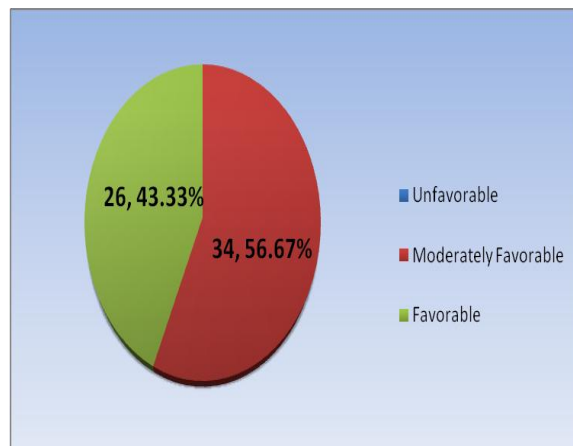


Figure 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of attitude of nursing students towards Nursing Profession

Table 1 shows the area wise mean, standard deviation and mean percentage of attitude score towards nursing profession. The mean attitude score in the personal domain is higher (75.42%) than other domains like psychological domain (53.9%), social domain (74.6%) and professional domain (71.88%).

Table 1: Domain/ Area wise distribution of students according Attitude score obtained

Domain	Item	Maximum score	Mean	SD	Mean attitude score (%)	Attitude level (N=60)
Personal	7	33	26.4	3.64	75.42	Moderately favorable
Psychology	4	17	10.78	2.69	53.9	Moderately favorable
Social	5	24	18.65	2.7	74.6	Moderately favorable
Professional	9	41	32.35	3.6	71.88	Moderately favorable

The P-value computed between age and attitude score (0.024) was  $< 0.05$ . This shows that attitude score had a significant association with the age of nursing students.

**Sample Characteristics:** Out of the 60 subjects, the majority were in the age group of 20-35 years. Two-third of them pursued bachelor in Nursing. Half of the subjects completed two years of course; more than half were from nuclear family and from rural area. Majority of their parents occupation was farming (father) and home maker (mother) apart from which one parent was from medical profession (father) and two from nursing profession (Father & mother).

## DISCUSSION

The overall attitude score (56.67%) showed that the subjects had moderately favorable attitude. Majority 50 (83.33%) of the nursing students were in the age group of 20-25 years and most 45 (75%) of the nursing students were doing their degree course. Results also shows that 30 (50%) of the nursing students were in the study period of 2 years. As per the type of family, 52 (86.67%) of the nursing students from nuclear family and. Considering the area of living, more than half 35 (58.33%) of the nursing students were from rural area. Present study shows that there is a significant association between Age and the Attitude Score of the nursing students towards nursing profession. ( $0.024 < 0.05$ )

Some of the findings of this study support the information available from the existing studies. A study conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession among college teachers in Karad, revealed age group 20-30yrs.-25(30.48%), Educational status- post graduate-64(78.04%). Type of family- Joint-50 (60.97%). It is also found that Grading of Attitude scale was excellent -64(78.04%) and there was no significant association with selected demographic variables. Overall attitude was positive. [4]

The present study throws light on the attitude students have towards nursing profession. The study helps to improve the attitude regarding the nursing profession among students and thus can help in uplifting image of nursing profession in society. The findings of the study could be utilized as a basis for in service education of teachers so that constant awareness and clear understanding may be created regarding a nursing profession. Active participation of teachers can be encouraged by providing opportunity for self learning, teaching and explaining nursing profession. Nursing administrator must plan a separate budget for continuing education program related to increasing awareness about nursing profession in the society.

## CONCLUSION

Nursing is one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge, skills and values. In 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 the upcoming young nurses. The present study was conducted to assess the attitude towards nursing profession among the nursing students in a selected college at Mangalore. The findings of the study proved that most of the nursing students have moderately favorable attitude towards Nursing Profession.

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