

Perception Towards Nursing And It's Futuristic Career Prospects Among Nursing Students At Selected Colleges

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ABSTRACT

Background: Nursing is a healthcare profession that is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities; so that they can attain, maintain, or recover optimum health. It is rated as one of the most trusted professions in the healthcare industry and is considered an exciting and in-demand profession. Nurses are 2/3rds of the health workforce in India Nursing students' perception of nursing might have an impact on their self-concept, self-esteem, recruitment, retention, and performance.

Aim: The aim of the study is to assess the perception of nursing and its futuristic career prospects among nursing students of selected colleges of Punjab.

Materials and Methods: A quantitative non-experimental descriptive research approach and design was used to assess the perception of nursing and its futuristic career prospects among 200 nursing students who were selected by stratified probability sampling technique. Data was collected by using self-structured tool on perception towards nursing and futuristic career prospects.

Results: The results of the study concluded that the majority of nursing students have a good perception towards nursing 71.5%, followed by 27% with have average level of perception, and a minimum number of students have a poor level of perception 1.5%. The majority (62%) of the nursing students wanted to move abroad after completing graduation in nursing. A maximum number of students (67%) agree that nursing is a financially secure career than any other profession.

Conclusion: The study concluded that most of nursing students have good perception of nursing as a profession.

Keywords: Perception towards nursing, futuristic career prospects, nursing students

1. INTRODUCTION

Nursing is the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most respected of all the health care professions¹ A nation cannot fully thrive until role of nurses² Nursing is a field which aims to promote the health of the community, by spreading awareness regarding the prevention of diseases, ways to manage the disease in early stage and early recognition of the disease on the basis of sign and symptoms and to care for ill persons without any kind of discrimination at all the stages of illness. Nursing profession have different images for everyone either it be from a medical field member or from other non-medical field members. What actually is perceived regarding nursing can be evaluated by assessing the thoughts and opinions, therefore it is important to understand the perception regarding nursing.

Various studies have been conducted in the field of nursing profession to assess the attitude of nursing students regarding the nursing profession and related to their futuristic carrier aspects. Most of the studies have shown that medical students

opted for BSc. Nursing in order to provide the holistic care to the patients and along with this to earn a better social status, however, from the research studies it has been seen that majority of the students don't want to join bedside nursing as a profession later on. In India, nursing is not considered as well reputable and sufficiently paid job, thus most of the students after completing their graduation, especially of Punjab region prefer to go abroad to work better and to get paid better. More the person is having positive attitude and perception regarding nursing profession, more are the futuristic career prospects for that individual, as positive perception regarding nursing profession indicates that a student is interested in nursing and as result of the student will explore more about the nursing profession, ultimately resulting in variety of futuristic career prospects. On the other hand, when nursing students perceive a negative image of nursing profession then ultimately it decreases their futuristic career prospects as students don't try to find out the better career opportunities, they only stuck to bedside nursing and teaching.³ Thus, futuristic career prospects are greatly influenced by the perception nursing students have regarding nursing profession along with their interest. To get complete knowledge regarding the perception of nursing students only limited studies have been conducted in the area selected for study, ultimately highlighting the need for this study to assess the perception and futuristic carrier aspects of nursing students in detail for the better understanding.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this study Quantitative Non-Experimental Descriptive research approach and design were used to assess the perception towards nursing and its futuristic career prospects among nursing students. The study was conducted in 4 different constituent and affiliated nursing colleges of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot. Probability Stratified sampling technique was used to select the students. In procedure of selecting sample, first step was dividing target population into strata. Nursing students from four colleges were divided into four strata based on their class. Each class had 200 students and for a proportionate sampling fraction of 1/4, 50 students were taken as a final sample randomly from each stratum. The sample size for the study comprised of 200 B.Sc. nursing students from 1st to 4th year of selected colleges who meets the inclusive and exclusive criteria of the study. Tools were prepared after extensive review of literature, consultation and discussion with the experts from different fields. It consists of three sections:

Section A: Demographic Variables: It consists of age (in years), class, type of family, residence, father's education, and occupation, mother's education and occupation, family income, any family member or relative in nursing, reason for joining nursing, wish to change profession after graduation in nursing, want to go abroad.

Section B: Self Structured tool on perception towards nursing: -It comprises 20 items 5-point likert type questionnaire. These questions were scored from 5 to 1 (as Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree). Maximum score is 100 and Minimum score is 20.

Section C: Self Structured tool on perception towards futuristic career prospects in nursing: It consists of 12 items to assess futuristic career prospects of nursing students. Tool was selected and developed based on objectives of the study.

Ethical consideration

- Administrative permission and ethical approval regarding to conduct the study was taken from the research and ethical committee.
- Written permission was taken from the principals of selected colleges.
- Confidentiality of the data was maintained.
- Written consent was taken from each individual sample.

Pilot study and reliability

Pilot study was conducted on 1/10th of total sample size in the month of October at State institute of Nursing & Paramedical sciences, Badal. Reliability of the measuring instrument is a major criterion for assessing quality and adequacy, accuracy and consistency. In order to calculate the reliability of tool; it was administered to 20 students other than the study sample. The reliability coefficient was calculated by Cronbach's alpha. The reliability was found to be $r = 0.80$, thus the research tool was found to be reliable.

Procedure for data collection

Data was collected from the selected sample by using self-structured questionnaire on perception towards nursing and its futuristic career prospects. Ethical procedure was followed before the data collection. It took an average 15-20 minutes for each student to answer the questionnaire. Data was collected from 200 nursing students based on inclusive and exclusive criteria selected through stratified randomized probability sampling technique.

Data Analysis

The analysis and interpretation of the data was done according to the objectives by using descriptive and inferential statistics such as frequency and percentage distribution. Mean, SD and Chi square using SPSS 26

3. RESULTS

The demographic variables of the present study showed that maximum number of students were female 147(73.5%) and 53(26.5%) were male. According to Any Family member or Relative in nursing, maximum number of students did not have any family member or relative in nursing 111(55.5%) and 89 (44.5%) had family member or relative in Nursing. The reason for joining nursing revealed that a maximum number of students joined by being self-motivated 118 (59.0%) , 38(19.0%) joined due to advice by others, 28(14.0%) joined due to other reasons and a minimum number of students 16(8.0%) joined due to family pressure. Inquiry on Wish to Change Profession after Graduation in Nursing, the majority of students 168(84.0%) did not want to change their profession and 32(16.0%) wanted to change their profession after graduation in nursing. A maximum number of students 124(62.0%) wanted to go abroad and a minimum number of students 76 (38.0%) did not want to go abroad.



Objective 1: To assess the perception towards nursing profession among nursing students.

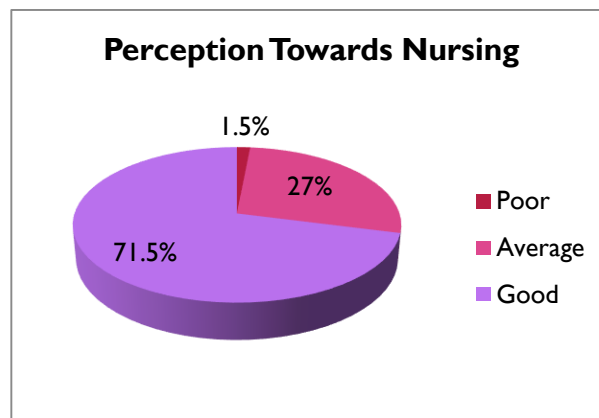


Figure depicts that majority of nursing students have good level of perception towards nursing (71.5%), followed by (27.0%) nursing students having average level of perception and minimum number of students having poor level of perception (1.5%).

Objective 2: To assess the perception towards futuristic career prospects among nursing students.

Frequency and percentage distribution of perception towards futuristic career prospects in nursing

Statements	Agree		Not Sure		Disagree	
	frequency	%	frequency	%	frequency	%
There are more career opportunities in nursing.	177	88.5	15	7.5	8	4.0
With the gradation of degrees, the scope of the profession in nursing is getting wider.	167	83.5	23	11.5	10	5.0

Nurses migrate abroad for career advancement.	171	85.5	28	14.0	1	0.5
There is a high demand for nurses with technological skills.	162	81.0	36	18.0	2	1.0
There are dozens of specialties in nursing as a career.	152	76.0	38	19.0	10	5.0
There is growth in number of nurses pursuing higher education.	173	86.5	22	11.0	5	2.5
Nursing is financially secure career than any other profession.	134	67.0	49	24.5	17	8.5
There is an increasing scope of health informatics in nursing in India as well as abroad	153	76.5	44	22.0	3	1.5
Registered nurses are given opportunities in fields of practice, education, management and Research.	180	90.0	18	9.0	2	1.0
Teaching is a less stressful job than bedside nursing.	89	44.5	74	37.0	37	18.5
Nursing also has a wider scope in the community.	159	79.5	34	17.0	7	3.5
Additional benefits are given to registered nurses like health insurance, etc.	152	76.0	39	19.5	9	4.5

The above table shows that:

Majority of nursing students (88.5%) agree, (7.5%) nursing students are not sure and (4.0%) nursing students disagree with the statement that there are more career opportunities in nursing.

Majority of nursing students (83.5%) agree that with the up gradation of degree, the scope of profession in nursing is getting wider, (11.5%) nursing students are not sure and (5.0%) nursing students disagree with this statement.

Majority of nursing students (85.5%) agree that nurses migrate to abroad for career advancement, (14.0%) are not sure and only (0.5%) nursing students disagree.

Majority of nursing students (81.0%) agree that there is high demand of nurses with technological skills, (18.0%) are not sure and (1.0%) of them disagree.

Majority of nursing students (76.0%) agree that there are dozens of specialties in nursing as a career , (19.0%) are not sure and (5.0%) nursing students disagree with this statement.

Majority of nursing students (86.5%) agree that there is growth in number of nurses pursuing higher education, (11.0%) are not sure and (2.5%) of them disagree.

4. DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that 73.5% of the nursing students were female and these findings were consistent with the study conducted by MD **Arifullslam And et al. (2020)** who reported that 58.2% students were female. The present study showed that 59% nursing students were self motivated to join nursing and the findings were similar with the study conducted by **Samah (2017)** who reported that 40.8% students were self motivated to join nursing. Study discovered that (62%) of nursing students wanted to go abroad and it had been supported by the study conducted by **Kaur Davinder; Narula Preeti (2016)** reported that (27%) students want to go abroad. The present study identified that (71.5%) nursing students had good

perception towards nursing; these findings were compatible with the study conducted by **MD Arifullslam (2020)** who reported that 66.5% nursing students have positive perception towards nursing and **Iqbal Momin (2018)** also reported that 59.09% students have good perception and 0.46% students have poor perception towards nursing. Most students (67%) consider nursing as a financially secure career and these findings were consistent with **Helal, Houaida (2017)** who reported that 25.9% nursing students perceive that nursing is a financially secure career.

5. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that most of the nursing students have good level of perception towards nursing and most of them wanted to go abroad for career advancement. Most nursing students were self motivated to join nursing as a career and very less students wanted to change their profession after graduation.

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