

Knowledge and attitude regarding nursing as a Career among adolescence

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Abstract

Introduction: Knowledge and attitude is persistent dimension to get either positively or negatively towards a person or a profession. Various studies revealed that high school students scored a reasonable level on the knowledge dimension but didn't achieve high score on the attitude dimension. If the students possess a adequate knowledge and favorable attitude towards nursing, then the students would be attracted towards nursing profession.

Aim: An exploratory study was undertaken to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding nursing as a career among adolescents in selected junior colleges of Pune city.

Material & methods: The data was collected from 200 adolescents who were selected by non-probability purposive sampling technique. A valid and reliable structured knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale was used to collect the data. The data collection technique was questioning (paper and pencil).

Results: The finding of the study shows that the adolescence possesses average knowledge regarding nursing as a career and they don't possess a favorable attitude towards nursing. The co-efficient of the co-relation between knowledge and attitude score was 0.35 indicating a moderate co-relation at 0.05 level of significance.

Keywords: knowledge, attitude, nursing as a career, adolescence

Introduction

“Nursing Calls for utmost self sacrifice.
 Face to face the suffering all the while.
 Yet maintaining calm & wearing a smile.
 She soothes the sick & suffering with her skilled care.
 The society owes her lot in raising her image
 Facilitating her work & speaking for her welfare.
 Nursing is no more learned by trial or error & apprenticeship.
 It is a discipline that prepares competent Professionals.”
 Samuel, S.A [1988-89] ^[1]

Nursing is the oldest of the art and the youngest of the professions. During the mid nineteenth century, Florence Nightingale began the reformation of Nursing from an occupation to a profession. Nursing is a largest health care profession with 2.6 million registered nurses and many more needed in the future. Nurses are the largest single component of any hospital and they deliver most of the nation's health care. They work in variety of health care settings. Nursing has indeed undergone periodic shortage during the past 50 years. However, as the profession tries to find answers during the shortage and recruit more individuals into the profession, in addition to retaining others, it is essential to understand why students choose Nursing as a career. If those reasons are understood, more appropriate recruitment strategies can be developed, instead of a generic approach, in recruitment. A poor image of Nursing as a career is a major contributor to the Nursing shortage.

Today there are numerous vocations & occupations available to an individual to choose. Nursing is a Noble Profession. It requires loving heart & deserve for compassionate care. It is

one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge, skills & values. In the 21st century, there is growing demand of nurse's worldwide ^[2].

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, Koushali A N ^[3] *et al.* conducted a study in Tehran, Iran and found that 65.4% of the nursing students would not choose nursing as career after graduation. This paper examines students' perceptions of nursing as a career at a number of key stages in their education decision-making, and how this information influences their subsequent career decision either to choose or to reject nursing ^[4].

Material and methods

Quantitative ---Non-Experimental approach, survey design was adopted for the study. 200 Adolescent students were included in study by Non probability purposive sampling technique from junior colleges. Structured Questionnaire method and rating scale were used to collect the data. The tool was administered to the students and they were instructed to answer within 30 min.

Results

The data was analyzed by using frequency and percentage distribution. High school students (55.27%) scored a reasonable level on the knowledge dimension but did not achieve high scores on the attitude dimension, however, they achieved very low scores on the intention of being a nurse in the future. Inferential data analysis showed that attitude, having or not having a nurse friend and knowledge was found

to have significant positive influence on high school students' intention, while long working hours and high work load compared to other jobs were found to have a significant

negative influence. The co-efficient of the co-relation between knowledge and attitude score was 0.35 indicating a moderate co-relation at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 1: Distribution of samples according to their personal characteristics

Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Below 16 years	102	51
16-18 yrs	98	49
Gender		
Male	88	44
Female	112	56
Present year of study		
Class 10+1	80	40
Class 10+2	120	60
Parents education		
Mother (Secondary)	110	55
Mother (Graduate)	90	45

Distribution of samples according to their knowledge (fig: 1) and attitude (fig: 2) towards nursing

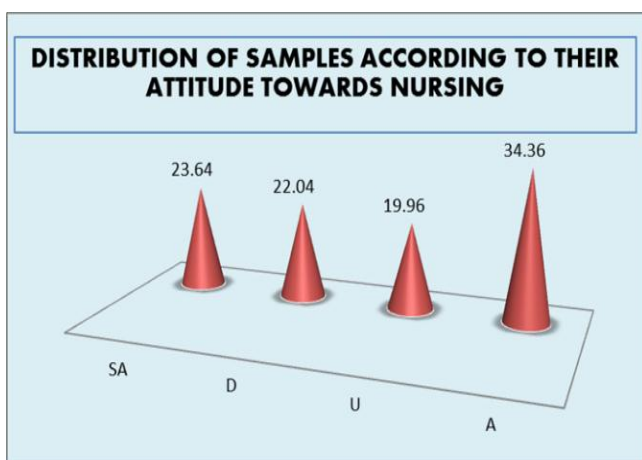


Fig 1

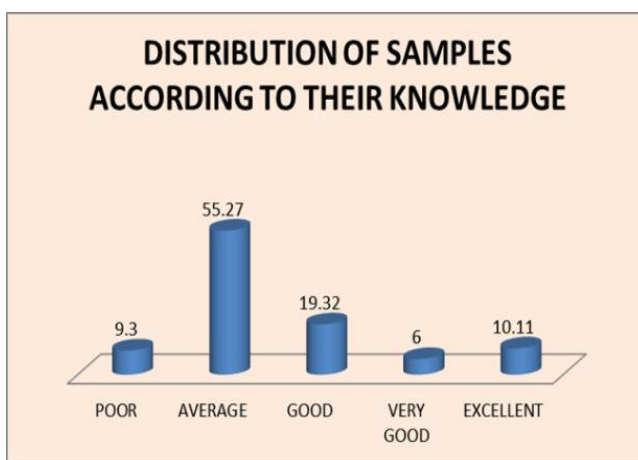


fig 2

Discussion

Al-Omar AB (2004) 8 A study was conducted in Saudi among high school students to ind out their knowledge, attitude and intention towards nursing profession and to identify the perception of causes preventing them from becoming a nurse. The results showed that students scored a reasonable level on the knowledge dimension; however they achieved very low scores on attitude and intention of being a nurse in the future. Only 5.2% preferred nursing as their future job. Long working hours, high work load compared to other jobs were the reasons for preventing them from becoming a nurse [5].

H.T Dave (2007) [10] conducted a study to determine the knowledge and attitude towards Nursing Profession among male and female students in selected higher secondary schools at Gujarat. The results showed that the student’s knowledge about Nursing was low. Female students showed slightly better knowledge than male. There was a positive attitude towards Nursing among students. However, the positive attitude was not transmited into a desire to join Nursing. There was no significant difference in attitude among male

and female students. Students from monthly high income group showed less positive attitude towards Nursing compared to medium and low income group students [6].

Conclusion

Nursing as a branch of health care system has made great strides. The health services are expanding at tremendous speed, so there is a greater need for more and more nursing manpower to meet the increasing demands. The provision of quality of nursing care depends on the number of Nursing manpower and their education and training. Results indicated that the more knowledge and positive attitude on nursing, the more likely the student would be attracted to the nursing profession. Many youngsters, in spite of the wide range of career choices, instinctively opt for engineering or medicine. One reason could be lack of information. Nurses serve as front-line caregivers. Preparing highly educated nurses to provide expert care, formulate policy, administer health care delivery systems, and educate the next generation of health care providers is a critical step for increasing access

to quality health care and improving health care outcomes. About Nursing should be specifically explained so that they can counsel the parents to have informed choice.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings, the following recommendations are offered for future research.

- A similar longitudinal study can be conducted to see the impact of the career awareness programme of Nursing on secondary students
- The study can be replicated covering a larger sample of senior secondary school students for generalization
- Similar study can be done by using other teaching strategies like SIM, information booklet etc.
- A study can be undertaken to assess the public image of Nursing in India.
- A study can be taken up to determine the opinion of school teachers as a career counselor towards Nursing as a profession

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