

Nursing Students Perception towards Profession and Future Intentions

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Abstract: Exploratory survey was carried out to find out the perception of outgoing B.sc nursing students towards nursing profession and carrier plans. perception and future life orientation is important in judging the students. Data was collected from 100 randomly selected outgoing fourth year B. Sc[N] students in selected colleges of Tirupati. Findings of the study were most of the students (71%) were self motivated to pursue nursing and (84%) preferred to go for higher education. More than three thirds (84%) felt it is an opportunity to get government jobs and nearly more than half (58%) preferred to go abroad for employment. Fifty six percent of students expressed their desire to change profession, Almost all of students felt nursing profession gives opportunity to serve the humanity but majority stated it is not equal to other professions. Less than half prefer to be employed at bedside and nursing administration. Nursing administrators and professional associations need to create opportunities for higher education in nursing. Financial incentives and, promotional opportunities have to be provided to nursing professionals to create interest to retain themselves in nursing profession. It is further recommended that nursing educators can play an important role in providing guidance and counselling to nursing students regarding career prospects.

Key words; Nursing profession, Motivation, Perception and Future intentions.

I. Introduction

Nursing is defined as the protection, promotion, and optimisation of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, advocacy in the (1). It is also defined as the use of clinical judgement in the provision of care to enable people to improve, maintain, or recover health, to cope with health problems, and to achieve the best possible quality of care, whatever their disease or disability, until death (2). Nursing is widely regarded as a noble profession in the society because of the core value it promotes in its practice-which is the care of life (3).

Nurses represent the largest share of (38%) of the total workforce in India (4). Globally health systems are experiencing major shifts in health sector and creating an increasingly diverse yet interconnected world. Nurses are health professionals who are the corner stone's of the health care system in each country. Nursing is an integral part of the health care delivery system and share responsibilities in collaboration with other allied health professions for the attainment of optimal health for all members of the society. Graduate nursing education started in India in the year 1946 in CMC, Vellore and in the RAK College of nursing at Delhi University. At present 1373 colleges have been recognized by INC to conduct the course under several universities in India. career options include a staff nurse provides direct patient care to one patient or a group of patients, Teaching in nursing includes planning, teaching and supervising the learning experiences for students include tutors clinical instructors, senior tutors, Nursing lecturers and associate professor and professor in nursing. Service administrative positions at the state level include deputy director of the nursing at the state health directorate.

Perception is the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted (5). It is important to ascertain how students perceive nursing and the decision to choose nursing to be their career. Understanding career decisions of graduates with a B. Sc (N) degree is an essential component of recruitment and retention strategies. To educate nurses to meet the needs of society, we need to know their career preferences and reasons for them. From the time immemorial, the word nursing had been equated with care. It is the care domain which differentiates it from other health related professions. Changing health needs on one hand and expanding knowledge on other has made a remarkable impact on nursing profession. Changing health needs on one hand and expanding knowledge on other has made a remarkable impact on nursing profession as well. With increasing job opportunities in the country, abroad and increase in nursing educational institutions one can clearly appreciate the increase in enrolment of nursing students. nursing as a career choice is often perceived as a hard work involving high pressure and stress. One enters the nursing profession at a very young age; the age which corresponds to long term career development and orientation (7).

Therefore perception place a vital role in moulding the shape the individual as a person and a professional. Perception of outgoing students influence their further career path selection which is of significant interest to educators and professional agencies further it is interesting to note the future intentions of outgoing

nursing students. Hence study was undertaken to explore the perception and future intention of outgoing B.Sc(N) students.

II. Methodology

Exploratory survey approach was adapted to conduct the study. Data was collected from 100 randomly selected outgoing fourth year B. Sc[N] students in selected nursing colleges of Tirupathi. Pretested questionnaire was used to collect the data. Reliability as validity was established. Pilot study was conducted and it was found feasible. Formal permission was obtained from Registrar SVIMS and principal Govt. College of Nursing, Tirupati. Both the colleges are attached to medical college hospitals with an annual intake of 100 students. Subjects were briefed about the study and informed consent was taken. Data was collected in the month of August 2014. Statistical package for social sciences [SPSS] program version 20 was used for data entry as descriptive analysis of the study.

III. Results

The data collected from 100 B.sc (N)students analysed and presented

Table-1: Demographic Characteristics Of Sample

S.NO	CHARACTERESTICS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Gender	
	Female	77
	Male	23
2.	Religion	
	Hindu	55
	Muslim	41
	Christian	4
3.	Area of living	
	Urban	56
	Rural	44
4.	Birth order of subject	
	First	5
	Second	35
	Third	61
	Fourth	2
	Above	2
5.	Family members /Relatives in nursing	
	Yes	56
	No	44

Table 1 shows three fourth of the sample(77%)consisted of female and one fourth(23%) were male. Half of the(55%)students were Hindus, 41% were Muslims and 4% belong to Christians. Most of the students (56%)are from urban area and 44% belongs to rural area. Based on birth order of the subjects 5% were first child in their family,35% were second child and 61% were third child, 2% were fourth child and 2% above .On the basis of family members /Relatives in nursing,56% students relatives are in nursing and 44% students are not having their family members and relatives in nursing.

Table-2: Profile of family of students.

S.NO	CHARACTERESTICS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Education of Father	
	Illiterate	40
	Primary education	39
	Secondary education	13
2.	Education of mother	
	Illiterate	44
	Primary education	41
	Secondary education	5
3.	Occupation of father	
	Cultivation	3
	Daily wage worker	59
	Govt. Employee	5
4.	Occupation of mother	
	Cooly	55
	House wife	36
	Govt. Employee	5
	Private employee	4

Table 2 provides the summary of profile of family . On the basis of education of father 40% are illiterate, 39% have primary education, 13% have secondary education and 8% are graduates. Based on education of mother 44% are illiterate, 41% were have primary education,5% have secondary education and 10% have graduation. Based on occupation of father, 31% are on cultivation, 59% work as daily wage labourers, 5% are Govt. employees and 5% are private employees. Based on occupation of mother, 55% are doing coolies, 36% arehouse wives, 5% are Govt. employees and 4% are private employees.

3: Motivation to select nursing profession

S.NO	CHARACTERESTICS	PERCENTAGE
1.	A. Self motivated	71
	B. By parents	29
2.	An opportunity to settle early	
	Yes	84
	No	16
s3.	An opportunity to get Govt. Jobs	
	Yes	84
	No	16
4.	A means to earn blessings	
	Yes	57
	No	43

The table3 illustrates the factors that motivated the participants to join in nursing Majority (84%) stated that it provides an opportunity to settle early, 84% believed that nursing offeres good opportunity to get a Government job. A relatively high percentage71% stated that they are self motivated to pursue nursing. 57% of students think that through nursing profession they can get blessing. Other reason for choosing nursing include parents (29%) interst .

Table-4: Perception of students towards nursing profession.

S.NO	CHARACTERESTICS	YES	NO
1.	Dignified & Respectful profession	83	17
2.	Actual/ equal to other profession	42	58
3.	Opportunity to serve humanity	97	3
4.	Opportunity for personal growth	71	29
5.	Caring profession with ethical standards.	85	15

The table 4 reveals that, 85 % perceived this as dignified and respectful profession, 42 % only felt it is a equal to other professions, 58 % felt it is not equal to other professions.97 % described nursing as a profession to serve humanity and 71 % felt it has an opportunity for personal growth,85 % felt that nursing is a caring profession with ethical standards

Table-5:Future Intentions of B. Sc (N) Students.

S.NO	CHARACTERESTICS	YES	NO
1.	Plan to go abroad	58	42
2.	Higher education	84	16
3.	Bed side nursing	46	54
4.	Teaching institutions	59	41
5.	Nursing administrators	46	54
6.	Change of profession	56	44

The table5 depicts the early intentions of respondents in respect to nursing career .Notably featured highly with 84% of respondents expressing a desire to do their further education after graduation. 58 % are interested to go abroad,46 % only told that they would like to join in bed side nursing,59 % preferred to join in teaching institutions and 46 % are preferred to join in nursing administration, On a sad note 56 % plan to change profession.

IV. Discussion

The present study presents the perception and future intentions of outgoing B.Sc (N) students.an exploratory study conducted in Singapore to construct a theoretical model indicated that factors influencing students' choices in selection of nursing profession are education and career aspirations, personal ability, socioeconomic status (includes job security,monetary reward) parental and peer encouragement.(Tan-kuick ching Li Gwendoline, Yong Ngee Keith Ng.[2010] 19).

Demographic profile of family indicates that most of them are uneducated and daily wage workers. Most of the students received social welfare scholarship from the Govt of AndhraPradesh. According to literature ,women choose to follow the nursing profession in higher number compared to men (8, 9).Most of the nursing students in the study are female(77).This is consistent with the findings of (10) (94.8%)(11,12,13),Nilson EL K et al(2008),Domidus M et al .but in a study conducted in Jordan male are 69.1% (16)Ibrahim Ali Tawfiq Al Jarrah,2013). More than half of the students are (56%) from urban areas. this is in line with the findings of Patidar B Anurag et al (51.6%).77.4% of the participants self motivated to join in nursing consistent with the results of Patidar et al whrere 71 % self motivated to pursue nursing.

According to the present study 80% of the students are motivated to join in nursing to settle early and to get a government job. This is correlated with the results of Domidus M et al 84.8% choose nursing for easy employment .Sand Jecklin and Schaffer(14) also reported that students choose nursing because of the availability of career opportunities ,jobs,security,salary and interest in nursing.

Almost all of them perceived nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity.Manpreet Kaur etal also reported that 97% of students felt nursing provides an opportunity to serve humanity. Findings of present study showed that more than half of them (58%) felt nursing is not equal to other profession,Poreddi V et al also found nearly 48.8% of subjects agreed that social prejudice has great influence on nursing students in choosing nursing profession as their career.

The participants preferred area of work is teaching(51%) .this is in line with the findings of Divya KY et al(2014),Manpreet K et al where 21%,28.4% students preferred to work in teaching area,Anurag et al(2011)study showed more than half of B.sc(N),PB B.sc(N) 52.9%,65.3% are interested to join in teaching after the completion of graduation.

A high percentage (84%) is interested to continue higher education.it is in relation with the results of 55% (Eman E,etal 2012), (75%)ManpreetKaur et al

Present study revealed more than half of the students (58%) are attracted to migrate to abroad .This results are less than the findings ofPatidar Anurag et al where 71% of B.sc (n) students are interested to work in abroad but consistent with the findings of Prudence Portio Mwini-Nyaledzigbor et al 2014(16) study carried out in Ghana also found positive relationship between student nurses' intention to travel to developed countries after graduation and their choice of nursing as career.

The results of the present study are more than half (56%) of the outgoing students want to change the profession .This finding is contradicting with findings of Patidar Anurag et al where a vast majority (93.4%) of students are not interested to change the profession .only 3.8% work other than nursing(Domidus etal(13)).Manpreet Kaur(7) et al also reported only 15% stated that they want to change the profession . Poreddi V(17) et al also reported 9.3% of students wanted to change the profession. This may be due to lack of employment opportunities and financial incentives or it may due to lack of autonomy in working area or it may be due to change in the aspirations and attitudes of younger generations

V. Conclusion

Nurses are the back bone of health sector and are fundamental in the delivery of quality care for all the inhabitants of a country. Almost all the students perceived nursing profession as an opportunity to serve the humanity but majority stated that it is not equal to other professions. Less than half preferred to work at bedside nursing, and nursing administration. So there is a need to motivate the student to work as bedside nurses and nurse administrators by providing better financial incentives for working conditions. More than two thirds are interested to pursue higher education. More than half of them are planning to go abroad. Nursing administrators have to recommend better financial incentives and promotional opportunities to attract the students to be employed in nursing service as the ultimate aim of nursing profession is better provision of patient care. Nurse educators have to provide guidance and counselling regarding career to nursing students. Acknowledgement---author acknowledges the participants who cooperated in data collection.

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