RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMPARISON OF PERCEPTION OF NEWLY ADMITTED AND OUTGOING B.SC. NURSING STUDENTS TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION: A CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Understanding career decisions of graduates with a B.Sc. (N) degree is an essential component of recruitment and retention strategies. It is the need of hour that bed side nursing should be made attractive in terms of working conditions so that demands of nurses in direct patient care can be met.

AIM : To compare the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc. (Nursing) students towards nursing profession studying in selected nursing colleges in the district Mohali, Punjab.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: This cross sectional comparative survey was conducted on the B.Sc. (Nursing) 1st year students and outgoing nursing students of five conveniently selected colleges of nursing in the district Mohali, in the state Punjab. A sample of 250 nursing students (125 from B.Sc. (N) 1st year and 125 B.Sc. (N) 4th years) was drawn through stratified random sampling technique.

RESULTS: The results showed that the mean perception score of B.Sc. (N) 4th year was 143.44 $\pm$ 10.46 whereas mean perception score of B.Sc. (N) 1st year was 140.11 $\pm$ 9.95, the difference was found to be statistically significant revealing perception of students improves over years of graduation.

CONCLUSION: The study concluded that the perception of nursing profession among nursing students is changing towards positive side after getting admission in nursing.

KEYWORD: Perception towards nursing profession, outgoing nursing students, job perspectives.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nursing being a health care profession, centers its interest on the care of individuals, families, and communities; supporting them to gain, and maintain optimum health. Although nurses form the largest professional group in the health care delivery system, still there is shortage of nurses to meet the demand of health care system worldwide. This shortage is negatively affecting the delivery of health care and patient outcomes. The short fall is most acute in South East Asia, Africa, and the Eastern Mediterranean but exists throughout the world. [1]

India is blessed with boom of multi-speciality hospitals and medical tourism with ongoing industrialization and urbanization. However this increased health care facilities enhances the demand of Health care workers. Beside these, massive projects of complete health care delivery system running in both rural and urban area of India are creating huge demand of nursing professionals and paramedical staff.[2]

Contrary to increased demand, nursing profession is not attractive for meritorious as well as other high school students. They do not see it as a good carrier option as their first priority. The reason behind may be that in ancient time, nursing care was provided by men and women serving punishment. The Profession was often amalgamated with prostitutes, widows, poor family women and other female criminals. Involvement of such type of people decreased the reputation of nursing in society and created negative attitude of people towards it.[3, 4]

In India, numerous additional factors hindered nursing such as low state of women, system of "pardha" among Muslims, caste system among Hindus, illiteracy, poverty, and Lack of knowledge regarding carrier opportunities in nursing profession. Lai HL et al conducted a study in Taiwan and found that 65.4% of the nursing students will not prefer to opt for nursing as career after graduation. Attitude of junior nursing students toward their future profession is found to be alarming. As per study results many students had no plan and wish to practice nursing at beside. Furthermore, they did not consider quality bedside care a priority for their career. [5,6,7,8.]

It is the need of hour that bed side nursing should be made attractive in terms of working conditions so that demands of nurses in direct patient care can be met. For this, Understanding career decisions of graduates nurses 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. Attitude and perception towards profession may change with time once students enter in the profession and become aware of future opportunities. In India there are very few studies which explored the perception and future job prospective of outgoing nursing students. Thus the researcher conducted the present study to compare the Perception of newly admitted with outgoing B.Sc. (Nursing) students towards nursing profession.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess and compare the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc.(Nursing) students towards nursing profession studying in selected nursing colleges in the district Mohali, Punjab.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Research Approach & Design: The cross sectional comparative survey was conducted on the Bsc (Nursing) 1st year students and outgoing nursing students of five conveniently selected colleges of nursing in the district Mohali, in the state Punjab.

Sample & Sampling Technique: A sample of 250 nursing students (125 from Bsc (N) 1st year and 125 B.Sc. (N) 4th year) was drawn through stratified random sampling technique.

Procedure of Data Collection: Attendance registers were used to recruit the sample and every alternate students on the attendance register was included in the study. The students who were unable to understand either English or Hindi, were absent on the day of data collection and those who were unwilling to participate in the study were excluded from the study.

Tools of Data Collection: Information was collected by administering a pretested self structured questionnaire to the subjects. The Questionnaire related to Socio demographic variables and perception towards nursing profession was developed by reviewing literature. Likert scale was constructed to assess perception of nursing students towards the profession mainly focusing on perception towards nursing as profession, perception about theory content in nursing and perception towards clinical practice. The Socio-demographic variables included in the study included were age, gender, class, educational status of parents, occupational status of parents, habitat, monthly family income of the subjects along with any relative living in abroad and any family member in nursing profession. Reliability of the tool was established on 20 study participants through test retest method and reliability coefficient was found to be statistically significant (r =0.9). The content validity of the tool was established with the help of 10 experts from the field of nursing. The subjects were asked to fill the questionnaire in the classroom in the presence of investigator. They were not permitted to communicate with each other at the time of data collection. The time taken to fill the questionnaire was 15-20 minutes. Data were coded, validated and analyzed using SPSS (version 18).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Permission for data collection was obtained from concerned principals of the colleges of nursing. Written consent was taken from participants before data collection after explaining them purpose of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1

Comparative socio-demographic variables of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc. (N) students

N=250

Socio-Demographic Profile		4BSC f(%)	1BSC f(%)
AGE	a) 18 - >20 year	14(11.2)	116(92.8)
	b) 20 - >22 year	89(71.2)	7(5.6)
	c) 22 -24 year	18(14.4)	0(0)
	d)above 24 year	4(3.2)	2(1.6)
GENDER	Female	123(98.4)	109(87.2)
	Male	2(1.6)	16(12.8)

RELIGION	Sikh	63(50.4)	61(48.8)
	Hindu	58(46.4)	53(42.4)
	Christian	3(2.4)	7(5.6)
	Muslim	1(0.8)	3(2.4)
	Any Other	0(0)	1(0.8)
FATHER'S EDUCATION LEVEL	Illiterate	6(4.8)	8(6.4)
	Elementary	15(12)	17(13.6)
	Higher Secondary	53(42.4)	48(38.4)
	Graduate	51(40.8)	52(41.6)
MOTHER'S EDUCATION LEVEL	Illiterate	5(4)	11(8.8)
	Elementary	24(19.2)	32(25.6)
	Higher Secondary	63(50.4)	46(36.8)
	Graduate	33(26.4)	36(28.8)
OCCUPATION OF FATHER	Government Job	41(32.8)	47(37.6)
	Private Job	28(22.4)	26(20.8)
	Self Employed	54(43.2)	49(39.2)
	Unemployed	2(1.6)	3(2.4)
HABITAT	Rural	56(44.8)	57(45.6)
	Urban	54(43.2)	50(40)
	Semi-Urban	15(12)	18(14.4)
ANY RELATIVE IN ABROAD	Yes	73(58.4)	68(54.4)
	No	52(41.6)	57(45.6)
ANY FAMILY MEMBER IN NURSING PROFESSION	Parents	5(4)	10(8)
	Siblings	22(17.6)	20(16)
	Relatives	48(38.4)	34(27.2)
	None of them	50(40)	61(48.8)

Table 1 depicts the socio demographic variables under study. These were age, gender, class, educational status of parents, occupational status of parents, habitat, monthly family income, any relative in abroad and any family member in nursing.

Table 2
Mean Perception Score of B.Sc. (N) Students towards Nursing Profession

N=250

Class	Number of Students	Mean Score ± S.D.	Mean %	P value
B.Sc (N) 4th year	125	143.44 ± 10.46	71.72	0.011*
B.Sc (N) 1st year	125	140.11 ± 9.95	70.06	

* Significant at $p < 0.05$
Maximum Score =200
Minimum score 40

Table 2 depicts the mean perception score of B.Sc. (N) students. The mean perception score of B.Sc. (N) 4th year was 143.44 ± 10.46 whereas mean perception score of B.Sc. (N) 1st year was 140.11 ± 9.95. The difference was found to be statistically significant revealing perception of students improves over years of graduation.

Table 3
Reason of students to join Nursing Profession.

N=250

Reason to join nursing profession	Bsc (N) 4th year students f(%)	Bsc (N) 1st year students f(%)
Self-Motivated	50(40)	74(59.0)
Forced by Parents	23(18.4)	05 (5)
Motivated by who is already in nursing profession	11(8.8)	06 (4.6)
To go Abroad	37(29.6)	32(25.4)
To get better Marriage offers	04(3.2)	08 (6.0)

Table 3 showed the reasons of students to join nursing profession. Majority i.e. 40 % of students of B.Sc. (N) 4th year and 74% of B. Sc. (N) 1st year reported to be self motivated for joining nursing profession, followed by to go abroad as major reason. The relation of perception of students towards nursing with selected socio-demographic variables was found to be non-significant at $p< 0.05$.

DISCUSSION

Findings of the study reveal that perception of students towards nursing profession improves over years of graduation. The findings of the study are consistent with various previous studies.[9-11]. In this study the perception of nursing students towards nursing is compared with the variables such as age, gender, class, educational status of parents, occupational status of parents, habitat, monthly family income, and any relative in abroad any family member in nursing. The study found non-significant relation of perception of students towards nursing with selected socio-demographic variables. Maximum of students were self motivated to join the profession. The findings are consistent with Sand Jecklin and Schaffer study who reported that students choose nursing because of the availability of career opportunities, jobs, security, salary and interest in nursing.[12] Majority of students were willing to enroll in the profession in order to go to abroad. The findings are consistent with findings of Prudence Portio Mwini-Nyaledzigbor et al 2014 study carried out in Ghana which reported positive relationship between student nurses' intention to travel to developed countries after graduation and their choice of nursing as career. [13]

The study has a limitation that the sample was drawn from selected colleges of nursing in the district Mohali, in the state Punjab. The population may differ from that of the local population of Punjab. Furthermore, as it was a quantitative study, the data collected were relatively brief and concise.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the perception of nursing profession among nursing students is changing towards positive side after getting admission in nursing. Maximum of students were self motivated to join the profession. Majority of students were willing to enroll in the profession in order to go to abroad. Therefore, it is recommended that nursing students must be motivated to work on bedside nursing. Government and authorities must proactive and pay a due attention to prevent brain drain in nursing.

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