



RESEARCH ARTICLE

PERCEPTION OF NEWLY ADMITTED AND OUTGOING B. SC (N) STUDENTS TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION IN SELECTED COLLEGES, DISTRICT, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB

***Amninder Kaur, Mr. Anurag B Patidar and Dr. (Mrs) Jasbir Kaur**

College of Nursing, DMC and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

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ABSTRACT

Students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into nursing career. The study was carried out to compare the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students towards nursing perception. Comparative research design was used in this study to compare the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students towards nursing perception. 250 newly admitted and 250 outgoing B. Sc (N) students were taken in study by total enumerative sampling technique from selected college of nursing, District Ludhiana, Punjab. Checklist on perception about nursing profession was given to students and method of data collection was self report. Results of study was found that there was slight variation in perception of outgoing B. Sc (N) students as compare to newly admitted B. Sc(N) students about nursing perception. The study concludes that nursing students perception have evolved over the four years of education and it may be influenced by numerous factors like vast clinical exposure, long durations of clinical postings, personal and cultural reasons that may results into change in perception of nursing students about profession and that may be the reason for variation in perception of outgoing B. Sc (N) students. The study recommends there should be provision of guidance and counselling services along with perception testing. Further cohort studies to assess the perception of undergraduate nursing students regarding nursing profession.

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INTRODUCTION

Students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into nursing career (Davis1975). Numerous factors, including curriculum, educators, clinical instructors, practising nurses, family, peers, school or other institutions, the changing environment from hospital to community setting and cultural setting form important input to the process of nursing students professional identification (Cook *et al.*, 2003). The concept of 'nursing' is more than a definition (Mason-Whitehead *et al.*, 2008). It is part of particular group's framework of communication, their language and thus a reflection of who nurses are. An editorial citing Gregory (2004) postulated that perception is conceived through a linear dynamic relationship between description' (in the brain), the senses and surrounding. In ancient times, nursing profession was perceived as profession of men and women serving punishment. It was often associated with prostitute, widows, poor family women and other female criminals. At that time people who were serving the duties of nurse not given any training and education regarding nursing. Changes have taken place in last two decades in the way health

care is delivered and managed; Being a nurse is not only about taking care of patients, but it also requires knowledge of technology, more paper work and more stringent standards of care. The author of current study would assume that perception about nursing profession of newly admitted students vary than outgoing nursing students because of strong images of nursing profession and specific expectation of their educational experiences among newly admitted nursing students however it may be changed among outgoing nursing students after exposure to clinical areas, community setting and curriculum of nursing profession.

Patidar Anurag (2011) conducted a study on outgoing students to assess the perception towards nursing profession and perceived future job orientation. A semi structured questionnaire was administered to collect data from 530 outgoing GNM, B. Sc (N) and P. B. Sc (N) students. This study concluded that the perception towards nursing profession of outgoing students was found to be positive. Karl and Jecklin (2006) performed a study on nursing student's perception of their chosen profession and it was found that there were significant difference reported in perception related to nursing profession in majority (95%) nursing students after exposure to classroom and clinical areas. (Karl and Jecklin 2006)

***Corresponding author: Amninder Kaur**
College of Nursing, DMC and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab, India.

Objective

To compare the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students towards nursing profession in selected colleges, District. Ludhiana, Punjab.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A comparative research approach was adopted in this study to assess the perception of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students towards nursing profession in selected colleges, Distt. Ludhiana, Punjab. The target population of study was newly admitted (250) and outgoing (250) B. Sc (N) students of selected colleges and total enumerative sampling technique was adopted. The tool for data collection was comprised of two parts i.e. Part I Socio demographic variables; Part II consist of structured perception checklist about nursing profession where each response of the students was ranked according to their responses to checklist items. Self report was used as method of data collection from subjects of study. Content validity was established by experts from the field of nursing. Reliability of the tool was determined. Written consent was obtained from the study subjects. Ethical consideration was taken from principals of concerned colleges. The confidentiality of data obtained from students of selected colleges was maintained. Collected data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics percentage; mean, standard deviation and chi square were used for describing the findings of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the comparative socio-demographic variables of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students. It depicts that more (97.2%) of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students were females. Majority of the (88.8%) were from Sikh religion followed by 28(11.2%) from Hindu religion of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students whereas (80%) from outgoing B. Sc (N) students were Hindu. About (44.8%) of the newly admitted B. Sc(N) student's were educated up to higher secondary and were self employed (55.6%). Similarly slightly less than half of (49.6%) the outgoing B. Sc (N) students fathers were educated up to higher education and were self employed (49.6%). Half of (51.2%) the newly admitted B. Sc (N) students mother were educated up to higher secondary and approximately (48.4%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students mothers were also educated up to higher education. 2/3rd of newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students were living in rural area. Majority of (72.4%) and (71.6%) the newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students belong to nuclear family. About 1/3rd of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students had monthly family income between 5001-10, 000 whereas half of (44%) the outgoing B. Sc (N) students had monthly family income falling between ≥ 15000 . Most of (94.8%) newly admitted B. Sc (N) students had parents and family as the source of financial support for education.

2/3rd (60%) of the newly admitted B. Sc (N) students had PSEB as the board of secondary education and majority of (72%) the outgoing B. Sc (N) students also had PSEB as the board of secondary education. Majority of the newly admitted and outgoing B. Sc (N) students were having relative in abroad

whereas half of the students approximately (54%) and (56%) don't have any family member or relative in nursing profession. More than 1/3rd (39%) of the newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (32.4%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students joined nursing profession to go abroad.

Table 2 represents that (99.6%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (98.4%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived that nursing profession provides opportunity to help people. Majority (85.6%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (87.6%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students agreed that nursing profession gives an opportunity for personal growth. Most (94%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (91.6%) of outgoing students perceived that nursing is a mean to earn blessing. 2/3rd (65.6%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (65.6%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived nursing is a dignified and respectful profession. Almost (96.4%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (95.6%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived that nursing is a way to have a bright prospects in abroad. Majority (70.8%) of incoming B. Sc (N) students and (69.2%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived nursing is a way to get due recognition in the society. More than half (58.8%) of incoming B. Sc (N) students and more than 2/3rd (68.0%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived that nursing provides an opportunity to get better marriage offers.

The most (94.0%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and majority (82.8%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students did not perceive that nursing profession is only a teaching profession. More than half (55.6%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students did not perceive that nursing profession have discrimination with in health care system and about (51.2%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students perceived that nursing profession have discrimination with in health care system. Majority (73.2%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and (69.2%) of nursing outgoing students perceived that nursing profession have a rigid impersonal rules, regulation and procedures. Majority (79.6%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and 2/3rd (69.6%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students did not perceive that nursing profession is a profession of those who don't qualify pre-medical test. Majority (80.0%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and slightly less than 2/3rd (63.2%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students did not perceive that nursing profession a low academic standard and limited career opportunity. About 2/3rd (65.2%) of newly admitted B.Sc (N) students and half (53.2%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students did not agreed that nursing profession have a poor salary.

Majority (77.6%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and more than half (57.2%) of outgoing nursing students perceived that nursing profession requires simplicity. 2/3rd (60.4%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and half (50.8%) of outgoing B.Sc. (N) students did not perceive that nursing profession have a poor image in society. Majority (82.0%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and slightly more than 2/3rd (67.6%) of outgoing nursing B.Sc. (N) students did not perceived that nursing profession is the easiest profession to enter in. Majority (83.2%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and (71.6%) of outgoing nursing students did not perceive that nursing profession have a very narrow scope. Most (90.4%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students

Section 1: Sample comparative socio-demographic characteristics of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc. (N) students

Table 1. Comparative socio-demographic profile of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc. (N) students

Variables	Newly Admitted B.Sc.(N) students f(%)	Outgoing B.Sc.(N) students f(%)	Total N=500	χ^2	p value
N=500					
Age (in years)					
17-20	249(99.6)	4(1.6)	253(50.6)	480.20	0.00*
21-24	1(0.4)	246(98.4)	247(49.4)		
Gender					
Female	243(97.2)	243(97.2)	486(97.2)	0.20	0.64 ^{NS}
Male	7(2.8)	7(2.8)	14(2.8)		
Religion					
Hindu	28(11.2)	43(17.2)	71(14.2)	3.33	0.34 ^{NS}
Sikh	222(88.8)	200(80.0)	422(84.4)		
Muslim	0(0)	4(1.6)	4(0.8)		
Christian	0(0)	3(1.2)	3(0.6)		
Father's Education					
Illiterate	6(2.4)	1(0.4)	7(1.4)	10.26	0.85 ^{NS}
Elementary	48(19.2)	27(10.8)	75(15.0)		
Higher secondary	112(44.8)	124(49.6)	236(47.2)		
Graduate	69(27.6)	81(32.4)	150(30.0)		
Above	15(6.0)	17(6.8)	32(6.4)		
Mother's Education					
Illiterate	5(2.0)	29(0.8)	34(6.8)	13.13	0.63 ^{NS}
Elementary	60(24.0)	48(19.2)	108(21.6)		
Higher secondary	128(51.2)	121(48.4)	249(49.8)		
Graduate	42(16.8)	67(26.8)	109(21.8)		
Above	15(6.0)	12(4.8)	27(5.4)		
Occupation of father					
Govt. job	65(26.0)	78(31.2)	143(28.6)	1.72	0.94 ^{NS}
Private job	39(15.6)	48(19.2)	87(17.4)		
Self Employed	139(55.6)	124(49.6)	131(26.2)		
Unemployment	7(2.8)	7(1.4)	7(1.4)		
Habitat					
Rural	167(66.8)	148(59.2)	315(63.0)	5.74	0.21 ^{NS}
Urban	75(30.0)	98(35.6)	173(34.6)		
Semi-Urban	8(3.2)	13(5.2)	21(4.2)		

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

Variables	Newly Admitted B.Sc. (N) Students f(%)	Outgoing B.Sc. (N) Students f(%)	Total N=500	χ^2	p value
Monthly family income(in rupees)					
<5000	21(8.4)	8(3.2)	29(5.8)	13.85	0.12 ^{NS}
5001-10,000	81(32.4)	53(21.2)	134(26.8)		
10,001-15,000	72(28.8)	79(31.6)	151(30.2)		
>15,001	76(30.4)	110(44.0)	186(37.2)		
Type of family					
Nuclear	181(72.4)	179(71.6)	360(72.0)	1.00	0.60 ^{NS}
Joint	69(27.6)	71(28.4)	140(28.0)		
Major sources of financial support for education					
Parents & family	237(94.8)	236(94.4)	473(94.6)	0.81	0.93 ^{NS}
Relatives	11(4.4)	10(4.0)	21(4.2)		
Borrowed/Loan	2(0.8)	4(1.6)	6(1.2)		
Board of Secondary Education					
PSEB	150(60.0)	180(72.0)	330(66.0)	1.38	0.96 ^{NS}
CBSE	93(37.2)	63(25.2)	156(31.2)		
ICSE	4(1.6)	7(2.8)	11(2.2)		
Other	3(1.2)	0(0)	3(0.6)		
Any relative in abroad					
Yes	173(69.2)	185(74.0)	358(71.6)	0.39	0.52 ^{NS}
No	77(30.8)	65(26.0)	142(28.4)		
Any relative or family members in nursing profession					
Yes	115(46.0)	110(44.0)	225(45.0)	0.12	0.72 ^{NS}
No	135(54.0)	140(56.0)	275(55.0)		
Reason to join nursing profession					
Self -Motivated	75(30.0)	67(26.8)	142(28.4)	26.63	0.14 ^{NS}
Forced	15(6.0)	26(10.4)	41(8.2)		
Motivated by someone	49(19.6)	66(26.4)	115(23.0)		
To go abroad	98(39.2)	81(32.4)	179(35.8)		
Family member in nursing profession	9(3.6)	10(4.0)	19(3.8)		
To get better marriage offers	4(1.6)	0(0)	4(0.8)		

NS= Non significant, *= Significant

Table 2. A comparative perception of newly admitted and outgoing B.Sc. (N) students

N=500

Perception of nursing profession	f (%)				χ^2	p value
	Newly Admitted B.Sc. (N) students		Outgoing B.Sc. (N) students			
	Yes	No	Yes	No		
I perceive that nursing profession						
Is only a teaching profession	15(6.0)	235(94.0)	43(17.2)	207(82.8)	15.29	0.00**
Have discrimination within health care system	111(44.4)	139(55.6)	128(51.2)	122(48.8)	2.31	0.12 ^{NS}
Have a rigid impersonal rules, regulation and procedures	183(73.2)	67(26.8)	173(69.2)	77(30.8)	0.97	0.32 ^{NS}
Is a profession of those who don't qualify pre-medical test	51(20.4)	199(79.6)	76(30.4)	174(69.6)	6.59	0.01*
Have a low academic standard and limited career opportunity	50(20.0)	200(80.0)	92(36.8)	158(63.2)	17.34	0.00**
Have a poor salary	87(34.8)	163(65.2)	117(46.8)	133(53.2)	7.45	0.00**
Requires simplicity	194(77.6)	56(22.4)	143(57.2)	107(42.8)	23.67	0.00**
Have a poor image in society	99(39.6)	151(60.4)	123(49.2)	127(50.8)	4.66	0.03*
Is the easiest profession to enter in	45(18.0)	205(82.0)	81(32.4)	169(67.6)	13.75	0.00**
Have a very narrow scope	42(16.8)	208(83.2)	71(28.4)	179(71.6)	9.61	0.00**
Is meant only for females	24(9.6)	226(90.4)	42(16.8)	208(83.2)	5.65	0.01**

NS= Non significant, *significant, **highly significant

and Majority (83.2%) of outgoing nursing students did not perceived that nursing is meant only for females. Therefore, it can be concluded that newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students have relatively more positive perception towards nursing profession as compare to outgoing B.Sc. (N) students.

DISCUSSION

The results of present shows that B. Sc (N) outgoing students had slightly negative perception about nursing profession as comparative to B. Sc (N) incoming students. This result is congruent with Safadi (2011) that student perceptions changed from lay altruistic beliefs of nursing to theoretical medical technological views of profession the profession denoting a theory practice gap. The findings of study revealed that (99.6%) of newly admitted B. Sc (N) students and (98.4%) of outgoing B. Sc (N) students perceived that nursing profession provides opportunity to help people. Majority (73.2%) of newly admitted B.Sc. (N) students and (69.2%) of outgoing nursing students perceived that nursing profession have a rigid impersonal rules, regulation and procedures. A similar study was conducted by Eman Tawash (2012) finding of study revealed that nursing students perceived nursing as caring, helping people and a humanitarian job however they perceived nursing as a tough job.

Conclusion

It was concluded that outgoing B. Sc (N) students had slightly negative perception towards nursing profession as compared to newly admitted B. Sc (N) students as per their mean perception score (19.53 vs 18.66) respectively. Nursing students perception have evolved over the four years of education and it may be influenced by numerous factors like vast clinical exposure, long durations of clinical postings, work assignments and requirements of both clinical as well as theory subjects, personal and cultural reasons that may results into change in perception of nursing students about profession. The present study recommended to organize nursing job fairs in campus for better placement of outgoing B. Sc (N) students, organize various introductory classes on nursing profession, its advancements, changing roles of nurses and various

settings and as well as educator, instructors, researchers and so many other roles.

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