Perception of Nursing and Attitude Types of Students majoring in Nursing Studies

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Abstract

Background/Objectives: The nurses have the role conflicts by the attitude, role execution and others perceptions regardless of their own perception. Methods/Statistical Analysis: This study does not intervene the researcher’s own perspective. It uses Q-methodology that allows for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of subjective characters that are perceived by subjects to identify the subjective meaning of nursing. In doing so, the study expects to promote better understanding of the concept of nursing and provide a basic set of data to conduct quality nursing. Findings: The result led to four category types. Each Q-type formed a category with people who shared a similar awareness or perception and idea of euthanasia. Each category type reflects the subjectivity of the students on the topic of euthanasia, allowing for the description and understanding of the types. Applications/Improvements: This study suggests that more various approaches to nursing education and clinical practice must be offered that are in accordance with the meaning of nursing as perceived by nursing students.

Keywords: Majoring, Nursing Student, Perception, Q Methodology, Subjectivity

1. Introduction

To the question, “what is nursing?” Nightingale answered that it is not about nursing illness but about nursing those who are ill”. Since then, the meaning of nursing has changed along with the times. In the 1960s, nursing was defined as observing the patient or direct care-giving provided by the nurse. But in the 1970s the concept of nursing came to refer to not only direct care-giving provided to the patient but also advice and training offered to protect the patient and maintain health. Moreover, during the 1980s, the concept of nursing began to be applied to education, research and clinical practice, too. In the 1990s, interest in ageing and an increase in chronic diseases led to an increased demand for health services, which in turn led to an increased need for specialized nursing by field. Since the year 2001, nursing studies have been categorized in detail for more expertise to be trained in specialized courses. Studies on the meaning and concept of nursing have been conducted both at home and abroad. In recent years, studies have addressed the concept of nursing practice, the definition of nursing and care-giving, the concept of nursing, and the establishment of an image and concept of nursing through a epistemological research methodology. Research conducted in Korea addressed the concept of care-giving, and nursing image using Q-methodology. Abroad, studies have consistently tackled the concept of nursing using various methodologies, while Korean studies recent studies are rare and are mostly focused on lay people. As such, studies using university students majoring in nursing studies are rare. The nurses have the role conflicts by the attitude, role execution, and others’ perceptions regardless of their own perception. The others’ perceptions on nursing action can be changed. If any action is expected, this can be perceived as the professional occupation and their self-images can be encouraged by others. Especially, this is important because it is responsible significantly for creating the nurse’s image. To create the nursing image as the progressive, excellent, and successful profession, we should remember that total is the sum of each part. What a nurse devotes and impresses to a patient affects the development of desirable nurse’s image for the patients. If these
Perception of Nursing and Attitude Types of Students majoring in Nursing Studies

experiences are perceived favorably as caring, interest, understanding, and so on, possible negativity might be considered to be all right. Therefore, it is rational and natural for the image strategy on the desirable nurses’ image to introduce the marketing concept. Although the image means the ambiguous feeling or impression, the desirable image for the nurses which is developed for a long time can be useful to achieve the satisfactory hospital goal as the potential competency of the hospital. As the meaning of nursing changes over time, studies that look into the meaning needs to be consistently conducted. In terms of methodology, this study does not intervene the researcher’s own perspective. It uses Q-methodology that allows for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of subjective characters that are perceived by subjects to identify the subjective meaning of nursing\(^1\). In doing so, the study expects to promote better understanding of the concept of nursing and provide a basic set of data to conduct quality nursing.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Construction of the Q-Concourse
The parent group of the Q-sample was extracted through literary review and data from in-depth interviews on nursing held with students of nursing studies.

2.2 Selection of an A-Sample
Q To select samples, review was conducted by professors of nursing studies on the collected data, the theme and the validity of categorization. The professors were experienced in the field of Q methodology studies. After review, a total of 34 statements were finally adopted among the selected statements.

3. Results

3.1 Test Result
Using the PC QUANL program, the subjectivity on euthanasia of students of nursing studies was analyzed. The result led to four category types. Each Q-type formed a category with people who shared a similar awareness or perception and idea of euthanasia\(^2\). Each category type reflects the subjectivity of the students on the topic of euthanasia, allowing for the description and understanding of the types.

The 4 types explain 42.28% of the total variables. The variables by type were as follows: 24.94% for type 1, 8.02% for type 2, 4.89% for type 3 and 4.43% for type 4 Table 1.

The correlation coefficient between types was .357, and .321 between type 1 and type 2. Between type 1 and type 3 it was .483, while between type 2 and type 3 it was .223. Between type 2 and type 4, it was .555, while between type 3 and type 4 it was .321. The correlation was the highest between type 2 and type 4 with the coefficient being .555 Table 2.

Among the total of 44 subjects, there were 10 people in type 1, twelve people in type 2, six people in type 3 and 10 people in type 4. In each type, the greater the factor weight was, the more the individual was the most typical or representative of a given type.

3.2 Characteristics by Types
Among the statements selected for the subjects as positive or negative by types, their characteristics were described focusing on the questionnaires with standard score (Z-score) ±1.00 or more, and the individual questionnaires with the scores differentiating from others were selected and analyzed.

Also, the typical subjects that could represent each type with factor weight over 1.00 were analyzed to understand the characteristics of the subjects by types more in detail. The perceptions on the nursing were shown to be trust oriented, professional occupation recognition, comprehensive nursing care recognition, and authentic service oriented as the first, second, third, and fourth types, respectively, in the students of Nursing Department.

| Type 1 | Type 2 | Type 3 | Type 4 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Eigen value | 17.7226 | 3.8193 | 2.2221 | 1.6508 |
| Variance | .3938 | .0849 | .0494 | .0367 |
| Cumulative variance | .3938 | .4787 | .5281 | .5648 |

| Type | Eigen value | Type 2 | Type 3 | Type 4 |
|------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Type 1 | 1.000 |
| Type 2 | .274 | 1.000 |
| Type 3 | .680 | .680 | 1.000 |
| Type 4 | .516 | .377 | .536 | 1.000 |
3.2.1 Trust Oriented Type

The first type was demonstrated to provide the patients with trust, and perceive the real nursing with all the caring to the patients with their full of hearts. In addition, they perceived nursing was not just with simple technical working without their own hearts Table 3.

3.2.2 Type of Professional Occupation Recognition

The second type to be perceived was that nursing was not just simple caring the patients but the continuous studying with the sense of duty as the profession for the patient’s health. Also, they had the perceptions that nursing was not simply providing services for patients’ conveniences and happiness Table 4.

3.2.3 Type of Comprehensive Nursing Care Recognition

The third type to be perceived was that all the patients were the nursing subjects and the real nursing was to care all the aspects of the subjects and to listen to them carefully. Also, they demonstrated the perceptions that nursing should not be changed by the times, and it was not that difficult job Table 5.

3.2.4 Authentic Service Oriented Type

The fourth type to be perceived was that real nursing was to consider the patients as their own bodies and provide the solutions on the patients’ problems with sense of duty. In addition, they perceived the meaning of nursing would not be changed by the times Table 6.

Table 3. Statement of the 1st type and standard score(±1.00 or more)

| No. | Q statements                                                                 | Z-score |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1   | It is the professional occupation.                                           | 2.19    |
| 2   | It is a difficult job.                                                        | 1.73    |
| 3   | It is to have the sense of duty (service and sacrifice).                      | 1.39    |
| 4   | All the people can be the subjects of nursing.                               | 1.20    |
| 5   | It is to study continuously.                                                  | 1.19    |
| 10  | It is to care for not only the physical body but also the social, mental, and spiritual pains. | 2.17    |
| 16  | It is to provide the patients with trust.                                    | 1.57    |
| 19  | It is to serve the patients as if he/she considered their bodies as his/her own body. | 1.25    |
| 20  | It is to devote the patients all.                                             | 1.14    |
| 32  | It is to make the patients comfortable.                                      | 1.01    |
| 25  | It is a difficult job.                                                        | -1.07   |
| 7   | It is to solve the patients’ problems.                                        | -1.24   |
| 34  | It can do independently without doctor’s order.                             | -1.24   |
| 15  | I do not know about the meaning well.                                        | -1.59   |
| 29  | It is to help receive the dying well.                                         | -2.06   |
| 32  | It is to work with simple technical matters.                                 | -2.14   |

4. Discussion

It is hard to correct the acquired attitude since this tends to maintain the continuity generally without change; therefore, it is challenging to change the attitude with educational approaches. However, the goals of the educations are not only to acquire the knowledge but also to practice it by behavioral changes, and the attitude can be
changed, hence, a variety of studies suggested that the attitude be changeable characteristic according to the educational methods. The image on nursing varied by the groups in the previous studies, general people had positive image on this, while the staff members in other functional departments that had to work cooperatively with the nurses showed it negatively. Furthermore, nurses responded negatively by themselves, evaluating them low on the values of the work, professionalism, contribution to the medical practices and so on compared to the doctors. It is notable that nurses evaluated their values as low by themselves among these results.

Therefore, the study results on the perception of nursing in the Nursing university students who will be the future nurses play a role to make the positive image of nursing when they become the nurses. The findings of this study are expected to provide better understanding of the physical and mental responses by nursing students in practice courses on anatomy, which are associated with learning performance in terms of knowledge and attitude.

5. References

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**Table 6.** Statement of the 4th type and standard score(±1.00 or more)

| No. | Q statements                                                                 | Z-score |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 25  | It is to solve the patients’ problems. All the people can be the subjects of nursing. | 1.72    |
| 1   | It is to have the sense of duty (service and sacrifice).                       | 1.57    |
| 30  | It is to make the patients comfortable.                                      | 1.37    |
| 20  | It is to serve the patients as if he/she considered their bodies as his/her own body. | 1.36    |
| 16  | It is to make the patients comfortable.                                      | 1.32    |
| 3   | It is to educate the patient his/her self-care.                               | 1.29    |
| 10  | It is to provide the patients with trust.                                     | 1.19    |
| 33  | The meaning can be changed by the times.                                     | –1.15   |
| 26  | It is to have enough conversation with the patients.                          | –1.17   |
| 31  | It is to make patience.                                                       | –1.30   |
| 34  | I do not know about the meaning well.                                         | –1.49   |
| 7   | It can do independently without doctor’s order.                               | –1.51   |
| 15  | It is to work with simple technical matters.                                  | –2.38   |