Research Article

A Study to Assess the Opinion regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession among Outgoing Student Nurses in a Selected College of Nursing in New Delhi

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Abstract

Nursing is a profession within the healthcare sector which focuses on the care of individuals, families and communities, so that they may attain, maintain or recover optimal health and quality of life. Nurses represent the largest share of the total workforce in India. Globally, health systems are experiencing major shifts in health sectors and creating an increasingly diverse yet interconnected world. Nurses are health professionals who are the cornerstone of healthcare system in each country. Most of the students decide to join nursing profession because they had a desire to help others and nursing was perceived as a caring and serving humanity job, acute shortage of nurses and growing demand of nurses worldwide. number of nurses demand of nursing in India. Career options in nursing include staff nurses who provide direct patient care to one patient or a group of patients. Teaching in nursing includes planning, teaching and supervising the learning experiences for students that include tutors, clinical instructors, senior tutors, associate professors and professors in nursing; nursing administrative positions at the state level include deputy directors of nursing at the state health directorate. Descriptive Research Design was adopted for the present study and the study was conducted in Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. The population for the present study comprised outgoing student nurses of Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard. The sample of the present study comprised 73 students of B.Sc. (H) Nursing 4th year, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing 2nd year and DGNM 3rd year. Results showed that the majority of student nurses (63.01%) had uncertain opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession; 32.8% of student nurses had a favorable opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession and 4.05% of student nurses had unfavorable opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession. The students had mean opinion score (23.9) for perception towards nursing profession and modified mean for perception is 1.33. This shows that student nurses had highly favorable opinion for perception, following preference of nursing profession with mean opinion score (15.45), modified mean (1.28) and had least favorable opinion for nursing profession with mean opinion score (15.79) and modified mean (1.05). The opinion score (18.8) regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession of DGNM 3rd year student nurses was high, followed by a mean score (18.7) of B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing 4th year student nurses, and mean score of Post Basic Nursing 2nd year student nurses was 17.8.

Keywords: Student nurses, Jobs, Nursing profession, Opinion

Introduction

Nursing is a profession within the healthcare sector which focuses on the care of individuals, families and communities, so that they may attain, maintain or recover optimal health and quality of life. Nurses may be differentiated from

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other healthcare providers by their approach to patient care, training and scope of practice. According to Florence Nightingale,1 “Nursing is to bring the healthy and those who are suffering from disease to a condition for nature to act for preserving health, preventing disease and injury and to restore health and cure disease.”

The word ‘nurse’ originally came from Latin word “nutrie” meaning to suckle, referring to wet-nurse; only in late 16th century did it attain its modern meaning of a person who cares for the infirm. From the earliest times, most cultures produced a stream of nurses dedicated to service on religious principles. Both Muslim and Christian world generated a stream of dedicated nurses from their earliest days. In Europe before the foundation of modern nursing, catholic nuns and the military often provided nursing-like services. It took until the 20th century for nursing to become a secular profession.2

Nurses represent the largest share of the total workforce in India. Globally health systems are experiencing major shifts in health sectors and creating an increasingly diverse yet interconnected world. Nurses are health professionals who are the corner stone of healthcare system in each country. Nurses are the integral part of the healthcare delivery system and share responsibilities in collaboration with other allied health professions for the attainment of optimal health for all members of the society. In ancient time, nursing care was provided by men and women serving punishment. It was often associated with prostitutes, widows, poor family women and other female criminals. Because of involvement of such type of people, the reputation of nursing was low in society and attitude of people towards it was negative. In India, nursing was hindered due to various reasons like low state of women, pardha system among Muslims, caste system among Hindus, illiteracy, poverty and political unrest.3

Most of the students decide to join nursing profession because they had a desire to help others and nursing was perceived as a caring and serving humanity job, acute shortage of nurses and growing demand of nurses worldwide, and opportunities for higher education, bright job prospects in foreign countries like Canada, Australia, USA and UK, where they can enjoy good status of profession, opportunities for leadership, way into management leading as officers in large healthcare companies.3

The declaration of Alma Atta in 1978 “Health for all by 2000 AD” made a great impact on all professions related to healthcare. Committed to this cause, there is a great need for more and more nursing manpower to meet the increasing demands to provide comprehensive and quality healthcare to the population. An article which was published in Hindustan Times, Vishal Bal CEO showed that India was short of two million nurses as per the global average on the number of nurses demand of nursing in India.4

Career options in nursing include staff nurses who provide 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, associate professors and professors in nursing, nursing administrative positions at the state level include deputy directors of nursing at the state health directorate.5

Data was collected from 100 randomly selected outgoing 4th year B.Sc. Nursing students in a selected nursing college of Tirupati. A pretested questionnaire was used to collect the data. Reliability as validity was established. Pilot study was conducted and it was found feasible.1 The data collected from 100 B.Sc. Nursing students analyzed and presented as demographic characteristics of sample shows 3/4th of the sample, i.e., 71% consisted of female and 1/4th, i.e., 23% were male. Perception of students towards nursing profession shows that 85% perceived this as a dignified and respectful profession and other students felt it is equal to other professions. Future interventions of B.Sc. Nursing students show the early intentions of respondents in respect to nursing career, same as, to know the perception towards nursing profession, in a survey held in Punjab.

Another descriptive and prospective study was conducted to determine students’ satisfaction in a nursing College. Sample was the students attending 4th year Nursing College in 1999, the total of 694 students in the school were included in the study. Data was collected through a questionnaire formally used by Marmara University, Engineering faculty. The result was shown as the level of students’ satisfaction for each of the factor groups; the students satisfaction level in the first year was high but decreased in the second year. The 3rd year was when the score reached its highest level but in the 4th year it decreased to its lowest level.6

Huffstutler7 conducted a study to assess the effects of nursing education and the image of nursing as a profession among 200 first year nursing students and 200 more advanced students. The results revealed that most of the students felt that nursing profession needs to undergo an image change, while first year students perceived nurses as more angelic than more advanced students, and there was positive correlation found between satisfaction with nurses in the field and image of nursing. Thus the study concluded that there is a need to reinforce a positive image of nursing as a career, nurse educators should alter negative stereotypes about the profession. The image of both nurses and nursing has been the focus of a number of research projects globally. This study brings out facts that new comers are very delicate as they come with raw mind and very positive perception toward nursing profession.
Cockrell et al. conducted a study regarding perceptions of the nursing profession among 207 pre-nursing students at a School of Nursing in United States. The results revealed that 193 (93.2%) of students desired to help others, 27 (13%) expressed their desire based on religious influences and 11 (5.3%) of the students were desiring for a career change after completing another degree; in addition 16 (7.7%) respondents had some other reasons for choosing nursing as a career. Thus the study concluded that the pre-nursing students had the need for career information. They were highly motivated but were unclear regarding their perceptions of the nursing profession.

The attitude of most of the nursing students is believed to be negative towards this profession in India. A number of factors determine this negative attitude of students which may include low reputation of profession in society, no definite job description for nurses, no criteria for various administrative posts in nursing, no use of higher degree for higher posts in nursing, dominance of doctors everywhere in all job settings, no autonomy for the profession and lower salary status. In India, entry-level courses in nursing are: Auxiliary Nursing and Midwifery (ANM), General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM), Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.Sc. Nursing). Opportunities are also available for higher education after basic nursing education. Most of the B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing and M.Sc. (Hons) Nursing qualified nurses choose their career as a teacher in colleges of nursing as it provides autonomy in their work, increase job satisfaction, higher professional recognition and better salary. Besides teaching in college of nursing, other job opportunities available for nurses are bedside nursing care in hospitals, community or public health nurses and nursing administration.

Nursing is as old as human life itself; however, the shortage of nurses is not a recent phenomenon, nor one restricted to a specific geographical location. The profession is said to have long suffered from public stereotyping and from being closely associated with femininity and powerlessness. The time has never been better for nurses to reach out to the public to change certain perceptions about nursing. Hence, a need was felt to assess the opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession among outgoing student nurses in a selected college of nursing in New Delhi.

**Aims**

- To assess the opinion of outgoing student nurses regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession after completion of nursing course
- To assess the comparison of opinion between B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing 4th year, Post B.Sc. Nursing 2nd year and DGNM 3rd year

**Materials and Methods**

Descriptive research design was adopted for the present study and the study was conducted in Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. The population for the present study comprised outgoing student nurses of Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard. The sample of the present study comprised 73 students of B.Sc. (H) Nursing 4th year, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing 2nd year and DGNM 3rd year. A structured opinionnaire was used to assess the opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession after completion of nursing course among outgoing student nurses. The structured opinionnaire started with seeking information on demographic data of the respondents. It then proceeded to the rating scale to assess the opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession after completion of nursing course among outgoing student nurses.

**Results**

**Section I: Findings related to Demographic Characteristics of the Outgoing Student Nurses**

This section describes demographic characteristics of 73 student nurses studying in B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing 4th year, DGNM 3rd year and Post Basic 2nd year of Rufaida College of Nursing, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, in terms of their course of study, nationality, religion, marital status, family members/relatives in nursing, education of father, education of mother, family income, occupation of father, occupation of mother, habitation, information about nursing, education of father, education of mother, family income, occupation of father, occupation of mother, habitation, information about nursing, decision maker, source of information, aspiration and percentage in latest exam. The data collected was tabulated and analyzed to obtain frequency and percentage distribution (Table 1).
Table 1. Frequency and Percentage of Outgoing Student Nurses in regard to their Demographic Characteristics

| Category                                      | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| **Course of Study**                           |               |                |
| DGNM                                          | 18            | 24.66          |
| b. B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing                       | 41            | 56.16          |
| c. Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing                   | 14            | 19.18          |
| **Nationality**                               |               |                |
| Indian                                        | 63            | 86.30          |
| Tibetan                                       | 7             | 9.59           |
| Nigerian                                      | 3             | 4.11           |
| **Religion**                                  |               |                |
| Hindu                                         | 18            | 24.66          |
| Muslim                                        | 16            | 21.92          |
| Christian                                     | 29            | 39.73          |
| **Marital Status**                            |               |                |
| Married                                       | -             | -              |
| Unmarried                                     | 73            | 100            |
| **Family members/relatives in Nursing**       |               |                |
| Yes                                           | 35            | 47.95          |
| No                                            | 38            | 52.05          |
| **Education of Father**                       |               |                |
| Illiterate                                    | 2             | 2.74           |
| Primary education                             | 19            | 26.03          |
| Secondary education                           | 21            | 28.77          |
| Graduate and above                            | 31            | 42.46          |
| **Education of Mother**                       |               |                |
| Illiterate                                    | 8             | 10.96          |
| Primary education                             | 12            | 16.44          |
| Secondary education                           | 27            | 36.99          |
| Graduate and above                            | 26            | 35.62          |
| **Family Income (in Rupees)**                 |               |                |
| Less than 10,000 p.m.                         | 5             | 6.85           |
| 10,001–20,000 p.m.                            | 24            | 32.88          |
| 20,001–30,000 p.m.                            | 8             | 10.96          |
| More than 30,000 p.m.                         | 36            | 49.32          |
| **Occupation of Father**                      |               |                |
| Daily wage worker                             | 5             | 6.85           |
| Self-employed                                 | 23            | 31.51          |
| Government employee                           | 19            | 26.03          |
| Private employee                              | 26            | 35.62          |
| **Occupation of Mother**                      |               |                |
| Daily wage worker                             | 10            | 13.70          |
| Self-employed                                 | 34            | 46.58          |
| Government employee                           | 23            | 31.51          |
| Private employee                              | 6             | 8.22           |
| **Habitation**                                |               |                |
| Rural                                         | 13            | 17.81          |
| Urban                                         | 60            | 82.20          |
| **Information about Nursing**                 |               |                |
| Yes                                           | 41            | 56.17          |
| No                                            | 32            | 43.84          |
| **Decision Maker to Choose Nursing Course**   |               |                |
| Self-decided                                  | 25            | 34.25          |
| Relatives                                     | 17            | 23.29          |
Section II: Findings related to Frequency and Percentage of the Opinion Score of Outgoing Student Nurses regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing profession

Based on the scores obtained, a range was created to divide the opinion scores into three categories:

- Favorable opinion: 61–90
- Uncertain opinion: 31–60
- Unfavorable opinion: 0-30

The frequency and percentage of the opinion scores of outgoing student nurses in different categories was computed.

Table 2. Frequency and Percentage of Opinion Scores of Outgoing Student Nurses regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession

| Category                   | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Favorable opinion          | 24        | 32.8       |
| Uncertain opinion          | 46        | 63.01      |
| Unfavorable opinion        | 3         | 4.05       |

Data presented in Table 2 depicts the frequency and percentage of opinion scores of outgoing student nurses regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession. According to their opinion scores, the majority of student nurses (63.01%) had uncertain opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession, 32.8% of student nurses had a favorable opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession and 4.05% of student nurses had unfavorable opinion regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession (Fig. 1).
Section III: Findings related to Mean, Possible Range of Scores, Obtained Range of Opinion Scores, Modified Mean and Rank Order of Outgoing Student Nurses regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession

Table 3. Possible Range of Scores, Range of Scores Obtained, Mean, Modified Mean and Rank Order of Opinion Scores Of Outgoing Student Nurses regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession

| Category                          | Possible Range of Scores | Range of Scores Obtained | Mean Score | Modified Mean | Rank Order |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Perception towards nursing profession | 0 – 36                   | 13 – 31                  | 23.9       | 1.33          | I          |
| Position of nursing profession in the society | 0 – 30                   | 4 – 25                   | 15.79      | 1.05          | III        |
| Preference for nursing profession | 0 – 24                   | 0 – 24                   | 15.45      | 1.28          | II         |

Data represented in Table 3 depicts that the students had mean opinion score (23.9) for perception towards nursing profession and modified mean for perception is 1.33. This shows that student nurses had highly favorable opinion for perception, following preference of nursing profession with mean opinion score (15.45), modified mean (1.28) and had least favorable opinion for nursing profession with mean opinion score (15.79) and modified mean (1.05).

Section IV: Findings Related to a Comparison between Mean Opinion Scores of B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing, Post Basic BSc. Nursing and DGNM Students regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession

Table 4. Comparison between Mean Opinion Score of BSc. (Hons) Nursing, Post Basic BSc. Nursing and DGNM Students regarding Pursuing Jobs in Nursing Profession

| Class                          | Mean Opinion Score |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| B.Sc.(Hons) Nursing 4th year  | 18.7               |
| Post Basic Nursing 2nd year   | 17.8               |
| DGNM 3rd year                 | 18.8               |

Data presented in Table 4 depicts that opinion score (18.8) regarding pursuing jobs in nursing profession of DGNM 3rd year student nurses was high, followed by a mean score (18.7) of B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing 4th year student nurses and mean score of Post Basic Nursing 2nd year student nurses was 17.8.

Discussion and Conclusion

The result of our study showed that the students had mean opinion score (23.9) for perception towards nursing profession. For position of nursing profession in the society, the mean score computed was 15.79. The mean opinion score for preference for nursing profession was 15.45. These study findings are similar to a study conducted by Law W. and Arthur D to assess students in their choice of a career in Nursing among nursing students. They studied the factors influencing the Hong Kong students in their choice of a career in nursing. Findings revealed that 28% of the respondents reported that they were interested in studying nursing. So it is evidence that most of the respondents were performance to the nursing profession as a career option.

The present study concluded that out of 73 student nurses, 17 (23.29%) wanted to quit nursing course and pursue some other profession. This shows that the outgoing student nurses do not prefer nursing profession as a career option and want to change their profession. Out of 73 student nurses, majority of them (46) had an uncertain opinion about pursuing jobs in nursing profession. Nurses should be equipped with the right proportion of knowledge about career opportunities. Conducting a nurse satisfaction survey will give feedback to improve nursing services.

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Conflict of Interest: None

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