

Perception of Nursing Students towards the Profession and their Future Career Motive

Binita Paudel¹, Dipti Koirala²

¹Department of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing, Bharatpur, Nepal
paudelbini[at]gmail.com

²Department of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing, Bharatpur, Nepal
dipti.koirala2[at]gmail.com

Abstract: *This study was aimed to explore perception of Nursing Students towards profession and their perceived future career motive. Data was collected from all the BSC Nursing Students studying at Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing, Bharatpur, Nepal. A structured questionnaire was distributed to the students using Google Form to collect data. Findings revealed that out of 131 respondents, about half (47.3 %) were over 20 years of age, 72.5% were from nuclear family, and about half (51.9 %) were the first child in the family. Regarding parents' education, 30% fathers and 14.5% mothers have bachelor and above qualification. Regarding respondents' profession related information, 89.3% were self-motivated to choose nursing as a career, 56.5% have family member or relatives related to nursing profession, only 40.5 % of the respondents are interested to work in nursing administration in the future and half of the respondents (50.4 %) want to move abroad for their job after study. Most of them (95.4 %) have plan for higher education and 88.5% have plan to sustain in nursing profession in the future. Regarding perception about nursing profession, 98.5% of the respondents perceive nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity, 46.6 % as a way to enjoy economic security, 84.7% as a way to get due recognition in the society, 87.8% as dignified and respectful profession, 91.6 % as means to earn blessings and only 25.2 % respondents perceive nursing as opportunity to get better marriage offer. This study concluded that the students perception is being positive towards nursing profession and majority of the students perceived that nursing is a profession with bright and secured future and helps to provide due recognition in the society.*

Keywords: Perception, Nursing profession, Future career motive, Nursing Students

1. Introduction

In 21st century nursing is the glue that holds patients health care journey together. Entire patient experience that wherever there is someone in need of care, nurses work tirelessly to identify and protect the need of each individual.¹

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has described nursing as a profession that involves autonomous and collaborative care of sick or well individuals, families, groups, and the communities. Nursing care involves scientifically proven activities that can help in preventing illness, promoting the care of ill or dying patients, and enhancing the quality of health of an individual. Nurses, being the largest workforce in the healthcare system, increasing their number, and controlling over the retention is today's need.² Some of the major roles and responsibilities of nurses involve- advocating, promoting a safe environment, research, and training, contributing to policy making, and participating in the administration of the healthcare system.³

Despite the exponential increase in the total number of registered nurses, and the rapid increment in nursing education programs throughout the country since the 1990s, Nepal is still facing a chronic shortage of healthcare workers including nurses.^{4,5} A significant number of researches have stated that a positive perception of nursing students regarding their profession plays a crucial role in solving the problem of shortage of nursing.^{6,7}

The positive perception towards the profession results in higher self-concept, self-esteem, and job-satisfaction.⁸

Expected experiences and thoughts of nursing students regarding the future career can deeply influence their professional development.⁹

The perceived knowledge and attitude towards the nursing profession can directly impact their level of knowledge retention. Also, their perception can guide them to be safe nurses with an enhanced level of energy to serve humanity and promote the quality of patient- care. Nursing students with realistic perceptions regarding the nursing care process will be more ready to prioritize the health of needy people over any kind of comfort. The dedication towards the profession built by realistic perception can help future nurses be involved in expected patient care.¹¹

2. Need For the Study

Nursing is described as both an art and science; a heart and a mind which implies a fundamental respect for human dignity and institution for a patients need. The hand is supported by the mind in the form of rigorous care learning.¹

Nepal has exponentially increased nursing programs, six in 1990 to 103 in 2010. The estimated total staff nurses in 2010 were 1700 which was increased to around 40,000 registered nursing professionals registered with an NNC, by 2013. The total nursing professionals in 2013 included- Registered Nurses n = 19 098, ANMs n = 19 851, Foreign-trained nurses n = 739 for the country's total population of almost 29 million.¹¹

Nurses' passion towards their profession can be one of the most effective solutions for the problems like- quitting the

job, migrating to the developed countries for a good life and better income, being picky about rural or urban areas to provide nursing service.¹²

So, the study aims to create scientific evidence regarding the perceptions of nursing students related to their chosen profession and their future motives relevant to their careers. The development of perception happens with the education process and practical experiences. Therefore, the intention of the study is to support the nursing education systems to help their nursing students transitioning in their nursing career with a positive professional identity.

3. Methods

Study Design: Descriptive, cross sectional web based survey was carried out to find out perception of Nursing Students towards profession and their future career motive. Research was carried out at School of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College, Bharatpur-10, Chitwan, Nepal. The study population were the BSc. Nursing students, where 131 nursing students were taken as sample for the study using total enumerative sampling technique.

Procedure methodology: The study was conducted after the approval from Institutional Review Committee, Chitwan Medical College, Bharatpur, Chitwan on 12th October 2020 (Ref No. CMCIRC/077/078-039). Formal permission was taken from School of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College to collect data. Informed consent was taken from each respondents after explaining the purpose and significance of the study before data collection. Data was collected in the period of one week (October 15 to October 21). A previously used tool "Perception of Nursing Profession checklist"¹³ with reliability 0.9 with certain modification was used to find out the perception of nursing students towards profession and a structured self-constructed instrument was used to collect respondent's socio-demographic information and their future career motive. The instrument consisted of three parts:

Part I: Information related to socio demographic variables

Part II: Information related to perception towards nursing profession

Part III: Information related to future career motive

Statistical analysis: The data was exported to Microsoft excel and was analyzed using IBM SPSS (Version 20) and standard descriptive statistics was used to describe the data regarding nursing students perception towards profession and future career motive.

4. Results

Table 1 shows that among 131 respondents, 52.7% of the respondents fall under the age group ≤ 20 years with mean age and standard deviation as 20.53 ± 1.377 . Regarding academic year 30.5% of the respondents were from 3rd year and 21.4%, 28.2% and 30.5% of the respondents were from 1st year, 2nd year, and 4th year respectively. Concerning religion, 96.2% of the respondents were following Hinduism. Similarly, 98.5% of the respondents were unmarried, and 51.9% of the respondents were first child.

Regarding family income, only 11.5% of the respondents' family annual income was >6 lakh and 72.5% of the respondents were from nuclear family.

Table 2 shows respondents' parents' profile, where 34.4% of respondents' father had completed higher secondary education, and 40.5% of respondents' father were involved in business. Similarly, 34.4% of respondents' mother had completed higher secondary level education, and 67.9% were house maker.

Table 3 shows respondent's profession related information where out of 131 respondents, 56.5% of the respondents' family member/relatives were involved in nursing, most of the students (89.3%) were self-motivated to join nursing, 40.5% of the respondents want to join nursing administration after completion of their study and only 21.4% of the respondents want to join bedside nursing after completion of their study. About half of the respondents (50.4%) want to move abroad for their job after study. Most of the respondents (95.4%) have plan for higher education and 88.5% of the respondents don't want to change the profession.

Table 4 shows the respondents perception regarding nursing profession where most of the respondents (98.5%) think that it is an opportunity to serve humanity, 92.4% perceive it is an opportunity for personal growth, 87% perceive it is a way to have bright prospects in abroad, 46.6% answered that it is a way to enjoy economic security, 96.9% of the respondents answered that it is a caring profession in which ethical standards of care is maintained, and 84.7% answered that it is a way to get due recognition in society. Similarly, 87.8% of the respondents answered that it is a dignified and respectful profession, 91.6% answered that it is a mean to earn blessings, 67.2% answered that it is equal to other profession, and only 25.2% of the respondents answered that it is an opportunity to get a better marriage offer.

5. Discussion

The study was conducted among 131 BSc. Nursing Students from 1st year to 4th year. More than 50% of students were over 20 years of age. Most of all were Hindu and were associated to nuclear family. Regarding parents profile only 30% of respondents' father and 14.5% mothers had bachelor and above qualification.

Regarding respondents' profession related information most of all, 89.3% were self-motivated to choose nursing as a career. The finding is almost similar to the finding by Motakpalli et al. (2018) where 80.42% respondents are self-motivated to choose nursing as a career¹⁴. More than half 56.5% respondents had their family member or relatives related to the nursing profession whereas Motakpalli (2018) found only 27.9% respondents family member or relatives related to the nursing profession¹⁴. Less than half, 40.5% of the respondents are interested to work in nursing administration, 38.2% wants to join teaching and 21.4% wants to join bedside nursing. The finding is contrast with the finding by Patidar (2011) where 46.4% respondents wants to join teaching and 45.5% wants to join bedside nursing in future.¹³

Regarding respondents perception towards profession almost all 98.5% perceive nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity. 92.4 % perceive it as opportunity for personal growth and 96.9% perceive it as a caring profession with ethical standards. The findings are consistent with various previous research. Motakpalli (2018) found 97.08 % perceive nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity, 89.58 % perceive it as opportunity for personal growth and 92.5 % perceive it as a caring profession with ethical standards.¹⁴ whereas, Patidar (2011) found 96.8 % perceive nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity, 76.1 % perceive it as opportunity for personal growth and 70.0 % perceive it as a caring profession with ethical standards.¹³

In this study, most of the respondents 87.0% perceive nursing as a way to have bright prospects in abroad, 84.75% perceive it as the way to get recognition in the society and 87.8% perceive it as dignified and respectful profession whereas Patidar (2011) concluded 81.1% perceive nursing as the way to have bright prospective in abroad, only 47.7% perceive it is the way to get due recognition in the society and only 43.8% perceive it as a dignified and respectful profession.¹³ Similar to this study, Motakpalli et al (2018) found 80.3% of the respondents perceive nursing as a way to get bright prospective abroad, 90% perceive as a way to get due respect in the society and 88.3% perceive it as a dignified and respectful profession.¹⁴

In this study only 46.6% respondents perceive nursing profession as a way to enjoy economic security whereas in similar study Motakpalli et al. (2018) and Patidar (2011) both revealed that 76.25 % and 74.2 % of the respondents respectively perceive it as a way to enjoy economic security. In the current study, 25.2% of the respondents perceive nursing as opportunity to get better marriage offer whereas Motakpalli et al (2018) and patidar (2011) each found 44.58 % and only 34 % perceive it as a way to get better marriage offer.^{13, 14}

With the above finding it is concluded that the students perception is being positive towards nursing profession and majority of the students perceived that nursing is a profession with bright and secured future and helps to provide due recognition in the society.

6. Result

Table 1: Respondent’s Socio-demographic Information, n=131

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Age group		
≤20	69	52.7
>20	62	47.3
Mean Age ± SD (20.53 ± 1.377), Age range 17-24 years		
Current Academic Year		
First year	28	21.4
Second year	37	28.2
Third year	40	30.5
Fourth Year	26	19.8
Religion		
Hinduism	126	96.2
Buddhism	4	3.1
Christianity	1	0.8
Marital Status		

Married	2	1.5
Unmarried	129	98.5
Birth Order		
First Child	68	51.9
Second Child	43	32.8
Third or above	20	15.3
Annual Family Income		
< 1 lakh	45	34.4
1-3 lakh	51	38.9
4-6 lakh	20	15.3
>6 lakh	15	11.5
Type of Family		
Nuclear	95	72.5
Joint	35	26.7
Extended	1	0.8

Table 2: Respondents’ Parents’ Profile, n=131

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Fathers’ Academic Qualification		
General Literate	7	5.3
Basic Level	10	7.6
Secondary Level	29	22.1
Higher Secondary	45	34.4
Bachelor and above	40	30.5
Father’s Occupation		
Service	32	24.4
Agriculture	29	22.1
Business	53	40.5
Foreign Employment	17	13.0
Mothers’ Academic Qualification		
General Literate	20	15.3
Basic Level	17	13
Secondary Level	42	32.1
Higher Secondary	33	25.2
Bachelor and above	19	14.5
Mother’s Occupation		
Service	13	9.9
Agriculture	14	10.7
Business	11	8.4
House Maker	89	67.9
Unemployed	4	3.1

Table 3: Respondents’ Profession and Related Information, n=131

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Any family member/relative in nursing		
Yes	57	43.5
No	74	56.5
Reason to join Nursing		
Self-motivated	117	89.3
Forced by parents	14	10.7
Interested nursing field after completion of study		
Teaching Institution	50	38.2
Bedside nursing	28	21.4
Nursing administration	53	40.5
Plan of moving abroad for job		
Yes	66	50.4
No	65	49.6
Plan for higher education		
Yes	125	95.4
No	6	4.6
Plan to change profession in future		
Yes	15	11.5
No	116	88.5

Table 4: Respondents' Perception regarding Nursing Profession, n=131

Variables	Yes n (%)	No n (%)
An opportunity to serve Humanity	129(98.5)	2(1.5)
An opportunity for personal growth	121 (92.4)	10(7.6)
A way to have bright prospects in abroad	114 (87.0)	17 (13.0)
A way to enjoy economic security	61 (46.6)	70 (53.4)
Caring profession in which ethical standards of care is maintained	127 (96.9)	4 (3.1)
A way to get due recognition in society	111 (84.7)	20 (15.3)
A dignified & respectful profession	115 (87.8)	16 (12.2)
A mean to earn blessings	120 (91.6)	11 (8.4)
Actually equal to other professions	88 (67.2)	43 (32.8)
An opportunity to get better marriage offers	33 (25.2)	98 (74.8)

7. Acknowledgement

Author's heart full of thanks goes to Chitwan Medical College, Teaching Hospital for providing opportunity to conduct this study. Author is grateful towards Dr. Suresh K. Sharma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Ms. Anita Paudel for their immense support throughout this study. Author also would like to acknowledge School of Nursing CMC and all the participants for their kind co-operation.

References

- [1] American Nursing Association. Retrieved from: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/workforce/what-is-nursing/>
- [2] Yilmaz A. A. Llce A. Cicek S.C, Yuzde G.E. & Yigit U. The effect of a career activity on the students' perception of the nursing profession and their career plan: A single group experimental study. *Nurse Education Today* (2016); 39, 176-180. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2016.02.001
- [3] Swarna S. Nursing students perception towards profession and future intentions. *IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science* (2015).;4 (5), 30-34. Retrieved from: <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/a832/f982a9009d1f3554f7d6b6082921a3c2d7a7.pdf>
- [4] Paudel K. *Report on Status of Nurses in Nepal*. Nepal Health Research Council (2010). <http://library.nhrc.gov.np:8080/nhrc/bitstream/handle/123456789/72/628.pdf?sequence=1>
- [5] Prakash S. Yadav P. & Yadav K. Perception of developing nursing education in Nepal. *Nursing and Care Open Access Journal* (2018);5 (4), 214-2020. doi: 10.15406/ncoaj.2018.05.00150
- [6] Ashalat W.D. A comparative study on knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession among PCL and B.Sc. nursing students in a selected nursing institute, Pokhara, Nepal. *International Journal of Nursing Education* (2013); 5 (1), 20-25. doi:10.5958/j.0974-9357.5.1.006
- [7] Yilmaz A. A. Llce A. Cicek SC., Yuzde G.E. & Yigit U. The effect of a career activity on the students' perception of the nursing profession and their career plan: A single group experimental study. *Nurse*

Education Today (2016); 39, 176-180. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2016.02.001

- [8] Browne C. Wall P. Batt S. & Bennett R. Understanding perceptions of nursing professional identify in student entering an Australian undergraduate nursing degree. *ProQuest* (2018); 32, 90-96. doi: 10.1016/j.nepr.2018.07.006
- [9] Browne C. Wall P. Batt S. & Bennett R. (2018). Understanding perceptions of nursing professional identify in student entering an Australian undergraduate nursing degree. *ProQuest*, 32, 90-96. doi: 10.1016/j.nepr.2018.07.006
- [10] Prakash S. Yadav P. & Yadav K. Perception of developing nursing education in Nepal. *Nursing and Care Open Access Journal* (2018);5 (4), 214-2020. doi: 10.15406/ncoaj.2018.05.00150
- [11] Raso A. Ligozzi L. Garrino L. & Dimonte V. Nursing profession and nurses' contribution to nursing education as seen through students' eyes: A qualitative study. *Wiley* (2019); 54 (3), 414-424. doi: 10.1111/nuf.12349.
- [12] Glean N. Hupli M. Talman K. & Haavisto E. Perception of nursing profession-focus group interview among applicants to nursing education. *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences* (2019); 33(2), 390-399. doi: 10.1111/scs.12635
- [13] Patidar A, Kaur J., Sharma S., Sharma N., &. Future nurses' perception towards profession and carrier plans: A cross sectional survey in state Punjab. *Nursing and Midwifery Research Journal* (2011). 10.33698/NRF0131.
- [14] Motakpali k., Shaheen S., Jamadar D. & Bendigari N.D., Futuristic Perception and Career aspect of Nursing Students at Kalaburagi City, Karnataka. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health* (2018). Sep;5(9):3865-3869 <https://www.ijcmph.com/index.php/ijcmph/article/view/3575>, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2394-6040.ijcmph20183406>.

Author Profile



Binita Paudel is Assistant Professor working in Department of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing, Bharatpur, Nepal. Mail ID: [paudelbini\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:paudelbini[at]gmail.com)



Dipti Koirala is Assistant Professor working in Department of Nursing, Chitwan Medical College, School of Nursing, Bharatpur, Nepal. Mail ID: [dipti.koirala2\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dipti.koirala2[at]gmail.com)