

Attitude of Nurses towards Nursing Profession

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Abstract: A cross-sectional study was carried out in a tertiary setting of South India to assess the attitude of nurses towards nursing profession. Convenience sampling technique was used to select 30 nurses who were willing to participate in the study. The Attitude Scale toward Nursing Profession (ASNP) was given to the nurses to be completed. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS statistics 20. The analysis revealed that the mean score on the ASNP was 158.37 + 19.87, which indicates that nurses had a positive attitude toward their profession. There was no association between the attitude towards profession and the personal and professional characteristics of the staff nurses. Personal motivation and periodic encouragement of nurses may help to ensure positive attitude towards nursing profession which will be reflected positively in the quality of nursing care and the wellbeing of the nurses.

Keywords: nursing, nursing profession, attitude, nurses, nursing staff

1. Introduction

Nursing is an ancient profession and has gone through different phases of growth. It is a dynamic profession with constant advancement. Though there are numerous training centers across the globe, the nursing shortage continues to exist world-wide¹. It is widely accepted that nurses have an unfavorable attitude towards the profession because of its high ambiguity and the lack of clarity in the different roles of a nurse². Positive attitude among nurses is important to improve the care provided by nurses and their level of satisfaction. Improving the attitude of nurses help to improve the care provided to patients³. Love for profession and a longer service period is also noted among nurses with favourable attitude to nursing profession^{4,5}.

Nurses comprise of maximum proportion of health care workers. They are the only professionals providing continuous care by constantly being available with the patients throughout the day. They face lot of challenges personally and professionally. Attitude of the nurses influence their ability to cope with these challenges. This study was aimed to assess the attitude of nurses towards nursing profession and to identify the association between attitude of nurses towards nursing profession and personal and professional characteristics of the nurses

2. Methods

A cross-sectional study design was used to assess the attitude of nurses towards nursing profession. The study was done in a tertiary setting in South India. Convenience sampling was used to select 30 nurses. Verbal consent was obtained from the nurses willing to participate in the study and those who could understand English and were included in the study. The instrument was the 'Attitude Scale for Nursing Profession (ASNP)', a standardized tool: It consists of 40 items that have to be rated against a 5 point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The Cronbach's a coefficients for the ASNP total scale is 0.90

and each of the three subscales is 0.98–0.99 which indicated good internal consistency⁶. The three sub-scales include "Properties of nursing profession" (18 items); "Preference for nursing profession" (13 items); and "General position of nursing profession" (9 items). The total score for the scale is 200. Reverse scoring was performed on items 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34, and 38 – the higher the score, the more positive the attitude toward the profession. The personal and professional data comprised of age, sex, marital status, qualification, institution of professional course, distance of residence from the work place work experience, monthly income, awareness of scope of nursing and having friends or relatives as nurses.

The investigator administered the questionnaire to 30 nurses fulfilling the inclusion criteria. Oral consent was obtained by providing the details of the study with emphasis to voluntary participation. Permission was obtained from the Nursing Superintendent of the Institution and the Nursing Head of the departments. The data were analyzed using Statistical Package Social Software 21. Descriptive statistics like frequency, mean and standard deviation were used to describe the data. Chi square was used to find the association between the nurses' attitude towards nursing profession and the personal and professional data of the subjects.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that majority of the nurses were in the age group of 30 – 40years (63.33%), female (90%), married (63.33), had residence within the institution (73.33%), earned more than Rs.25, 000/- (80%), were aware of the scope in nursing (83.33%) and had relatives or friends as nurses (70%).

Table 1: Personal and Professional data of the Nurses

S. no	Variable	No.	%
1.	Age in years		
	• < 30	7	23.33
	• 30 – 40	19	63.33
	• > 40	4	13.33
2.	Sex		
	• Male	3	10.00
	• Female	27	90.00
3	Marital Status		
	• Single	11	36.67
	• Married	19	63.33
4	Qualification		
	• General Nursing Midwifery	27	90.00
	• B. Sc Nursing	3	10.00
5	Institution of professional course		
	• Institution of work	11	36.67
	• Other institution	19	63.33
6	Distance of residence from work place		
	• Within the institution	22	73.33
	• Less than 10 km	7	23.33
	• 10 km and above	1	03.33
7	Work experience in years		
	• Less than one	3	10.00
	• 1 – 3	2	06.06
	• > 3 – 5	7	23.33
	• >5 – 10 years	8	26.67
	• >10years	10	33.33
8	Monthly income in Rupees		
	• < 25, 000	6	20.00
	• 25, 000 and above	24	80.00
9	Awareness of scope in nursing		
	• Yes	25	83.33
	• No	5	16.6763.
10	Having friends or relatives as nurses		
	• Yes	21	
	• No	9	

The study revealed that the nurses had a favourable attitude towards nursing profession which is evident by the ASPN mean score as $158.37 + 19.87$. Table 2 shows the mean and standard deviation of the three subscales.

Table 2: Attitude of Nurses as per the Subscales of ASPN

S.no	Attitude as per the subscales of ASPN	Mean	Standard Deviation
1	Properties of nursing profession	78.90	11.12
2	Preference for nursing profession	42.90	5.92
3	General position of nursing profession	36.57	4.92

There was no significant association found between the nurses attitude and their personal and professional data. However, analysis with the subscales revealed a significant association between preference for nursing profession and sex ($\chi^2= 11.90$, $p = 0.003$) and the distance of residence from the workplace sex ($\chi^2= 10.19$, $p = 0.037$). Literature reveals significant association between the subscales of the ASPN and the personal data of the nurses⁶. This study does not show any significance between the nurses' attitude and their personal and professional characteristics. The sample size was only 30 and the study was performed only in one institution. Increasing the sample size and including different institutions will provide better information.

4. Conclusion

Having positive attitude not only helps an individual in their personal life but also helps to be productive in their area of work. Nurses are a group of health care professionals who go through burnout state easily. Having a favourable attitude towards the profession will enable them to cope with the challenges faced in the workplace and ensure quality care to patients.

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