

Perception of Intermediate Students Regarding Awareness, Image and Career Choice of Nursing Profession in Dera Ghazi Khan

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ABSTRACT

Health care system is evolving and the demand are increasing of services. The nurses are the important workforce in health care system. Nurses play a critical role in health promotion, disease prevention and delivering primary and community care. Aim of this study has known the perception of higher secondary school students regarding nursing Profession in Dera Ghazi Khan. The method a cross-sectional study was conducted from 112 students of intermediates of 3 different private sectors. Data included 60 males and 52 females. Data were collected by a valid and reliable tested questionnaire and analyzed by descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation). Result 112 respondents participated in this study through completing a questionnaire. Questionnaire was about to evaluate the perception of respondents regarding awareness, image and career choice of nursing profession. The results of study showed that 88% respondents were aware about the nursing profession and about its work. 79.4% respondents accepted that "Nursing is a respected profession". 38% respondents did not consider nursing as career choice. Conclusion: current study was revealed that the percentage of males about awareness, image and career choice are more than females regarding the nursing profession. The difference in percentage can be due to higher frequency of males (60) as compared to females (52). The average of male regarding awareness is 30 % and in females is 25 %. The average of males about nursing image is 30 % and of females is 39 % Average percentage of males about nursing image is 48% and of females is 39%.

Keywords: Perception, career choice, nursing profesion, higher secondary school students

Introduction

Nurses are playing a critical role in health promotion, disease prevention and delivering primary and community care [1]. Most of students choose nursing profession as their second choice when they look for pursuing the career choice. Secondary school students poorly acknowledge a professional autonomy of nurses [2]. Studies shows that fewer percentage of higher secondary schools are interested in nursing profession. In contrast, there is an extreme need of workforce to join nursing nationwide and globally. Registered Nurses and

midwives are 95,443 as per data retrieved from Pakistan Nursing Council, website on 7th July 2018 [3]. In compare to doctors and other related fields. In contrast, Population censuses of Pakistan is 207,774,520 by the year 2017.

There is a global shortage of health workers, in particular nurses and midwives, who represent more than 50% of the current shortage in health workers. The largest needs-based shortages of nurses and midwives are in South East Asia and Africa [1]. Nurses have many roles: they provide and manage personal care

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and treatment, work with families and communities, and play a central part in public health and controlling disease and infection. Nurses are often the first and sometimes the only health professional that people see and the quality of their initial assessment, care and treatment is vital ¹. In country profile of World Health Organization for health care workers, has shown that Nursing and midwifery personnel density in year 2000 were 0.434 and in year 2015 was 0.502 (per 1000 population). In contrast physician's density in 2000 were 0.664 and in 2015 it reached to 0.978 (per 1000 population).

Nursing is a science and deals with the care of people in a holistic way. Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles [4].

In the past, nursing was provided by criminals, prostitutes. Poor family women who have led to a bad and low reputation of nursing among the society, until the time of the lamp's lady (Nightingale) came over, and she improved the profession [5]. The act of utilizing the environment of the patient to assist him in his recovery Islamic nursing begun with Rufaida Al-Asalmiya, she learned her skills from her father who was an important healer.

She was also supported by the prophet Mohamed, additionally she was the first one who conducted the code of ethics prior to its development in Western area, and unfortunately her role was ignored [6].

Nursing philosophy in general can be classified as, conceptual model or framework providing a frame of reference for nurses to guide their thinking, observations, interpretations and practices [7].

Nursing education involves both theoretical and practical training processes. Clinical training is considered as an indispensable and very important part of professional nursing education. Since nursing is a discipline based on practice, there needs to be a curriculum of education that offers students the opportunity to develop their clinical skills, particularly the patient care skills [8]. Nursing careers offer a wide variety of roles and a broad scope of responsibility.

Results and Discussion

The demographic characteristics of respondents in this study as shown in table this study is focusing on nursing professions' awareness, image and career choice in higher secondary school children. 112 respondents participated in this study through completing a questionnaire. The male participant of this study are 60 (53.6%) and the female participant are 52 (46.4%). The age of 103(91.9%) respondents is between 15 year to 18 year and only 9(8.1%) respondents age is between 19 year to 22 year.

Table 1. Characteristic of Students

Characteristics of students	Series 1	Series 2
Age	15-18 year (91.9%)	19-22 year (8%)
Gender (Male/Female)	60 (53,6 %)	52 (46,4%)
Area (Rural/Urban)	80 (71%)	32 (28,6%)
Sibling in nursing (Yes/No)	80 (80,7%)	32 (28,7%)

Table 2. The result of perception regarding nursing image

Statement	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Agree	95	91	98	37	83	62	86	86
% age	84	81,2	88	33	74	55	76	76
Neutral	10	10	10	34	20	21	14	11
% age	9	9	9	30,3	18	12	12,5	10
Disagree	7	11	4	41	9	29	12	10,7
% age	6,2	9,8	4	36,3	25,8	10	15	13,3

About nursing profession awareness shows that 98 (88%) respondents were agreed that (St 3) "Nurse protect patients' in the health care system". (St 7) "Nursing is stimulating and

challenging work." 86 (76%) respondents were agreed with this statement and 12 (10.2%) were not agreed.

Table 3. The results of awareness regarding nursing

Statement	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Agree	63	62	43	46	89	68	94	74	75
% age	56	55	30	41	79	60	83	66	67
Neutral	18	27	10	28	6	30	11	18	18
% age	16	24	8	25	5	26	9	16	16
Disagree	31	23	68	38	17	14	7	20	19
% age	27	20	60	33	15	12	6	17	17

The 89 (79.4%) respondents accepted that (St 13) "Nursing is a respected profession". (St15) "Nursing is a profession that requires

compassion and patience"94(83.9) respondents agreed with this statement. Only7 respondents (6.2%) disagreed with this statement.

Table 4. The results of career choice regarding nursing profession

Statement	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Agree	55	63	97	62	57	56	79
% age	49	56	86	55	51	50	70
Neutral	14	20	7	30	22	19	20
% age	13	18	18	26	20	16	18
Disagree	42	29	8	20	33	37	13
% age	38	26	7	18	29	33	11

It is about career choice shows that 97 (86%) respondents agreed that (St20) "Standard of any hospital depends on their quality of nursing care provided by nurses". And 8 (7.2%) respondents were not agreed with it.

Conclusion

The study concluded that majority of respondents had good awareness and nursing image, but they had some reluctance in selecting nursing as a career choice. The outcomes obtained from this study can be served as a

model for further research studies to encourage people to select the nursing profession as a best career option. The study shows that nurses should be involve in the awareness campaign regarding nursing profession awareness. So that, the youth have proper knowledge and image about nursing profession. Nurses should join the politics to improve the image of nursing profession and also show involvement in policies regarding nursing so that all the decisions are in the favor of nursing profession. Nurses need to take a leading role in variety of

organizations and make efforts to promote their profession, its image and selection as a career.

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