

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Higher Education among Nursing Students in Selected Nursing Colleges of Noida

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Abstract

Introduction: Education is an endless journey through knowledge and enlightenment. Higher Education among nurses has gained lot of interest over the past few decades. Obtaining higher education has long been an expectation for the ongoing professional development of the registered nurse. Aim of the study was to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding higher education among Nursing students in selected Nursing colleges of Noida. Objectives of the study were to assess knowledge of nursing students regarding higher education in nursing and to determine attitude of nursing students regarding higher education in nursing.

Method: A descriptive research design was used for the study. Sample size consist of 100 nursing students (B.Sc. nursing final year and GNM internship) by random sampling method. Data was collected by administering structured knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale. Data analysis was chalked out by employing descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: Result regarding Knowledge revealed that 27% of students have good knowledge, 68% have moderate and 5% have poor knowledge regarding higher education and Attitude score represents that 50.59% had favourable attitude and 41% had unfavourable attitude towards higher education.

Conclusion: According to this study the maximum number of samples (68%) have moderate knowledge regarding higher education and maximum number of samples (59%) have favourable attitude towards higher education.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitude, Higher Education, Nursing students

Introduction

Nursing is defined as “the unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health

or its recovery (or to a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge and to do this in such a way as to help him gain independence as rapidly as possible.” **According to Virginia Averal Henderson (1897-1996)¹**

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The ways in which nurses were educated during the 20th century is no longer adequate for dealing with the realities of health care in the 21st century. As patient needs and care environments have become more complex, nurses need to attain requisite competencies

to deliver high-quality care. Nurses also are being called upon to fill expanding roles and to master technological tools and information management systems while collaborating and coordinating care across teams of health professionals. To respond to these increasing demands, the changing times call for nurses to achieve higher levels of education and suggest that they be educated in new ways that better prepare them to meet the needs of the population.²

Nursing education focuses on educating health care people about effective ways to deliver the health care to patients. It educates nurses about how to administer different medicines, to examine patient and to deliver best services to patients. The aim of nursing education is a development of the nursing profession.³

A descriptive study was conducted by Linda Ng, and Dr Anthony Tuckett, et.al. by exploring registered nurses' attitude towards Post graduate education in Australia, while conducting this study 100 samples were taken in which 25 % of the respondents were interested in pursuing post-graduation in nursing while 17 % were not at all interested. Rest of the samples gave reasons like lack of availability of funds, problems at home, etc. The study also stated that a better nursing education infrastructure and certain relaxation criteria might help in attracting more nurses towards the prospect of higher education in nursing.⁴

A study conducted by Aris Y Fantis, revealed when a structured questionnaire was given to the respondents, it represented that 82.6% of nurses were interested in pursuing further education and 17 % of them were not at all interested in any form of education.⁵

An explanatory study was conducted by Pan SM on Hospital nurses' attitudes towards continuing education in Kaohsiung city, Taiwan. In these 674 randomly selected hospital nurses participated in which majority (92.65%) hold positive attitudes towards continuing education. The study also says

that to maintain nurses' positive attitude for those who hold negative attitudes, some strategies for continuing education should be considered by nursing administrators.⁶

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted by Mei Chan Chong, Karen Francis, et.al. on current continuing Professional education Practice among Malaysian nurses. This research was carried out to explore the current practice and future general needs for CPE. Cluster sampling technique was used to recruit 1000 nurses from four states of Malaysia. Only 80% of the nurses had engaged in CPE activities during the past 12 months. The study concluded that mandatory continuing professional education is a key measure to ensure that nurses upgrade their knowledge and skills.⁷

A study conducted by Tanya K. Aitmann, on Nurses attitudes towards continuing formal education. The main finding of this study was that, although nurses held positive attitudes overall. The findings suggest that work need to be done to improve nurses' attitudes toward continuing formal education.⁸

By unyielding so many reviews of literature, it was found that many literatures were available on knowledge and attitude regarding higher education but hardly any content was available in Indian context. So, this study aimed to assess the Knowledge and Attitude regarding Higher Education among Nursing Students in selected Nursing colleges of Noida.

Methodology

A non-experimental quantitative research approach with descriptive survey design was conducted in selected colleges of Greater Noida, 100 students selected by random sampling technique. Data was collected by administering structured knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale. Also, a demographic performa was collected which consisted of 8 items. Data collection procedure was carried out from 27 March to 29 March 2014. Data was analysed using

descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result

TABLE - 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of nursing students as per their demographic variables

Sample characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	Below 22 years	82	82%
	22-24 years	18	18%
Sex	Male	38	38%
	Female	62	62%
Religion	Hindu	68	68%
	Muslim	4	4%
	Christian	26	26%
	Others	2	2%
Education of Father	Primary	2	2%
	High school	19	19%
	Intermediate	29	29%
	Graduate	40	40%
	Post graduate	10	10%
Education of Mother	Illiterate	4	4%
	Primary	8	8%
	High school	31	31%
	Intermediate	22	22%
	Graduate	28	28%
	Post graduate	7	7%
Occupation of father	Government	34	34%
	Private	35	35%
	Business	27	27%
	Retired	4	4%
Occupation of Mother	Government	12	12%
	Private	12	12%
	Business	3	3%
	Housewife	73	73%
Family Income	Less than Rs 20,000 per month		
	Rs 21,000-40,000 per month	26	26%
	Rs 41,000-60,000 per month	41	41%
	Rs 61,000-80,000 per month	21	21%
	More than Rs 81,000 per month	12	12%

Table 1 Explains the demographic data in the study. It shows that majority of the students 82 (82%) belong to the age group below 22 years and 18 (18%) were between 22-24 years of age group and there were no samples above 24 years of age group.

Data regarding sex reveals that majority samples were female 62 (62%) and males were 38 (38%). Data regarding religion shows that 68 (68%) were Hindus, 4 (4%) were Muslims, 26 (26%) were Christians, and 2 (2%) were others.

Data regarding education of father shows that 2 (2%) had completed primary education, 19 (19%) were high school pass outs, 29 (29%) gained only intermediate education, 40 (40%) were graduates, 10 (10%) of the population were post graduates and there were no illiterates. Data regarding mother's education shows that there were 4 (4%) illiterates, 8 (8%) had gained their primary education, 31 (31%) were high school pass outs, 22 (22%) gained intermediate

education, 28 (28%) were graduates and 7 (7%) of the population were post graduates.

The data regarding the occupational status of the father reveals that 34 (34%) were government employees, 35 (35%) worked in private sector, 27 (27%) had their own business, and 4 (4%) were retired. Data pertaining to occupation of the mother shows that 12(12%) were government employees, 12 (12%) were working in private sector, 3 (3%) of the mothers were self-employed, maximum of the mothers 73 (73%) were housewife, and there were no retired mothers in the population sample.

The data regarding the family income shows that 26 (26%) were earning below Rs 20,000 per month, 41 (41%) were between Rs 21,000-40,000 per month, 21 (21%) income were between Rs 41,000-60,000 per month and 12 (12%) were earning more than Rs 60,000 per month.

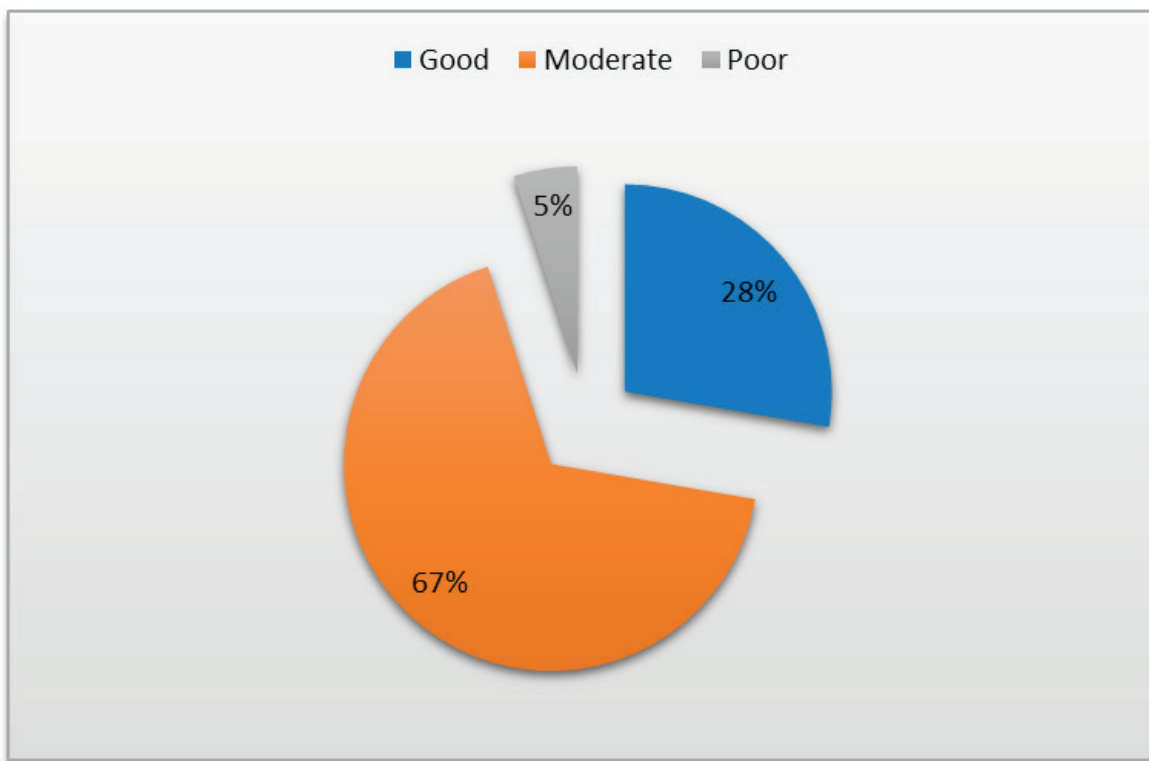
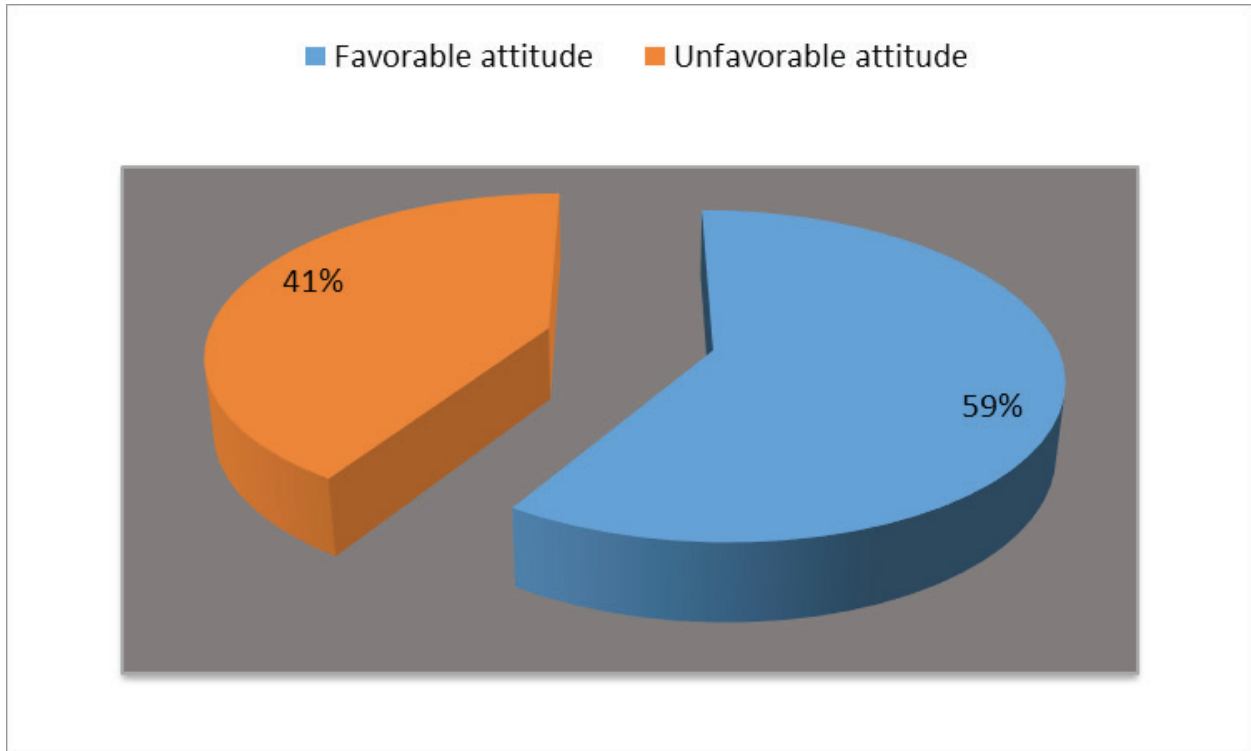


Figure 1: A pie diagram showing percentage distribution of knowledge scores of students.

Figure 1 shows the frequency and percentage of interpretation of knowledge scores which indicates that 27% students have good knowledge, 68% have

moderate knowledge and 5% have poor knowledge regarding higher education.

Figure 2. A pie diagram which shows percentage distribution of attitude of nursing students regarding higher education.



Data in Figure 2 shows that 59% of nursing students have favourable attitude towards higher education and 41% have unfavourable attitude towards higher education.

Discussion

The researchers in the study tested the knowledge and attitude of B.Sc nursing final year and GNM Internship students regarding higher education in nursing. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the students had moderate knowledge and favorable attitude towards higher education in nursing.

Implications

The present study can be helpful for staff development it would be beneficial for the enhancement of career development, job satisfaction, and encouragement for pursuing refresher courses or

diploma programmes to update knowledge and skills and also for advancement of nursing services. Nursing students must be encouraged and valued for their ability adapt to advancements in nursing education and also in health care delivery system. The nursing students should conduct more of research studies on the educational demands of nurses to update the various nursing educational opportunities on a regular basis. Even staff development programme for nursing personnel in clinical area is quite inadequate in the existing system. It is the administrator's responsibility to arrange in-service education programme and to provide equal opportunities to all nursing personnel for updating their knowledge and practice with current information and changing trends for providing quality

care.

Recommendations

More researches should be conducted on nursing students to validate and generalize the findings, study can also be conducted to determine the existing educational opportunities in various fields of nursing in India, comparative study can be done to ascertain knowledge and attitude of nurses regarding higher education in nursing. Even a similar study can be replicated using structured teaching programme regarding higher education in nursing.

Conclusion

On the basis of present study findings, the researcher found that 68% of nursing students were having moderate knowledge and 59% of nursing students have favourable attitude towards higher education, so more focus on in service programmes and continuing education should be given to increase the quality care to patients and standards of our profession.

Ethical Clearance- Taken from organization ethical committee

Source of Funding- Self

Conflict of Interest - Nil

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