Original Research Article

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Futuristic perception and carrier aspects of nursing profession among nursing students at Kalaburagi city, Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Background: The nursing profession is one of the important and integral parts of health care delivery system. Hence nursing profession is rated as one of the most trusted profession in the health care industry and also considered as one of the exiting and in demand profession. Our study aims to know the futuristic perception of young and dynamic students of nursing colleges across the Kalaburagi city. As nursing profession is a supporting pillar for the health care sector. It is very important to understand the significant social professional values and the urge and intense of our nursing students at this region and time.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study design was used to identify the nursing students' attitudes toward nursing profession. The study was carried out in 240 nursing students in different nursing colleges at Kalaburagi city. Results: Only 27.9% students had family members or relatives in the nursing profession. The reasons for joining nursing revealed 80.42% students were self motivated to perceive nursing as a carrier. Regarding perception 97.08% perceived nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity and 92.52% perceive nursing as a caring profession.

Conclusions: Though nursing is regarded as a caring, dignify and respectful profession still many don't want to work locally. More than half of the students were interested to work in abroad.

Keywords: Futuristic, Perception of nursing students

INTRODUCTION

The nursing profession is one of the important and integral part of health care delivery system. Health care system covers major aspects of health care delivery services particularly preventive, promotive and curative services. The nursing profession begin a part of our health system facilitates promoting healthy lifestyle to individuals and the families, preventing diseases by health education to the community and nursing profession, also provides curative health services to all the segments of the society. Hence nursing profession is rated as one of the most trusted profession in the health care industry and also considered as one of the exiting and in demand profession.

Shortage of nurses is a global challenge most of the countries in the world are facing shortage of nurses. The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession is vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the healthcare industry. The global causes of a shrinking professional nurse workforce, nursing students come into nursing education with inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into the nursing career. A small number of research studies that addressed the impact of nursing students' perceptions of the public image of nursing were found.²

According to WHO on International nurses day 12th May 2018 nurses and midwives represent nearly one-half of the total number of health workers around the world. However, for all countries to reach Sustainable 2 Development Goal 3 of health and well-being for all at all ages, WHO estimates that the world will need an additional 9 million nurses and midwives by 2030. 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.³

Nurses are two-thirds of health workforce in India. Role of nurses are evolving and changing. Apart from their central roles in health care delivery in terms of promotion, prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation, nurses can also contribute towards strengthening systems to work efficiently in interdisciplinary teams. There is a rising demand in terms of manpower for tertiary and quaternary care, which requires specialized and highly skilled resources including doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff, which is also emphasized in NHP 2017. The number of registered nurses/midwives has reached 17,91,285 in 2014.4 Although there is significant increase still there is gap between demand and supply. With regard to doctor nurse ratio, internationally it is 1:3 whereas, India is having 1:1. The country needs 2.4 million nurses to meet the growing demand.

Although nursing students' perception of nursing and carrier aspects were well investigated in many studies, this was less examined in our region, especially very little is known about Indian student nurses futuristic perception of nursing profession. Nursing students' perceptions of nursing might have an impact on their self-concept, self-esteem, recruitment, retention, and performance. Hence this study is undertaken with an aim to determine the futuristic perception and carrier aspects of nursing profession among nursing students.

METHODS

A descriptive cross-sectional study design was used to identify the nursing students' attitudes toward nursing profession. This study was carried out in the Nursing colleges of Kalaburagi city from October 2017 to March 2018. A non-probability convenience sample was used in the present study. The students enrolled in the nursing colleges of Kalaburagi city were invited to participate in the study. The pre-tested questionnaire was used, the purpose of the study was fully explained to the participants, data was collected after the participants' consents. 240 students participated and returned the questionnaires. The students were allocated in different academic years including the first, second, third, fourth and the internship. The other part of the questionnaire included other paramters related to socio-demographic characteristics subjects such as age group, marital status, and academic year. The data entered, tabulated and analyzed to test the significance of the study at (p<0.05).

RESULTS

The present study revealed that out of 240 nursing students 30 (12.5%) were less than or equal to age group of 18 and majority 210 (87.5%) were more than 18 years. In our study male nursing students were in majority 147 (61.3%) compared to female nursing students 93 (38.8%) and majority 168 (70%) were Hindus followed by 62 (25.83%) Muslims, 7 (2.9%) were Christians and 3(1.3%) belonged to other religions. The socio economic classification revealed that out of 240 nursing students majority 82 (34.17%) belonged to upper class, followed by 63 (26.25%) belonged to middle class, 48 (20%) belonged to upper middle class, 38 (15.83%) belonged to lower middle class and least 8 (3.75) belonged to lower class. Majority 97.1% were unmarried and 56.3% belonged to nuclear family. Majority 63.3% resided in urban area. The analysis of parents education and occupation revealed that 50% of the mothers were literate and only 15.42% of them were working, whereas 70% of the fathers were educated and majority 94.17% of them were working, but in that only one was in nursing profession.

Enquiry on any family member or relative in the nursing profession revealed that only 27.9% students family members or relatives were in nursing profession and majority 72.1% were not having their family members or relatives in nursing. The reasons that motivated the participants for joining the nursing revealed, there were several reasons to join nursing, but in particular a relatively high percentage 80.42% were self motivated to pursue nursing. 15.83% pursued nursing on advice of others and 3.75% joined nursing due to parent's interest.

Regarding perception of the students towards nursing profession revealed that 97.08% perceived nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity and is statistically significant (p<0.05). 92.52% perceived nursing as a caring profession and 92.08% felt that nursing is a mean for earning blessings. 89.58% perceived as an opportunity for personal growth, which are statistically significant. 80.83% as a way to have bright prospective in abroad, 76.25% perceived nursing as a way to enjoy economic security or a way to get better job opportunity. 90% as a way to get due recognition in society, 88.33% perceived nursing as a dignified and respectful profession. 51.25% perceived it actually equal to other professions. 44.58% felt it as an opportunity to get good marriage offers.

Future prospective of the students revealed that majority 56.25% had a plan to go abroad, followed by 20% would like to join nursing administration, 17.08% teaching institute and 6.67% had a desire to join bedside nursing. A majority 93.33% expressed a strong desire to go for higher education after graduation which is statistically significant (p<0.05).

Table 1: Distribution of study subjects according to their general characteristics.

Parameters 2	Frequency n=240)	Percentage
Age (years)	11=240)	(%)
	30	12.5
	210	87.5
Gender	210	07.5
	47	61.3
	93	38.8
Religion		30.0
	168	70.0
	52	25.8
Christian 7		2.9
Others 3	3	1.3
Socio economic status (B.G.	. Prasad class	
-	32	34.17
	18	20.00
-	53	26.25
Lower middle class 3	38	15.83
Lower class 8	3	3.75
Marital status		
Married 7	7	2.9
Unmarried 2	233	97.1
Type of family		
	135	56.3
Joint 1	105	43.8
Residence		
Rural 1	152	63.3
Urban 8	38	36.7
Any family member or rela profession	tive in nursin	g
-	57	27.9
No 1	173	72.1
Reason for joining nursing		
	193	80.42
Advice of others 3	38	15.83
Force by parents 9)	3.75
Mother's education		
Illiterate 1	120	50.00
Literate 1	20	50.00
Father's education		
Illiterate 7	72	30
Literate 1	168	70
Mothers occupation		
Housewife 2	202	84.17
Working 3	37	15.42
Father occupation		
_	12	17.50
Government 3	39	16.25
Non working 1	4	5.83
3	44	60.00
Nursing profession 1		0.42

Table 2: Students perceptions of nursing as a profession.

Students perceptions	No.	0/0	P value			
An opportunity to serve h			1 varae			
No	7	2.92	*p<0.05			
Yes	233	97.08	p voice			
An opportunity for personal growth						
No.	25	10.42	*p<0.05			
Yes	215	89.58	F			
A way to have bright prospects in abroad						
No	46	19.17				
Yes	194	80.83	p>0.05			
A way to enjoy economic	security	/ Better	1			
job opportunity						
No	57	23.75				
Yes	183	76.25	p>0.05			
Caring profession in	which	ethical				
standards of care is maintained						
No	18	7.50	p>0.05			
Yes	222	92.50				
A way to get due recognition in society						
No	24	10.00	p>0.05			
Yes	216	90.00				
A dignified and respectful profession						
No	28	11.67				
Yes	212	88.33	p>0.05			
A mean to earn blessings						
No	19	7.92				
Yes	221	92.08	p>0.05			
Actually equal to other professions						
No	117	48.75				
Yes	123	51.25	p>0.05			
An opportunity to get marriage offers						
No	133	55.42				
Yes	107	44.58	p>0.05			

^{*}P<0.05 is significant, P>0.05 is insignificant.

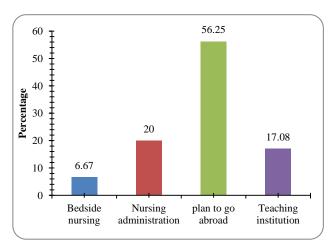


Figure 1: Bar diagram showing perception of nursing students after their graduation.

Table 3: Future prospective of nursing students after graduation.

After graduation or diploma plan to join	No.	%	P value
Bedside nursing	32	6.67	*p<0.05
Nursing administration	48	20.00	
plan to go abroad	135	56.25	
Teaching institution	41	17.08	
Plan for higher education	l		
No	16	6.67	*p<0.05
Yes	224	93.33	

DISCUSSION

In our study, out of 240 nursing students, majority 147 (61.3%) were male nursing students compared to female nursing students 93 (38.8%), Perceptions also differed by gender as revealed by Safadi et al which is different from other similar studies where female dominance is more, this we can observed in one of the study done by Lakhveer et al where majority of the nursing students were females 86%. 5,6 This may be due to the fact that in many parts of our country still male dominance is more compared to female. Majority 82 (34.17%) belonged to upper class. Majority 97.1% were unmarried and 56.3% belonged to nuclear family. The analysis of parents' education and occupation revealed that 50% of the mothers were literate and only 15.42% of the females were working were as 70% of the fathers were educated and majority of the males 94.17% were working, but in that only one was in nursing profession.

In our study only 27.9% students family members or relatives were in nursing profession and majority 72.1% were not having their family members or relatives in nursing and there were several reasons for joining nursing, but in particular a relatively high percentage 80.42% were self motivated to pursue nursing. 15.83% pursued nursing on advice of others and 3.75% joined nursing due to parents' interest. These findings are similar to a study done by Anurag et al where 83.2% of the respondents were self motivated on pursuing nursing as a carrier and only 44% of the students had any family member or relative in nursing profession.⁷

Regarding perception of the students towards nursing profession revealed that 97.08% perceived nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity and is statistically significant (p<0.05). 92.52% perceived nursing as a caring profession and 92.08% felt that nursing is a mean for earning blessings which is similar to study done by Eman et al, where majority of the respondents felt that nursing is a caring profession 84% and a humanitarian job 71%.89.58% as an opportunity for personal growth, which are statistically significant. 80.83% as a way to have bright prospective in abroad, 76.25% perceived nursing as a way to enjoy economic security or a way to get better job opportunity. 90% as a way to get due

recognition in society, 88.33% perceived nursing as a dignified and respectful profession. 51.25% perceived it actually equal to other professions. 44.58% felt it as an opportunity to get marriage offers which were similar to findings of Momin et al.⁹

In the present study majority 56.25% had a plan to go abroad, 20% were interested to join nursing administration, 17.08% teaching institute and 6.67% had a desire to join bedside nursing. A majority 93.33% expressed a strong desire to go for higher education after graduation which is statistically significant (p<0.05). This is similar to a study done by Swarna et al where more than half of the students were attracted to migrate to abroad. This may be due to lack of good employment opportunities, financial incentives, healthy and competent working areas and may be change in attitudes and aspirations of the students towards nursing in India making them to travel to developed countries for better future.

CONCLUSION

Nursing profession is a caring, dignify and respectful profession, our study revealed that, half of the nursing students after their nursing courses were willing to work overseas rather than locally, due to lack of opportunities and financial constraints in our country. To resolve such constraints government has to emphasize and widen the opportunities for the present and upcoming nursing students to avoid the shortfall of nurses in the health care system as well as to maintain the doctor and nurse ratio in proportion and also proportion between nurse with patients has to be maintained for providing better and quality health care in health system.

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Institutional Ethics Committee

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