



A comparative study to assess the perception of first year BSC nursing students and fourth year BSC nursing students towards nursing as a profession of a selected college of nursing, Mangalore

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Abstract

Introduction: Nursing is gaining recognition as a profession. The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession are vital in the successful recruitment. The nurses are the backbone of the health care sector and are fundamental in the delivery of the quality care for all the inhabitants of a country. Nursing students come into nursing education with a inherent lay beliefs of nursing that evolve over years of education, enabling them to be professionally socialized into the nursing carrier.

From the time immemorial the world nursing had been equated with care. It is the care domain which differentiates it from other health related professionals. Changing health needs on one hand and expanding knowledge on the other has made remarkable impact on nursing profession.

Perception is the way in which something regards understood or interpreted. It is important to as certain how student perceive nursing and the decision to choose nursing to be their career. Nursing is the care domain which differentiates it from other health related profession. With increasing job opportunities in the country and abroad along with increase in the nursing institutes, one can clearly appreciate the increase in the enrolment of nursing students. Nursing as a career choice is often perceived as a hard work from involving high pressure and stress. Therefore, perception plays a vital role in moulding the individual as a person and professional.

Objectives: To assess the perception of first year Bsc students towards nursing as a profession. To assess the perception of fourth year Bsc nursing student towards nursing as a profession. To compare the perception of first year Bsc and fourth year Bsc nursing students towards nursing as a profession.

Methodology: A Comparative survey approach is used for this study. This study was conducted in a selected college of nursing, Mangalore.

120 samples were selected by simple random sampling technique from first year and fourth year B. Sc nursing. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Result: The findings of the study showed that the mean perception of first year B. Sc nursing is 40.5- and fourth-year B. Sc nursing is 39.58. The mean scores were not statistically significant at 0.05 level of significance.

Conclusion: Findings of the study showed that there is no significant difference in perception of first year and fourth year B. Sc nursing students towards nursing as a profession.

Keywords: Nursing, nursing education, perception, profession

Introduction

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appreciate the increase in the enrolment of nursing students. Nursing as a career choice is often perceived as a hard work from involving high pressure and stress. Therefore, perception plays a vital role in moulding the individual as a person and professional ^[1].

A cross sectional comparative survey was conducted among first year and fourth year BSc nursing students of five conveniently selected colleges in Mohali, Punjab to compare the perception on nursing as a profession. A sample of 250 students was drawn through stratified random sampling technique. The results show that the mean perception score of fourth BSc nursing was 143.44+99.5. The difference was found to be statistically significant revealing perception of students improve over years of graduation ^[2].

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the perception of first year BSc nursing students towards nursing as a profession
2. To assess the perception of fourth year BSc nursing students towards nursing as a profession
3. To compare the perception of first year and fourth year BSc nursing students towards nursing as a profession.

Methodology

A Comparative survey approach is used for this study. This study was conducted in a selected college of nursing, Mangalore. 120 samples were selected by simple random sampling technique from first year and fourth year B. Sc nursing. The data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Research Approach

A comparative survey approach is used for this study. Considering the purpose of the study, i. e., to find out the perception of first year B. Sc, and fourth year B. sc nursing students towards nursing profession, a comparative approach was found to be the best method for this study.

Research Design

Research design is the overall plan for addressing a research question, including specification for enhancing the integrative of the study. A comparative survey design was adopted for this study.

Setting of the study

The study was conducted in a selected nursing college in Mangalore.

Population

Population of the study consisted of first year B.sc nursing and fourth year B.sc nursing students studying in a selected college.

Approximately 120 students were selected from the college.

Sample and Sampling technique

Sixty students from first year B. Sc nursing and 60 students from fourth year B. Sc nursing. Using simple random sampling technique 120 students were selected as the sample for the study.

Data collection method

A 5-point Likert scale was used to collect the data. Formal permission to conduct the study was obtained participant and confidentiality was assured. The tool was administrated to the participant and they were asked to fill up the tool. The time taken to complete the tool was 15-20 minute.

Results

This chapter deals with results of data collected from a sample of 120 nursing students (60 first year B.sc and 60 fourth year B.SC regarding perception towards nursing using a 5-point Likert scale.

Organization of findings

The data collected from first year and fourth year B.sc nursing students are organized, analyzed and presented under the following headings;

Section 1- Baseline proforma

Section 2- Comparison in perception of 1st year and 4th year B.sc nursing students

Section 1- Baseline perfoma

Sex of the sample

Data collected shows that in both the groups majority are females than males. In fourth year, B.sc nursing 100 % were females and in first year B.sc nursing 95% are females and 5% were males.

Religion of the sample

Data collected shows that majority are Christians. In fourth year B.sc nursing 70% were Christians and 30% Hindus. In first year B.sc nursing 80% are Christian, 16.6% were Hindu and 3.3% Muslim.

Type of family of the sample

Data shows that majority of them belongs to nuclear family. In first year B.sc nursing 93.3% of students belongs to nuclear family and 6.6% belongs to joint family. In fourth year B.sc nursing 83.3% belongs to nuclear family, 16.6% belongs to joint family.

Section 2- comparison in perception of 1st year and 4th year B.sc nursing students

In order to compare the perception of first year B.sc nursing and fourth year B.sc nursing students the following null hypothesis was formulated.

H⁰¹: There will be no significant difference between perception of first year B.sc nursing and fourth year B.sc nursing students at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 1: T test showing difference in perception of first year and fourth year B.sc nursing students.

N=60

Perception 't' value	Range	Mean	SD
First years 1.7	48-30	40.5	3.45
Fourth year	48-34	39.58	2.75

The data in table 1 shows that the obtained t value (1.7) is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is retained and research hypothesis is rejected. It can be inferred from the findings that there is no difference in perception in first- and fourth-year B. Sc nursing students.

Discussion

The findings of the study have been discussed with reference to the objectives and statistical findings of other studies. The present study findings support the findings of the qualitative study conducted to compare the professional identity and career aspiration of first year and fourth year nursing students. This study reveals that overall perception towards nursing as a profession remain consistent across the two groups.

Conclusion

The study has several implication for nursing practitioner, nursing educator, nursing administrator and nursing researcher. The nurse educator should give a good guidance and training in nursing to improve the student's perception towards the profession. The nursing profession has expected opportunity like nursing practitioner, nursing educator, nursing administrator, nursing researcher.

Limitations of the study

1. The study sample was confirmed only to first year and fourth year B.sc nursing students of one college of nursing at Mangalore.
2. Likert scale was prepared by the investigators.
3. Generalization of the finding is not possible.

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