

KNOWLEDGE PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF INTERMEDIATE LEVEL MALE AND FEMALE STUDENT TOWARD NURSING PROFESSION IN SWAT REGION

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Abstract

Abstract

Background: Nursing remains a vital component of healthcare delivery, yet many intermediate-level students have limited or inaccurate knowledge about the profession, its educational requirements, clinical responsibilities, career opportunities, and social value. This study aimed to assess the knowledge, perception, and attitude of intermediate-level male and female students toward the nursing profession in the Swat region.

Methods: A descriptive survey design was used. Data were collected through a structured, self-administered questionnaire covering demographic characteristics, knowledge of nursing, and attitudes toward nursing as a career. Out of 150 distributed questionnaires, 108 were returned, giving a response rate of 72%. The data were

analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages.

Results: Most respondents were female and aged between 16 and 20 years. The findings showed an overall positive perception of nursing. A large proportion of students agreed that nursing requires high clinical skill levels (87.1%), plays an important role in healthcare (85.8%), and involves critical patient monitoring (83.4%). Many respondents also recognized that nursing requires formal professional education (82.2%) and effective collaboration with physicians (81.4%). However, relatively lower agreement was observed regarding job security (58.2%), encouragement of others to choose nursing (58.3%), and nursing as a highly respected and valuable profession (60.8%). These findings indicate that while students generally admire nursing, concerns remain regarding career benefits, social recognition, and long-term professional attractiveness.

Conclusion: The study concludes that intermediate-level students in Swat generally hold favorable views about nursing, but misconceptions and concerns still influence career interest. Awareness campaigns, career counselling, and stronger public recognition of nurses are recommended to improve students' understanding and motivation toward nursing as a profession.

Chapter 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

Florence Nightingale not only created the first nursing school but also focused on training nurses for the nursing field. Because of her training model, nursing education spread around the world and helped improve the quality of nursing care. Today, nursing education in Saudi Arabia is being given a lot of attention to meet the standards set by nursing education in developed countries. This focus comes from the understanding that proper nursing education is essential for health services and plays a key role in improving health and quality of life. As a result, nursing is important in providing healthcare and in Saudi society, nursing is affected by and also shapes the values and cultural influences[1].

Fixing the way nurses feel about their job is very important when trying to understand why there's a shortage of nurses. This is because the way people feel about nursing can make it harder to attract students to nursing schools. Future nurses are the ones who will work in the healthcare system, and how they feel about their job shows how well they will take care of patients once they become qualified.[2] Many things have shaped how people see nursing, whether they are the public, nurses themselves, or those starting their nursing journey. The idea of nursing includes a lot of different thoughts and pictures. Some people think of white uniforms, nursing caps, needles, and bedpans, while others think of qualities like kindness, skill, compassion, and intelligence. Today, when nursing is not just limited to hospitals or communities, it's really important for nursing professionals and those who work with them to understand what nursing really means [3].

When someone grows, changes, and forms their views about a situation, their values are very important in shaping their attitude. Because of this, looking at the values and attitudes of intermediate students towards the nursing profession can help understand their world views. This, in turn, can show how successful and satisfied they will be in their future work as nurses, and help

improve and grow the nursing profession.[4] The nursing field is going through a lot of changes, especially when it comes to hiring new people and updating the education programs. The healthcare world has changed a lot, and nursing has also evolved, which makes students wonder what nursing really is. To bring in and keep smart, talented students interested in nursing, there needs to be changes in the courses they take before they start nursing school. These changes should help give a clear and correct understanding of what nursing actually involves.[5]

This study helps nurses understand how they see their own job and how others view the nursing profession. It's also important to foster a positive attitude among nurses and people from other fields towards the nursing profession.[6] Public and students who want to study nursing often have limited knowledge about the different levels of nursing practice and the education requirements needed. This lack of understanding can lead to shock and disappointment during their first few years of working as a nurse, which may cause some of them to leave the profession. Around the world, nursing students initially see nursing as a caring and helpful job that requires a lot of patience, experience, and practice. As they go through their studies, most students' views about nursing become more positive, and they start to see it as a humanitarian career. They believe that nursing helps shape their character and also helps them achieve a stable financial future. However, many students still feel that nursing is not respected or seen as a dignified profession by society [7]

So, understanding how advanced secondary school students see nursing is important because it can help bring more people into the profession. A good image of nursing needs to be created by both nurse education and the general public. People's attitudes, beliefs, and values are very personal and often based on what they think, not always on facts. What the public thinks about nursing has a big impact on how nursing is seen both by individuals and society as a whole. The role of gender in choosing a career is very important, especially since almost half of the possible new nurses could be men. If boys see male nurses being treated badly, they might not consider nursing as a career [8]. Therefore, understanding what students think about nursing is very important for attracting them to study the subject and for keeping nurses working in different healthcare environments [6]

In Iraq, female nurses are called "sisters," and male nurses are referred to as "almudamad," which means dresser or bandage dresser. This way of addressing nurses started before the middle of the twentieth century, when there was only a high school for nursing and midwives, who graduated from secondary school [9]. How nursing students feel about their profession is very important for their success and for making the nursing field better. Nursing is the biggest single profession in the health care field[10]. Student views about the nursing field can greatly influence their decisions to look for better chances to learn more about the profession. This is because choosing a career is one of the most important decisions students make, and it can have a big effect on how they see themselves and how they achieve their personal goals in life.[11].

1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- 2 To determined the knowledge of intermediate level student toward nursing profession.
- 3 To determined the attitude of intermediate level student toward nursing profession.

4 To determined perception of intermediate level student toward nursing profession.

4.1 RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the level of knowledge of intermediate level students regarding the nursing profession?

What is the attitude of intermediate level students toward the nursing profession?

What factors influence the attitude of intermediate level students toward choosing nursing as a profession?

4.2 RESEARCH HYOTHESIS:

Null Hypothesis:

There is no significant relationship between mother educational level and compliance with routine childhood immunization in saidu group of teaching hospital.

Alternative Hypothesis:

There is significant relationship between mother educational level and compliance with routine childhood immunization in saidu group of teaching hospital.

4.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Even though there is a big need for skilled nurses in the healthcare system, not enough students are joining nursing programs compared to what is needed nationally and globally. One reason for this is that many students, especially those at the intermediate level, don't have enough or correct information about what nursing involves, like the different roles, career growth, work conditions, and how respected the profession is.

SIGNIFICANE OF STUDY:

Even though there is a big need for skilled nurses in the healthcare system, not enough students are joining nursing programs compared to what is needed nationally and globally. One reason for this is that many students, especially those at the intermediate level, don't have enough or correct information about what nursing involves, like the different roles, career growth, work conditions, and how respected the profession is.

Many female students, in particular, have limited or wrong ideas about nursing jobs and what they offer.

Also, negative attitudes from society and a lack of proper career advice make students less interested in becoming nurses. This leads them to choose other careers instead. As a result, there is a nursing shortage, which can lower the quality of healthcare. So, it's important to check how much knowledge and what attitudes intermediate female students have about nursing.

4.4 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:

Knowledge:

Knowledge is refer to information and awareness that participant about the nursing profession.it will be measure using a structure questionnaire consisting of multiple choice question.

Attitude:

Attitude refer to participant feeling, Perception, and disposition toward the nursing profession it will be measure using 5 point likert scale.

CHAPTER -02

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Khatri and Singh did a study in 2020 about the knowledge and feelings towards the nursing profession among male students at the secondary level. A descriptive cross-sectional study was done using a multi-stage sampling method in June 2019. The data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. They used methods like frequency, percentage, mean, chi-square test, and Pearson's correlation coefficient. Their findings showed that out of 388 pollees, only 55.4% had adequate knowledge, and only 53.4% had a more positive attitude towards the nursing profession. A strong link was found between understanding of the nursing profession and two social and demographic factors: the student's grade and the number of family, friends, or relatives who are in the nursing field. [12]

Neumbe et al. (2023) examined the attitudes and perceptions of undergraduate nursing students regarding the nursing profession. This equal-status mixed methods study included a census sample of 165 nursing students, ranging from the first to the fourth year, from two public universities in Uganda. Attitude Scale for Nursing. The profession was used to collect quantitative data during the period between 20/11/2021 and 22/01/2022. Focus group discussions were conducted to gather qualitative data on perceptions. The findings indicate that the majority of students (81.8%) have a positive attitude towards the nursing profession. [13]

Mamata and Sangtia (2015) looked into the knowledge and attitude of senior secondary students towards nursing as a profession and their preference for choosing nursing as a career during the month of October 19th, 2012. The samples were taken from 100 Senior Secondary Students of Jasana Faridabad. The results show that 74% of the participants had good knowledge, 24% had average knowledge, and 2% had poor knowledge. 96% of the participants had a positive attitude, 4% had a neutral attitude, and 0% had a negative attitude. No strong link was found between knowledge and factors like age, gender, or other personal characteristics. No significant relationship was found between attitude and demographic variables. [14]

Rekisso and others in 2022 looked at how nurses feel about their job in the nursing field and what factors are connected to those feelings in some public hospitals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Descriptive, bi-variate, and multiple logistic regression analyses were done to look at how nurses' attitudes are connected. The study involved a total of 348 nurses, with a response rate of 97.5%. From this, 60.6% of the study participants were female nurses. Only 46% of nurses working in

public hospitals in Addis Ababa have a positive view of their job. Experienced nurses received good managerial support and had training related to ethics. 95% of them had a positive attitude towards the nursing profession. [15].

Ariful Islam and others (2020) conducted research on how collage students perceive nursing as a career option. This was a descriptive cross-sectional study involving 164 participants. A partly structured questionnaire was used to collect the data. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The study's results show that 58.2% of the respondents who would consider nursing as a respectful and honorable profession were female, with 62.2% being female and 37.8% being male. Out of which, 70.0% of the respondents believed that nursing is the only career option available for females.

[16].

Sawant and Siman Xavier (2018) studied to understand how secondary high school and junior college students from the Uttan community feel about the nursing profession. They looked into their attitudes and opinions regarding it. A total of 104 subjects were selected using non-probability purposive sampling. The results indicate that the majority of students, which is 76 students (73.07%), had a moderately favorable attitude towards the nursing profession. Additionally, 28 students (26.93%) had a favorable attitude, while none of the students had an unfavorable attitude towards nursing. [17]

Rossiter et al. work on Attitude of Hong Kong high school students towards the nursing profession. A convenience sample of 375 high school students was recruited. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to describe their career preferences and to compare knowledge, attitudes and intention scales between gender and nursing exposure groups. Results indicated that the students were generally knowledgeable about nursing but were reluctant to pursue nursing as a career. However, students who were socially acquainted with a nurse demonstrated a slightly more positive attitude towards nursing and slightly higher intention to pursue nursing as a career compared with those having no social acquaintance with a nurse. [18]

Glerean et al. (2017) examined young people's perceptions of the nursing profession, utilizing Whittemore and Knafl's method for conducting an integrative review. The quality of the selected articles was checked using tools from the Joanna Briggs Institute. The results show that young people talked about the nature of nursing work, including bad working conditions, shift work, and having little control over their jobs. Nursing work was primarily viewed as providing care and support to patients, and it was regarded as less important compared to the work of doctors. Young people did not recognize the educational requirements or career pathways in nursing and described the status of nursing as low in society. Nurses are seen as gentle and caring individuals who put in a lot of effort and are not typically thought of as highly intellectual. The factors that influenced the perception were family and relatives, friends, media, people who are important in their lives, and personal factors. [19].

CHAPTER - 03

Methods

Design

The study used a survey method with a questionnaire that was created specifically for the study. The questionnaire was created for this study to gather numerical data; it included questions about the knowledge and attitudes of female students at an intermediate level regarding the nursing profession. The sample used was a probability convenience sample to gather nursing students.

Ethical consideration

The approval was obtained from the affiliated institute, Nightingale College of Nursing, Swat. A self-administered questionnaire was given to five different secondary schools that were selected randomly in the Swat region. Participants were told that they could choose to take part or not, and their agreement was shown by finishing and sending in the questionnaire.

Study setting

This study took place in the Nightingale collage of nursing. The college is situated in Swat, which is a district in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. It provides a bachelor's degree in Nursing, LHV, CMW, and post RN. There are 550 students in total who are taking part in the various levels of the nursing program.

Data collection

Data was gathered from February to March in the year 2026. Out of the 300 questionnaires that were given out, 215 were completed and sent back, which means the response rate was 71.6%. The study used a questionnaire with 13 questions that asked about the participants' basic information and their opinions. The first part of the questionnaire was designed to find out about the respondents' socio-demographic background and to collect information that would help describe the sample. The statements about attitudes came from many different sources, including books and real-life experiences.

Statistical analysis

Demographic information and answers to the questionnaire questions were brought into the statistical software and looked at carefully. Data were collected and summarized using descriptive statistics with IBM-SPSS Version 22. Descriptive statistics like frequency counts, percentages, and average values were calculated. The findings from the analysis are explained in the sections that follow.

The study population comprised intermediate level male and female students enrolled in selected colleges. These students were studying in FSc or equivalent intermediate programs during the time of data collection.

3.4 Duration of Study:

The total duration of the study will be 5 months.

3.5 Sampling Technique:

Convenience sampling technique will be used.

3.6 Sample Size:

Total study population comprises 1400 students from a secondary school. The parameters of confidence level 95% and margin of error 5%. The calculated sample size is 302 according to WHO online calculator.

3.7 Target Population:**3.8 Inclusion Criteria:**

1. Student enrolled in selected school.
2. Student currently studying in grade 11th to 12th.
3. Student who are willing to participate and provide informed consent.

3.9 Exclusion Criteria:

1. Student who absent during data collection.
2. Student who submit incomplete or invalid questionnaire.

3.10 Study Tool:

Data was gathered through a structured, self-filled questionnaire created by the researcher, which was based on existing literature. The questionnaire had three parts:

Section A: Information about the participants' background.

Section B: Questions about their knowledge of the nursing profession.

Section C: Statements about their attitudes, measured using a Likert scale.

3.11 Data Collection Procedure:

After receiving approval from the school principals, the researcher will contact the selected schools to arrange data collection days. The purpose of the study will be explained to the students, and verbal informed consent will be obtained.

A structured, self-administered questionnaire will be distributed to eligible students in their classrooms.

The researcher will be present to provide clarification and ensure proper completion of the questionnaire. Each participant will be given 20–30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Once completed, the questionnaires will be collected immediately to prevent data loss. Confidentiality and anonymity will be strictly maintained throughout the process.

CHAPTER 4

RESULT:

108 of the 150 questionnaires that were sent out to five different colleges and schools were returned, yielding a 72% response rate. Among those who took part .Most of the students were between the ages of 16 and 20. About 79.6% of them were female, and 17.6% were male. The majority of the students were unmarried. Nearly 100% of the students belonged to the Muslim religion, and all of them came from joint families. Most of the students come from rural residency areas, and 75% of them learned about nursing as a career from print media like books and newspapers.

Results Chapter Tables

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Sample (N = 108)

Demographic Variable	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Female	86	79.6
Male	19	17.6
Other / Not Specified	3	2.8
Total	108	100.0

Table 2: Comprehensive Analysis of Survey Responses (N = 108)

No.	Survey Statement	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D/SD (%)	Total Agreement (%)
1	Nursing requires formal professional education	32.7	49.5	13.1	4.7	82.2
2	Nurses play a critical role in patient monitoring	51.9	31.5	9.3	7.3	83.4
3	Nursing involves health promotion and prevention	31.1	36.8	19.8	12.3	67.9
4	Nurses can specialize in clinical fields	25.2	41.1	22.4	11.3	66.3

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5	Nursing requires continuous professional development	47.7	27.1	18.7	6.5	74.8
6	Ethical principles are essential in nursing practice	27.1	48.6	11.2	13.1	75.7
7	Nurses collaborate effectively with physicians	33.3	48.1	13.0	5.6	81.4
8	Nursing requires high clinical skill levels	56.5	30.6	7.4	5.5	87.1
9	Nurses contribute equally to healthcare as physicians	38.9	36.1	4.6	20.4	75.0
10	Nursing is a socially respected profession	37.0	36.1	10.2	16.7	73.1
11	Nursing plays an important role in healthcare	61.0	24.8	9.5	4.7	85.8
12	Nursing is a respected and valuable profession	26.2	34.6	26.2	13.0	60.8
13	Nursing provides opportunities	19.8	46.2	17.0	17.0	66.0

	for career growth					
14	Nursing offers a high degree of job security	29.1	29.1	10.7	31.1	58.2
15	I would encourage others to choose nursing	21.3	37.0	22.2	19.5	58.3
16	I would consider nursing as a future career	29.8	36.5	21.2	12.5	66.3
17	Nursing is a profession I admire and respect	40.7	39.8	12.1	7.4	80.5

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Discussion

This study was conducted to understand how people perceive the nursing profession. The results show that most participants have a positive view about nursing. In this study, a large number of participants (87.1%) agreed that nursing requires high clinical skills. This shows that people understand that nursing is not an easy job and needs proper training and knowledge. Also, 85.8% of participants agreed that nursing plays an important role in healthcare, which means most people recognize the importance of nurses in hospitals and patient care.

Moreover, 83.4% of respondents believed that nurses play a critical role in patient monitoring. This is important because nurses are the ones who stay close to patients and observe their condition regularly. Around 81.4% also agreed that nurses work well with doctors, which shows that teamwork in healthcare is well recognized.

However, some results show concerns. Only 58.2% of participants agreed that nursing provides good job security. Similarly, 58.3% said they would encourage others to choose nursing as a career. This means that even though people respect nursing, they may have doubts about its future benefits or working conditions.

Another important point is that 80.5% of participants said they admire the nursing profession, but only 60.8% agreed that it is a highly respected profession. This shows a gap between personal respect and how society generally views nursing.

Overall, the study shows that nursing is seen as an important and skilled profession, but there are still some issues related to job security, career growth, and social respect.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study found that most participants have a positive perception of the nursing profession. They believe that nursing is important, requires skills, and plays a major role in healthcare.

At the same time, there are some concerns about job security and career opportunities. These factors may affect people's interest in choosing nursing as a profession.

So, it can be said that nursing is respected and valued, but more improvements are needed to make it more attractive as a career.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Increase Awareness

There should be more awareness programs to inform people about the importance of nursing.

2. Improve Career Growth

Hospitals and organizations should provide better career opportunities and promotions for nurses.

3. Better Job Security

Steps should be taken to improve job security and benefits for nurses.

4. Enhance Respect for Nurses

Society should give more respect and recognition to the nursing profession.

5. Encourage Students

Students should be guided and motivated to choose nursing as a career.

6. Further Studies

More research should be done to understand the challenges faced by nurses.

CHAPTER – 06

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