

'Perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing Profession.'



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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted with the objective to assess the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession and to determine their association with the selected demographic variables. Quantitative non-experimental descriptive design was used for this study. Convenient sampling technique was used and 100 samples were selected. A questionnaire was designed and the association between socio-demographic profiles and perceptions of healthcare professionals was assessed using statistical inferences. Four-point Likert scale was used to assess the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession. The collected data was transferred into master sheet, scoring given according participants respond, then data was summarized in various tables according to objectives. Data was analyzed by descriptive & inferential statistics. In this study majority of 65% of the healthcare professionals had average perception (score 51-75) and 35% of them had good perception (score 76-100) towards nursing profession. Since p-value corresponding to all the demographic variables were large (greater than 0.05), none of the demographic variable was found to have significant association with the perception of

healthcare professionals towards nursing profession.

KEYWORDS

assessment, perceptions, healthcare, professionals, nursing, profession.

INTRODUCTION

The perception of nurses being not as professional as the other professions should be highly fought by all members of the profession with the aim of establishing professional uniqueness.¹ Healthcare organizations could not exist without nurses to care for their patients.² The profession demands responsibilities than the past when the principle of a nurse was just to provide care and comfort. Today a nurse is a client advocate, educator, counselor, researcher and manager.

The profession has long suffered from public stereotyping. The time has never been better for nurses to reach out to the public to change certain perceptions about nursing.

BACKGROUND

A study conducted to explore the perception of patients and other health care professionals about nurses. Results showed that 68% of patients and 58% of doctors perceived that nurses were competent. About 75% of patients and 54% of doctors agreed that the nurses had adequate skills. Patients (70%) and doctors (49%) agreed that the nurses had a positive attitude towards work. About 74% of patients and 59% of doctors agreed to

the fact that the nurses maintained a professional demeanor. Findings also showed that patients rated the nurses higher than the doctors did. A significant difference was found between the perception of patients and doctors about the communication skills of nurses ($t = 2.423$; $df = 198$; $p = 0.016$). It was concluded that the study shows relative satisfaction with the quality of nurse's work, perceptions of people about their attitudes and behaviors. Nurses could improve on how they relate with other health care providers to achieve positive patient care outcomes.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

This research on the perceptions about nursing profession is valuable because understanding them will give the researcher knowledge that can bridge a potential gap the various perceptions towards nursing. Nursing faculty as well as the healthcare professionals may incorporate this knowledge into presentations, group discussions and clinical experiences to bring about a change in understanding the differences between stereotypes and the reality of nursing profession.

Researcher has identified a number of negative societal perceptions of nursing related to gendered stereotyping, subordination to doctors, low academic standards, limited career opportunities and poor pay conditions and importantly how these perceptions may affect levels of recruitment into nursing.

To improve nurses' social image is to intervene in the social image of nursing that exists in the general public and other professionals.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Assessment of the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession in selected hospitals.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession in selected hospitals.
2. To find the association between the study findings and selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Quantitative non-experimental univariant descriptive exploratory research design.

Non probability convenient sampling technique was used to select participants ($n=100$).

Healthcare professionals that is physicians, lab technicians, pharmacists, physiotherapists and dietitians were chosen from selected hospitals. Semi structured questionnaire was developed for demographic data and Four-point Likert Scale for assessment of the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession. Validity was done by 15 experts.

RESULT

Table: Frequency and percentage distribution of demographic variables of healthcare professionals

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES		f	%
Age	20 -30 years	53	53%
	30 -40 years	35	35%
	40 -50 years	8	8%
	50 years & above	4	4%
Gender	Male	48	48%
	Female	52	52%
Designation	Physician	14	14%
	Pharmacist	20	20%
	Lab technician	22	22%
	Physiotherapist	24	24%
Total Professional experience	Dietitian	20	20%
	Up to 2 years	18	18%
	2 - 4 years	14	14%
	4 - 6 years	15	15%
	6 - 8 years	20	20%
	8 - 10 years	7	7%
	10 years & above	26	26%

Table: Perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession (N=100)

Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Poor (Score 25 - 50)	0	0%
Average (Score 51 - 75)	65	65%
Good (Score 76 - 100)	35	35%

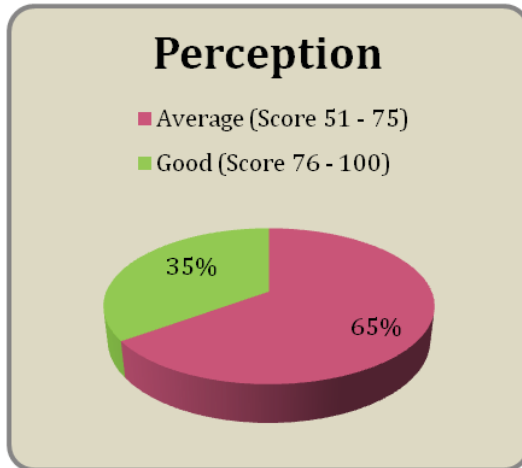


Table shows that 53% of the healthcare professionals had age 20-30 years, 35% of them had age 30-40 year, 8% of them had age 40-50 years and 4% of them had age above 50 years.

Gender distribution included 48% of them were males and 52% of them were females. Designation shows that 14% of them were physicians, 20% of them were pharmacists, 22% of them were lab technicians, 24% of them were physiotherapists and 20% of them were dieticians.

18% of them had upto 2 years of experience, 14% of them had 2-4 years of experience, 15% of them had 4-6 years of experience, 20% of them had 6-8 years of experience, 7% of them had 8-10 years of experience and 26% of them had more than 10 years of experience.

Later Table and Figure shows that Majority of 65% of the healthcare professionals had average perception (score 51-75) and 35% of them had good perception (score 76-100) towards nursing profession.

Association between the perceptions of healthcare professionals towards nursing profession and selected demographic variables was assessed using Fisher's exact test.

- There is no significant association between the perceptions and age of healthcare professionals at 5% level of significant as p-value is 0.123 (greater than 0.05).
- P-value of perceptions and gender of healthcare professionals is 0.677 (greater than 0.05), which reveals that there is no significant association between at 5% level of significant.
- There is no significant association between the perceptions and designation of healthcare professionals at 5% level of significant as p-value is 0.242 (greater than 0.05).
- There is no significant association between the perceptions and total professional experience of healthcare professionals at 5% level of significant as p-value is 0.305 (greater than 0.05).

CONCLUSION

Continued research in this area could be helpful to determine and provide enough evidence of the need to change the public's perception of the nursing profession. Outdated images need to change to ensure the health and safety of the public. We speculate that this will not only improve working conditions for all healthcare workers, but will attract men, minorities and those contemplating nursing to join in improving healthcare within and beyond the nation.

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