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## Factors Affecting The Perceptions Of Trainee Nurses Towards Quality Improvement In Nursing Profession

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### Abstract

Nursing, a healthcare profession, plays a crucial role in promoting health, preventing illness and caring for individuals of all ages. It is indispensable to the healthcare system, touching the lives of individuals, families and communities across the lifespan. Nurses embody compassion, expertise and resilience, making invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of people in the society. Trainee nurses are the upcoming contributors to the nursing workforce and their perceptions towards the profession depict the quality of care they are going to offer to patients, if once they acquire the qualification in nursing and join the Health care services. Quality improvement in nursing profession is the need of the hour. This is possible only when the nurses develop positive attitude and right perceptions towards nursing profession during their training in a nursing school or college. The present investigation is an attempt to explore the factors that influence the perceptions of trainee nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession. The researchers used a well developed questionnaire on different aspects of nursing profession as the research tool to collect data from a sample of 600 trainee nurses studying in 30 nursing schools/colleges located in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh using Stratified Random Sampling technique. The data were analyzed using different statistical measures such as mean score values, standard deviations, t-tests and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The findings of the study revealed that Location of the institution, Parental income and Religion have no influence on the perceptions of trainee nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession. The study suggested that the prospective nurses need to be motivated to work with commitment in the profession to improve quality in nursing profession.

**Keywords:** Perceptions, Trainee nurses, Quality improvement, Healthcare Services.

### Introduction

Nursing is a healthcare profession that focuses on the care of individuals and their families in order to make them recover from illness and maintain optimal health and quality of life. It involves independent, co-operative, person-centered care for all people. It encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities,

sick or well and in all settings. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management and education are also key nursing roles. Within the total health care environment, nurses share with other health professionals and those in other sectors of public service the functions of planning, implementation and evaluation to ensure the adequacy of the health system for promoting health, preventing illness and caring for all individuals, including those who are disabled or are physically or mentally ill **(Smith Yolanda, 2019)**.

The aim of nursing community is to ensure quality care for all, while maintaining their credentials, code of ethics, standards and competencies; and continuing their education. Nurses are distinct from other healthcare providers by their approach to patient care, training and scope of practice. Nurses practice in many specialties with differing levels of prescription authority. They comprise the largest component of most healthcare environments **(Nazneen Maymoun & M. Sadiq Sohail, 2020; Fort, A. L. et al., 2017)**. They care for individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds in a holistic manner based on the individual's physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs. The profession combines physical science, social science, nursing theory and technology in caring for those individuals. Nurses, with a view to improve quality of life of people, develop a plan of care, working collaboratively with physicians, therapists, the patient, the patient's family and other team members that focus on treating the sick.

### **THE CONCEPT OF 'NURSING'**

According to International Council of Nurses, "Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well, and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles.

In the words of **Virginia Avenel Henderson (2009)**, "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 peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge'.

Nurses are not assistants to doctors. This is possible in certain situations, but nurses more often are independently caring for their patients or assisting other nurses **(Ameritech College of Nurse Care, 2015)**. Nurses help doctors perform diagnostic tests. Nurses are almost always working on their own or with other nurses. However, they also assist doctors in the emergency room or in trauma care when help is needed.

### **ROLE OF NURSES IN THE PROFESSION**

As a profession, nursing has several ethical principles that the nurses are expected to follow in their job life.

1. **Patient Care and Advocacy:** Nurses are at the forefront of patient care, providing essential support, monitoring and assistance. They are often the first point of contact for patients and their families, providing comfort, education and emotional support.
  2. **Health Promotion and Education:** Nurses play a crucial role in educating patients about their health conditions, treatment plans, and preventive measures. They empower individuals and communities to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.
  3. **Co-ordination of Care:** Nurses collaborate with other healthcare professionals to ensure holistic and coordinated care for patients. They act as liaisons between patients, families, and multidisciplinary healthcare teams, facilitating communication and continuity of care.
  4. **Advocacy and Social Justice:** Nurses advocate for the rights and needs of patients, promoting equitable access to healthcare and addressing social determinants of health. They strive to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.
  5. **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Nurses are trained to assess complex situations, identify priorities, and make quick decisions in high-pressure environments. Their critical thinking skills are essential for effective problem-solving and optimal patient outcomes.
  6. **Research and Innovation:** Nurses contribute to evidence-based practice through research, quality improvement initiatives, and innovation. They continuously seek ways to enhance patient care, improve healthcare delivery, and advance the nursing profession.
  7. **Emotional Support and Comfort:** Nurses provide emotional support and compassionate care to patients and their families during times of illness, injury, and distress. Their empathy and understanding help alleviate anxiety and promote healing.
  8. **Public Health and Disease Prevention:** Nurses engage in public health initiatives, such as immunization campaigns, health screenings, and community outreach programs. They play a vital role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting healthy behaviors.
- (i) **Continuing Education and Professional Development:** Nursing is a dynamic profession that requires lifelong learning and ongoing professional development. Nurses participate in continuing education programs to stay updated on best practices, emerging technologies, and advancements in healthcare.
  - (ii) **Global Impact:** Nurses make significant contributions to global health initiatives, humanitarian aid efforts, and disaster response activities. Their skills and expertise are instrumental in addressing global health challenges and promoting health equity worldwide.

In accordance with these principles, nurses are able to care for patients in the best way

possible to promote positive health outcomes. Nurses embody compassion, expertise; and resilience, making invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of society.

### **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN NURSING PROFESSION**

'Quality' is defined by the National Academy of Medicine as the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge. **(JennaOgilvie,2021).**

Quality improvement is the framework used to improve the health care services systematically. Quality improvement seeks to standardize processes and structure to reduce variation, achieve predictable results, and improve outcomes for patients, healthcare systems and organizations. Structures include things like technology, culture, leadership and physical capital; processes include knowledge capital (e.g., standard operating procedures) or human capital (e.g., education and training). Nurses are health professionals who are the corner stones of the health care system in the country. Nursing is an integral part of the health care delivery system and share responsibilities in collaboration with other allied health professions for the attainment of optimal health for all members of the society. This ultimately helps to improve quality in health care services.

### **NEED FOR THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION**

Nursing is a noble profession that requires the total commitment of a nurse to provide comprehensive care to the suffering humanity. Perceptions of Trainee nurses towards nursing profession play a significant role in their job life. Nursing is a highly skilled profession that involves a caring and nurturing attitude on the part of the nurses towards the suffering. Nurses are often referred to as "angels", who have a dedication to a noble cause and this dedication is viewed as sufficient reward for them to undertake the task. The nurses should possess a positive attitude and right perceptions towards the profession right from their joining as students in nursing schools or colleges. Hence, it is proposed to study the perceptions of trainee nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of the present study is to find out the perceptions of trainee nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

The study also aims at finding out the influence of certain factors, viz., Location of the institution, Parental income and religion on the perceptions of trainee nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

The following hypotheses have been formulated for the present investigation:

- (i) There is no significant difference in the perceptions of trainee nurses working in rural and urban institutions towards quality improvement in nursing profession.
- (ii) There is no significant difference in the perceptions of Trainee Nurses whose parental

income is below Rs.2 lakhs and those with Rs.2 lakhs and above towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

- (iii) There is no significant difference in the perceptions of Trainee Nurses belonging to Hindu, Christian and Muslim religions towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

### **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study is limited to find out the influence of Location of the institution, Parental income and Religion on the perceptions of Trainee Nurses towards quality improvement in nursing profession .Further, the study is confined to 600 Trainee Nurses from 30 nursing schools located in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.

### **METHODOLOGY**

- (a) **Method of Research:** Since the present study involves collecting data from the respondents with the help of survey, the investigators used Descriptive survey method for the present investigation.
- (b) **Sample:** Out of the various methods used for drawing the sample, the investigator preferred 'Stratified Random Sampling' method for the present investigation, as no significant group is left unrepresented in this method. The sample of the study consists of 600 Trainee Nurses selected from 30 nursing schools located in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh using Stratified Random Sampling technique.
- (c) **Research Tool:** Out of different tools available for collection of data from the respondents in survey type of research, the questionnaire is felt a better tool. Hence, the researchers used a well developed and standardized questionnaire consisting of 30 items as the tool of research for collection of data for the present investigation.
- (d) **Administration of the Tool**

The tool was initially administered to 60 Trainee Nurses (15 Male and 45 Female) under Pilot study. The measures of reliability, validity and objectivity of the tool have been calculated. Further, the researchers conducted item analysis for the items included in the tool. Out of 34 items selected for the tool, the discriminating power of 30 items has been found positive and is negative in respect of 4 items. The items whose discriminating power is negative have been removed; and the final tool consists of 30 items, which are foolproof in all respects. The final standardized tool has been administered to 600 Trainee Nurses (140 Male and 460 Female) working in 15 Nursing Schools located in the Rural as well as Urban areas in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.

After quantification, the researchers used descriptive statistical techniques for analysis of data.

### **Table showing t-ratios/F-values of different variables relating to the Perceptions of Trainee Nurses towards Nursing Profession**

S.No.	Variable		N	Mean	S.D.	t-ratio/ F-value	Result
1	Location of the Institution	Rural	360	137.61	33.44	1.53*	*Not Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels
		Urban	240	133.33	33.39		
2	Parental income	Below Rs.2 lakhs	260	132.65	35.54	1.80*	*Not Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels
		Rs.2 lakhs & above	340	137.79	33.30		
3	Religion	Hindu	170	132.74	32.86	0.23*	*Not Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels
		Christian	380	137.39	33.59		
		Muslim	50	124.50	32.56		

### FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of data, the researchers have arrived at the following findings and drawn the conclusions.

1. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of Trainee Nurses from rural and urban areas towards quality improvement in nursing profession.
2. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of Trainee Nurses whose parental income is below Rs.2 lakhs and those with Rs.2 lakhs and above towards quality improvement in nursing profession.
3. There is no significant difference in the perceptions of Trainee Nurses belonging to Hindu, Christian and Muslim religions towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

### CONCLUSIONS

From the findings of the study, it is concluded that the Location of the institution, Parental income and Religion of Trainee Nurses have no influence on their perceptions towards quality improvement in nursing profession.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- (i) The present study helps to make the trainee nurses understand the importance of nursing profession to serve humanity.
- (ii) The opinions expressed by trainee nurses towards nursing profession provide inspiration for the new entrants into the profession.
- (iii) The present study makes the trainee nurses develop right perceptions towards Nursing Profession.
- (iv) The study helps to motivate the prospective nurses to work with commitment and dedication to improve quality in nursing profession.
- (v) The study helps to make the managements of nursing schools/colleges realize the

need for providing congenial environment for the trainee nurses in the institution.

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