

# Knowledge and Attitude of Secondary School Students towards Nursing Profession

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nursing is the oldest of the art and the youngest of the professions. It requires loving heart & deserve for compassionate care. During the mid-nineteenth century, Florence Nightingale began the reformation of Nursing from an occupation to a profession. Nursing is a largest health care profession with 2.6 million registered nurses and many more needed in the future. It is one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge, skills & values Nurses are the

largest single component of any hospital and they deliver most of the nation's health care system (Hatamleh & Sorio, 2017).

Nursing is a one of the noblest professions. The responsibilities and duties of the nurses are diverse and the work of a nurse depends on the qualification's skills and situations. Nursing is a profession that combines physical science, social science, nursing theory and technology, in the care of others many years ago nursing was seeming to have numerous career advantages. These include that there is a large demand for nurses nationwide, many job opportunities, various nursing career choices, good benefits, many choices both in terms of specialty of specialty areas and opportunities for advancement(Thongpriwan et al., 2015).

The traditional image of nurses is referred to as caring, compassionate and nurturing. Nurses, on one hand are responsible for the provision of safe and competent care to the individuals, families, and communities while on the other hand nurses perform their role as leaders and managers to ensure smooth running of the health care system. Moreover, nursing as a profession is currently viewed as promising by the society as it offers job security, mobility and a rewarding career path (Gulzar et al., 2016).

According to figures cited by the *Journal of Pioneering Medical Sciences* in 2013, the existing nurse-patient ratio in Pakistan is approximately 1:50 whereas the ratio prescribed by the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) is 1:10 in general areas and 2:1 in specialized areas. Moreover, the existing nurses are also distributed unevenly across provinces with Sindh facing the severest shortage of nursing staff while Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has the most nurses. Currently, Pakistan has 162 registered nursing colleges with over 50 students enrolled in each of them annually (Nizar & Chagani, 2016).

Researchers have revealed a number of negative societal perceptions of nursing related to gender stereotyping,

subordination to doctors, low academic standards, limited career opportunities and poor pay and conditions, and importantly how these perceptions may affect levels of recruitment into nursing. Focusing specifically on nurses, research has also considered the extent to which these societal perceptions are realities in their workplaces, and the direct experiences that contribute to attrition from both nursing courses and jobs. These factors are closely related to negative knowledge and attitude of students towards nursing profession. Most of the students does not choose this profession as their career (Gebrezgabher & Abera, 2017).

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Many studies worldwide reported that interest in nursing as a career is low. So, it is investigated that nursing is less popular and low status profession. Hence there is great need to assess the level of knowledge and attitude towards nursing as a Profession and their Preference for Nursing as a career among secondary school students. The present study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of secondary school students towards nursing profession. If the students possess a adequate knowledge and favourable attitude towards nursing, then the students would be attracted towards nursing profession (Devi & Devi, 2015).

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courses and jobs. These factors are closely related to negative knowledge and attitude of students towards nursing profession. Most of the students does not choose this profession as their career (Gebrezgabher & Abera, 2017).

A study conducted to determine the knowledge, attitudes, and intention among the high school students towards the nursing profession. Results of this study indicated that the more knowledge and positive attitude on nursing, the more likely the student would be attracted to the nursing profession. Accordingly, it could be concluded that decision-makers need to increase the positive attitude on the nature and encouraging characteristics of modern nursing and its increasing respect as a skilful career for high school students. Reconsideration of salaries and benefits were recommended in order to attract more students to the nursing profession (Gebrezgabher & Abera, 2017).

Another study conducted to see the level of knowledge of students on nursing and its relationship to their intention to study nursing and become a nurse. The results revealed that a large majority of the participants showed high level of knowledge on nursing profession. This is reinforced by having nurse relatives, about 49.6%, which served as their major source of information about nursing. Furthermore, this study revealed that despite the high level of knowledge, there was no significant relationship with job preference and intention towards the nursing profession. This implies that level of knowledge does not influence their intention and preference towards nursing as a career. However, research findings reported that having more knowledge about nursing would probably result in more students getting attracted to and choosing nursing as their job. This further suggests that students from different educational levels have varied viewpoints about the nursing profession (Hatamleh & Sorio, 2017).

Moreover, a research conducted to assess the knowledge and perception of secondary students towards nursing profession. Findings of this study revealed that there was a general positive perception towards Nursing as a career as majority of the respondents were of the view that nurses play important role in preventing disease in the community. Also, nurses were viewed as respected and valued by society by more than two-thirds of the study population. Although, more than half of the respondents held positive perception towards nursing as a career choice for men, it was the view of majority of respondents that nursing was more appropriate for females because they are more caring and less than half of the students surveyed agreed that they would encourage a male family member to become a nurse and majority of the respondents agreed that all male nurses are gay. In conclusion, there is a need for secondary students to be aware of what nursing as a profession entails and that gender is not a determining factor of being a better nurse (Folami).

### **3. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The perception that nursing is becoming less popular as a career choice amongst school leavers required further investigation. Improving the complement of nurses in the country is crucial to improving quality of care. Only by investigating the multitude of factors that influence school leavers in their career choices can attempts be made to attract more nurses into the profession. Some of these factors may be unique to the country while others may reflect wider international trends. However, once they are identified, targeted efforts can be made to change the attitudes and perceptions and so recruit more school leavers into the nursing profession. There is also a need to improve the image of nurses in the society to attract a greater number of students into this noble profession. Counselling and introduction to nursing course should be introduced by all the universities, to develop positive attitudes towards nursing profession (Devi & Devi, 2015).

### **4. OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the study is:

1. To assess the knowledge and attitude of secondary students towards nursing profession.

### **5. RESEARCH QUESTION**

What is the knowledge of secondary school students towards nursing profession?

What is the attitude of secondary school students towards nursing profession?

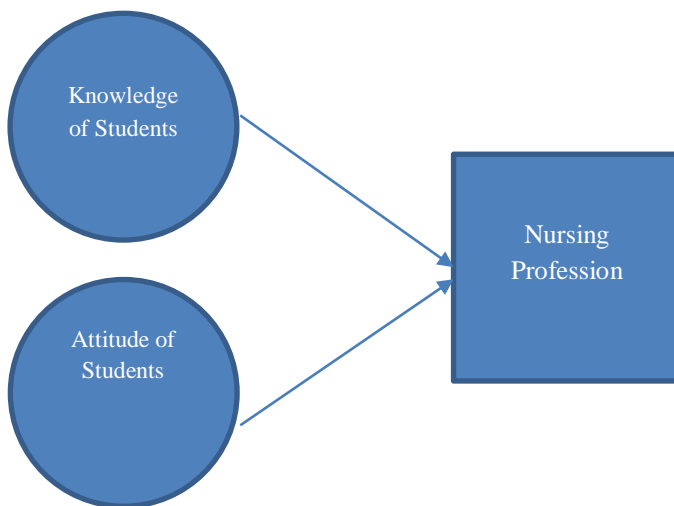
## 6. SIGNIFICANCE

Students are the next generation of practical nurses so, for them it is very important that they have appropriate knowledge about nursing profession.

The study finding will help them to improve the knowledge and attitude and in future they will bring a change in the nursing profession. Therefore, it is important to assess the knowledge and attitude of students about nursing profession.

The study findings will help the in the advancement of nursing profession as more students will enroll in this profession and result in productivity of future nurses.

## 7. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



*(Theory of planned behavior, 1980)*

The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) started as the Theory of Reasoned Action in 1980 to predict an individual's intention to engage in a behavior at a specific time and place. The theory was intended to explain all behaviors over which people have the ability to exert self-control. The key component to this model is behavioral intent; behavioral intentions are influenced

by the knowledge and attitude about the likelihood that the behavior will have the expected outcome.

## **7. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS**

### **Knowledge**

In this study knowledge refers to all the information regarding nursing profession according to knowledge questionnaire among secondary school students.

### **Attitude:**

In this study attitude includes all the thinking and beliefs of secondary school students towards nursing profession.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

### **Study Design**

A cross-sectional study design was used.

### **Study Setting**

The setting for this research was Govt. high school of Ali Razaabad Raiwind road Lahore.

### **Duration of the Study:**

This study completed in approximately 4 months (September 2018, to December 2018).

### **Study Population:**

The study population for this research were male and female student Govt. high school of Ali Razaabad Raiwind road Lahore.

### **Sampling Technique:**

The convenient sampling techniques was used to collect data from selected population.

### **Sample Size:**

Sample size is determined by using this formula

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + (N)(E)^2}$$

Desired sample size = n = ?

Target Population = N = 385

Margin of error = E = 0.05 at 95% confidence interval



$$n = \frac{385}{1 + 385(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{385}{1 + 1}$$

$$n = \frac{385}{2}$$

$$n = 200$$

The sample size is 200

### **Sample Selection:**

#### **Inclusion criteria:**

The subject included in the study was:

- All male and female student of class 9th and 10th class of Govt. high school of Ali Razaabad Raiwind road Lahore.
- Those not interested to participate in the study

#### **Exclusion criteria:**

The subjects who are excluded from the study was:

- All students other than class 9th and 10th class of Govt. high school of Ali Razaabad Raiwind road Lahore.
- Those who are not willing to participate

## **8. ETHICAL CONCEDRATION**

The rules and regulations set by the ethical committee of Lahore School of Nursing were followed while conducting the research and the rights of the research participants were respected.

- Written informed consent attached was taken from all the participants.
- All information and data collection was kept confidential.
- Participants remained anonymous throughout the study.
- The subjects were informed that there are no disadvantages or risk on the procedure of the study.
- They were also informed that they will be free to withdraw at any time during the process of the study.
- Data was kept in under key and lock while keeping keys in hand. In laptop it will be kept under password.

## 9. DATA COLLECTION PLAN

- After taking informed consent, data was collected by the help of collection tool which will be an adopted questionnaire.
- Data was collected from 88 students.

## 10. DATA ANALYSIS:

Data was analyzed by using SPSS version 22.0 statistical software for data analysis.

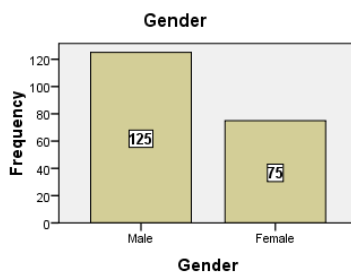
- Demographic variables like age, gender, marital status, education etc. was analyzed by using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. Percentages will be calculated for categorical data while continuous data was analyzed through mean and standard deviation.

## RESULTS

**Table (1): Respondents' socio-demographic characteristics**

Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	125	62.5	62.5	62.5
Female	75	37.5	37.5	100.0
Total	200	100.0	100.0	



**Fig No.1**

Data was collected from both male and female table no 1 and figure no 1 show the results of Male and Female. Mostly were females. 125 were Male (62.5%) and 75 were female (37.5%).

**Table: 3**

Age group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14-16	93	46.5	46.5	46.5
	17-19	103	51.5	51.5	98.0
	20-22	4	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	200	100.0	100.0	

**Age:** Data was collected from the students of different Age. Total respondents were 200; table no 3 show the results regarding their age.

**Table (2): Respondents' determinant factors for enrollment in the Nursing and difference by gender**

Item	%	t	P
- Desire to help the others	62.3	30.6	0.00
- Low secondary school scores	50.0	45.20	0.00
- High nurses' income	30.9	21.42	0.00
- Availability of work opportunities	30.4	24.01	0.00
- Availability of work opportunities outside	30.4	22.14	0.00
-Family's recommendation	25.2	19.63	0.00

Table (2) shows the desire to help the others was reported by 62.3% of the respondents as a reason for joining the faculty of nursing, followed by low secondary school grades (50%). Low percentage (25.2%) was family recommendation. Statistically significant difference between respondents by gender on the determinant factors for enrollment in the faculty of nursing.

**Table (3): Respondents' knowledge about professional preparation of the nurses**

Knowledge	Yes	No
1- The nurse has to have degree in nursing.	Yes% 42.1	No % 34.5
2- Anyone without degree in nursing can join nursing profession (*).	73.0	3.7
3- The nurse can have master or doctoral degree	32.86	44.0
Total mean scores.	1.13±0.86	

Table (3) indicates that anyone without nursing degree can join nursing profession was reported the highest percentage (73%) of the respondents. While the lowest percentage (32.8%) was related to the nurse can have master or doctoral degree. Generally, the respondents have inaccurate knowledge about the professional preparation and statistically significant difference between the participants by gender on their knowledge about professional preparation of the nurses was found.

**Table (4): Respondents' knowledge about nurses' role**

Knowledge	%	T	p
1-Helping others for preserving their lives	65	450	34.8
2- Providing nursing care for the patient	71.2	371	28.5
3- Helping patient in rehabilitation period	54.5	556	28.5
4- explains treatment to enables patients to make their health decisions	58.3	523	39.0
5- Maintains patient privacy	65.7	425	33.9
6- Deals with the patient in a human way.	74.7	311	23.1
7- Documentation.	51.5	632	

As shown in (Table 4) dealing with the patient in a human way was on the top (74.5%) of the respondents' knowledge about nurses' role. While documentation given by 51%. Generally, the respondents have inaccurate knowledge about the nurse's role

**Table (5): Respondents' knowledge about nurses works hours and promotion opportunities and nurses' sex**

Knowledge	Yes %	No%
1-Nursing is restricted for female only.	66.5	33.5
2- Nurses work different shift.	27.7	72.3
3- Nurses have promotion opportunities.	34.0	64.7
4- Nurse's salary is comparable to those	28.9	69.8

As shown in (Table 5), nursing is a female profession which given by highest percentage (66.5%) of the participants while they are unaware of the nurses work different shifts (72.3%). Generally, the respondents have inaccurate knowledge about nurses' work hours, promotion opportunities and nursing's gender.

**Table (6): Respondents' attitude toward nursing profession**

Attitude	M	Sd
1- Nursing is a respected profession.	1.66	0.56
2- Nursing is an important profession to the society.	1.84	0.53
3- Nursing is a hard work profession.	1.34	0.88
4- Practicing nursing requires professional ethics.	1.90	0.41
5- Society has a positive view to the nursing profession.	1.18	.29
6- Nurses are from - High social class. Middle social - Low social class.	0.78	0.66
7- Nursing profession has a positive	1.20	0.90
8- My family will be embarrassed if i joined to the nursing profession	.84	.54
9- If i joined to the nursing profession, i'll be appreciated and respected by the society	1.27	.28
Total attitude	1.0	.000

Table (6) indicates that the mean scores of the items related to the participants' attitude toward nursing profession was low except the nursing is a respected profession (1.66±0.56), important profession to the society (1.84±0.53) and nursing is an ethnically based profession (1.90 ±0.41). In addition, significant relationship ( $\chi^2=18.93$ ,  $p\leq 0.00$ ) ( $\chi^2=19.23$ ,  $p\leq 0.00$ ) was found between the respondents' gender and their perception about appreciation by the society and also family's view to the nursing profession. Generally, the respondents have negative attitude toward nursing profession. Based on these findings, the research hypothesis no.2 is rejected.

## **DISCUSSION**

Secondary school students create a considerable proportion of candidates who might be candidates for enrollment in Nursing, so it was important to identify their knowledge and attitude as well as to that factors that might affect their enrollment in nursing. The study indicated that that the participants' mean age is  $15.9 \pm 0.81$  which means they are adolescent. During this period the individuals is thinking about the selection of his/her future career, so they are ready receiver for information about different profession to make their career choice. Receiving precise information about different professions such as level of education, activities, and career ladder are important for the students to make an informed decision so identifying their knowledge and attitude toward nursing profession is helping in planning different employment approaches to attract students to nursing.

Study carried out by (Angela et al.,2018)reported that the majority of graduates joined nursing due to a desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives, and they were strongly influenced by positive nurse role 446 Identifying Knowledge & Attitude of Secondary School Students that help clients/patients and finds meaning in their health challenge experience. Thus, individuals entering nursing because they want to help others have been consistent after the years the result of the study revealed that more than half of the participants expressed that helping others was the first reason for enrollment in nursing program education.

As might be expected, the public originate image from a variety of sources, such as acquaintance and personal experience such as patient. Thus, the nursing care should be presented in high quality way to which in turn imitate on the consumers who may be professionals who are able to value different professions. One of the most exciting aspects of the

nursing is the variety of career opportunities availability. Nurses as generalists or specialists work in wide places where health care is given and new types of positions or models of practice seem to arise in response to extended scientific changes.

In addition, nurses hold many positions which not directly related to patient care as administrator, teacher, and infection control and health educator specialist. It considers one of the few careers that offer all these opportunities. In spite of nursing is a career rich in opportunities and varieties, more than two thirds of the participants indicate that the nurses have no promotion opportunities. Another aspect of the inaccuracy of the respondent's knowledge about nursing profession is that approximately two-thirds of the respondents were unaware of the presence male nurses in the nursing profession.

These findings are consistent with (Abd-El-Halim, 2016). The same image of nursing is perceived by students in their study. As regard the social class of the professional nurse, the participants in the study indicate that the majority of the nurses are from middle social class while the lowest mean was related to they come from high social class.

(Evan and Durant, 2015) mentioned in their study that the greater understanding leads to more positive attitude. This may explain why the respondents have negative attitude toward nursing profession as they have lack of knowledge about some aspect of nursing profession such as professional preparation for the nurse, nurses' work hours and promotion opportunities and the nurses' role might be contributing factors to the inaccurate public image about nursing profession.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concluded that providing information about nursing, improvement of the public's image, improvement of the nurses'

work condition and raising the academic standards for the enrollees to the educational nursing institution are key elements for advancement of nursing profession.

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