



ISSN: 0975-833X

Available online at <http://www.journalcra.com>

International Journal of Current Research  
Vol. 11, Issue, 05, pp. 4088-4092, May, 2019

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.35502.05.2019>

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL  
OF CURRENT RESEARCH

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### PERCEPTION ON NURSING PROFESSION AND CAREER PLANS AMONG NURSING STUDENTS IN NURSING INSTITUTIONS OF SIKKIM

\*Ranjita Devi, Hishey L Bhutia, Razil D. Passah, Gloria I. Wankhar, Bidyapati N. Devi, Heema Kharga, Basanti Sundas, Manisha Syangden, Yankeela Bhutia, Swastika Rai, Kalpana Rai, Neetu Chettri, Karuna Sharma, Bobby Dewan, Shajeena Kirat Rai, Indrani Baruah, Jayanti Sharma, Sapna Tamang, and Durga Pokhrel

Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing, Sikkim Manipal University, India

#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Article History:

Received 02<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019  
Received in revised form  
29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019  
Accepted 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019  
Published online 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

##### Key Words:

Nursing Profession,  
Perception,  
Career Plans

#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Nursing is a health care profession, which focuses on the care of individual, families and communities. The profession which was once an epitome of dedication and devotion, the association with which was considered respectable, is now a remote reality. There is a paradigm shift in the perception regarding the profession. Graduates may perceive nursing as a noble profession but may not consider it rewarding. Understanding the students perception on nursing profession at the beginning and at the end of the programme is very interesting. **Objectives :** to assess the Perception on Nursing Profession among the first year and final year nursing students, to compare their perception on Nursing profession and to assess their Career Plans after graduation. **Methods:** Descriptive survey design and a Non-probability convenient sampling technique for data collection was used. After obtaining informed consent from each of the participants, Personal profile were collected using a Structured Questionnaire, a 4 point Likert Scale was used to assess Perception on Nursing Profession and Semi Structured Questionnaire was used for assessing the Career Plans among 177 B.Sc. nursing students in selected nursing institutions of Sikkim. **Results:** The findings of the study revealed that 100% of the first year and 99% final year B.Sc. Nursing students had a positive perception towards the Nursing Profession. On comparison, both the groups had a positive image on the profession. Majority (92%) among the first year students and majority (83%) among the final year B.Sc. nursing students, were not in favor of changing their profession to non-nursing profession later in life. **Conclusion:** Considering the students positive attitude towards the Nursing Profession, it can be understood that the future of the Nursing Profession is bright. Though some of the students cited that it is stressful and hectic yet they would not change their profession and would pursue higher studies in nursing or bedside nursing after completing the course.

\*Corresponding author: Ranjita Devi

Copyright © 2019, Ranjita Devi et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Citation: Ranjita Devi, Hishey L. Bhutia, Razil D. Passah, 2019. "Perception on nursing profession and career plans among nursing students in nursing institutions of Sikkim", *International Journal of Current Research*, 11, (05), 4088-4092.

## INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a profession that is synonymous with care. Since time immemorial, nurses have been associated with selfless love and care for the needy. With the relentless efforts of the pioneer of modern nursing, Miss Florence Nightingale, the art of serving the needy was given a new dimension. The establishment of Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) in the year 1908 and Indian Nursing Council (INC) vide Act of 1947<sup>1</sup> further added to the development of the profession. There is a paradigm shift in the perception regarding the profession. Graduates may perceive nursing as noble profession but may not consider it rewarding. Ibrahim Ali in his study to assess the nursing student's perceptions towards nursing profession in Jordan, reported that the item attributing nursing as a prestigious profession was ranked number one perception (mean score of 4.87), followed by item stating

nursing as a respectful profession (mean score of 3.6). In addition, considering the social ranking of nursing profession among other professions, 38.24% participants ranked nursing profession as third, 16.18% ranked the profession second, 5.88% ranked it fifth and 1.47% ranked it as sixth (Jarrah, 2013). A study conducted by Miligi E and Aber Selim A (2014) at Saudi Arabia, among 152 nursing students of College of Nursing, King Saud bins Abdul-Aziz University of Health Sciences, revealed that the mean attitude score of the nursing student towards nursing profession was 150.48, which tended to be a positive attitude, reflecting positive perception on nursing profession (Miligi et al., 2014). An exploratory descriptive study conducted by Caroline Zulu and Dr. C. Ngoma at the University of Zambia 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 to establish the perception of the image of nursing profession, among the 76 students. The finding revealed that (70%) of the students had a positive perception of the nursing profession

and (30%) had a negative perception about image of nursing. A large proportion (80%) of them responded that they had experienced a change, from negative to positive perception of the image of nursing after joining the nursing profession due to several different factors. Most of the students (80%) aspired to go for further education after graduating in nursing program; though surprisingly, some of the students (20%) and intended to change their profession after graduation (Ngoma and Zulu, 2015). Exploratory survey conducted by S Swarna to find out the perception of 100 outgoing B.Sc. nursing students towards nursing profession and carrier plans revealed different findings. It was found that most of the students (71%) were self motivated to pursue nursing and (84%) preferred to go for higher education. More than three thirds (84%) felt it is an opportunity to get government jobs and nearly more than half (58%) preferred to go abroad for employment. Fifty six percent of students expressed their desire to change profession. Almost all of students felt nursing profession gives opportunity to serve the humanity but majority stated it is not equal to other professions. Less than half prefer to be employed at bedside and nursing administration (Swarna, 2015). A study conducted by Manpreet Kaur, Kuldeep Kaur, Suresh K. Sharma on perception towards nursing profession among 100 just admitted and 81 outgoing nursing students of both B.Sc. and GNM at College of Nursing, DMCH, Ludhiana, Punjab in 2005. Both the group of students had fairly positive perception towards nursing profession. Majority of students (96% and 97.5%) in both the groups believed that nursing profession provides an opportunity to serve the humanity. 75% of the students in both the groups admitted that nursing provides means for professional upliftment. 40% and 59.3% of the just admitted and outgoing students respectively would like to join hospital bed side nursing. Fairly large number of the students (75% and 80.2%) in both the groups had plans for post graduation. It is worthy to note that nearly 15% of the students in both the groups wanted to change their profession if given the chance (Kaur et al., 2007).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive survey was undertaken among 177 B.Sc. nursing students (97 students from First year and 80 from Final year) studying at Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing, East Sikkim, India. Non-probability convenient sampling technique was used for data collection. Inclusion criteria were first and final year female B.Sc. nursing students who were willing to participate in the study. Exclusion criteria were male students and second and third year B.Sc. nursing students. Permission for the study was obtained from the Principal Sikkim Manipal College of Nursing and the Institutional Ethics Committee. After obtaining informed consent from each of the participants data were collected from 14<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Personal profile were collected using a Structured Questionnaire, a 4 point Likert Scale was used to assess Perception on Nursing Profession and Semi Structured Questionnaire was used for assessing the Career Plans. The research variable were Perception on nursing profession and Career Plans. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for analysis.

## RESULTS

**Findings related to demographic data:** All of 97 (100%) students of first year and 63 ((79%) of final year students were

belong to the age group of 17-22 years. About 39 (40%) of first year and 34 (42%) of final year students scored an aggregate of 61-70% in their 10+2(PCBE). Majority 65 (67%) of first year and 49 (61.2%) of final year students were Hindu by religion. Maximum number of students were belonged to Indian nationality with 96(98.9%) and 78 (97.5%) in first and final year respectively. Among first year 49 (50.5%) are from rural area and 76(78%) belong to nuclear family, whereas in final year 44 (55%) are from urban area and 65 (81%) belong to nuclear family. Regarding parental education, employment and occupation, among first year students, 46 (47.4%) of the father and 53 (54.6%) of mothers had secondary education, 84 (86.5%) of father and only 33 (34%) of mother were employed and 83 (85.5%) of the fathers were professionals by occupation and majority of the mothers 63 (64.9%) were housewives. Among final year 34 (42.5%) of the father and 31 (38.7%) of mothers had secondary education, 68 (85%) of father and only 27 (34%) of mother were employed and 67 (83.7%) of the fathers were professionals by occupation and majority of the mothers 50 (62.5%) were housewives. About 69 (71.1%) first year and 73 (91.2%) of final year students annual family income was  $\geq 1$  lakh. The data also shows that, 76 (78.3%) of first year and 62 (77.5%) of final year students had no family members in Nursing Profession and 72(74.2%) of first year and 41(51.2%) of final students were self-motivated to join the Nursing Profession. The data also depicts that most of the students 85 (87.6%) of first year and 79 (98.7%) of final year were not pursuing any non-nursing courses before joining the Nursing programme.

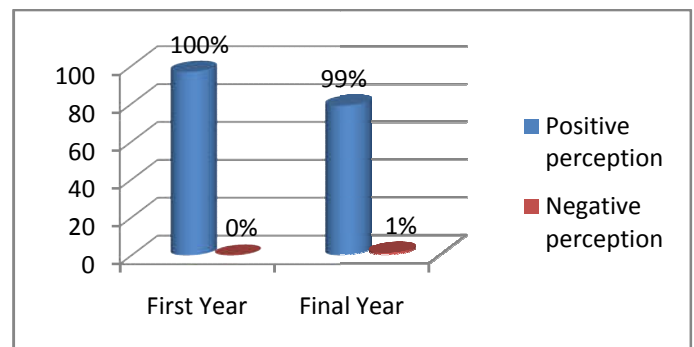


Fig. 1. Percentage distribution of samples based on their Perception on Nursing Profession

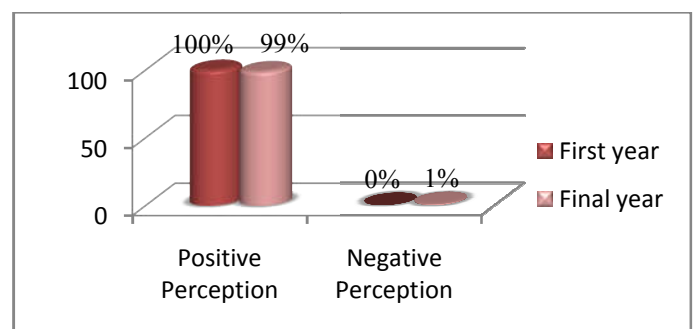


Fig. 2. Percentage distribution of samples based on their Perception on Nursing Profession between first year and final year

**Findings related to Perception on Nursing Profession:** The figure 1 indicates that almost all the students, 100% of first year and 99% of final year have positive perception towards the Nursing Profession. The figure 2 shows that the first year students have a better perception on Nursing Profession. However among final year students also majority (99%) reported to have positive perception.

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage distribution of samples based on their career plans

N=177

Sl. No	Career Plan	First year n=97		Final year n=80	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	<b>Reasons for selecting Nursing as a career.</b>				
	1.1. I can always get a job	22	23	15	19
	1.2. I can go abroad easily	6	6	7	9
	1.3. Nursing is a noble profession	20	21	25	31
	1.4. I like being a nurse	13	13	8	10
	1.5.I shall be able to help my family	11	11	8	10
	1.6.I joined because I could not get admission in medicine	7	7	7	9
	1.7.I want a career	18	18	10	12
	1.8. Any other	2	2	0	0
2	<b>At the time of joining nursing programme, what was your expectation from the programme?</b>				
	-Easy	24	25	31	39
	-Social cause (contributing process)	14	14	16	20
	-Stressful and hectic	29	30	13	16
	-Knowledge and skill development	12	12	4	5
	-Other	18	19	16	20
3	<b>Are your expectations matching with the experience so far?</b>	30( Yes)	31	24(Yes)	30
		54 (No)	56	51(No)	64
		13(Partially)	13	5(Partially)	6
4	<b>If given an opportunity would you like to change course of study after graduation to non-nursing course?</b>				
	A. Yes	8	8	14	17
	B. No	89	92	66	83
	If No what career path in nursing would you like to pursue?				
	4.1. Bedside Nursing	9	9	28	35
	4.2. Teaching in nursing	21	22	8	10
	4.3. Administrative nursing	1	1	3	4
4.4. Higher education in nursing	35	36	9	11	
4.5. Pursue nursing career abroad	23	24	18	23	
5	<b>Do you think marriage can be a hindrance to your career?</b>				
	Yes	21	22	15	19
	No	76	78	65	81

Table 2. Association between Perception on Nursing Profession with selected variables

Sl No	Personal profile	Perception First Year (n-97)		Perception Final Year (n-80)		X <sup>2</sup>	df	t value	Remarks
		≥48	<48	≥48	<48				
1.	<b>Age in years</b>					1			
	a) 17-22years	97	0	0	0		62	0	
	b) 23-28 years					17			
2.	<b>Percentage in 10+2</b>								
	a) 50-60%	22	0	0	8	8	0		
	b) 61-70%	39	0	0	33	33	1		
	c) 71-80%	29	6	0	31	31	0		
	d) 81-90%	1	0	0	7	7	0		
	e) >90%					0	0		
3.	<b>Religion</b>								
	a) Hindu	65	0	0	49	49	1		
	b) Buddhist	20	0	0	20	20	0		
	c) Christian	11	0	0	10	10	0		
	d) Muslim	1	0	0	0	0	0		
4	<b>Nationality</b>								
	a) Indian	96	0	0	77	77	1		
	b) Others(specify)	1(Nepali)	0	0	2 (Nepali)	2	0		
5.	<b>Place of origin</b>								
	a) Urban	48	0	0	43	43	1		
	b) Rural	49	0	0	36	36	0		
6.	<b>Type of family</b>								
	a) Nuclear	76	0	0	64	64	1		
	b) Joint	21	0	0	15	15	0		
	c) Extended	0	0	0	0	0	0		
7	<b>Parental education</b>								
	<b>Father</b>								
	a) Primary	14	0	0	15	15	0		
	b) Secondary	46	0	0	34	34	0		
	c) Diploma	3	0	0	2	2	0		
	d) Graduate	25	0	0	23	23	0		
	e) Post Graduate	8	0	0	5	5	1		
	f) No-formal education	1	0	0	0	0	0		
	<b>Mother</b>								
	a) Primary	17	0	0	20	20	0		
	b) Secondary	53	0	0	31	31	0		
	c) Diploma	2	0	0	1	1	0		
	d) Graduate	15	0	0	17	17	1		
	e) Post graduate	4	0	0	3	3	0		
f) No formal education	6	0	0	7	7	0			

..... Continue

8	<b>Employment status</b>							
	<b>Father</b>							
	a) Employed	84	0	65	1			
	b) Unemployed	10	0	8	0			
	c) Deceased	3	0	6	0			
	<b>Mother</b>							
	a) Employed	33	0	26	1			
	b) Unemployed	64	0	52	0			
	c) Deceased	0	0	1	0			
9.	<b>Parental Occupation</b>							
	<b>Father</b>							
	a) Professionals	83	0	66	1			
	b) Nonprofessionals	11	0	7	0			
	c) Others	3	0	6	0			
	<b>Mother</b>							
	a) Professionals	32	0	25	1			
	b) Non-professionals	1	0	3	0			
	c) Housewives	63	0	50	0			
c) Others	1	0	1	0				
10	<b>Annual Income of Parents</b>							
	a) ≥1 lakh	69	0	72	1			
b) < 1 lakh	28	0	7	0				
11	<b>Any family members in Nursing profession</b>							
	a) Yes	21	0	18	0			
b) No	76	0	61	1				
12	<b>Motivation to join course</b>							
	a) Self-wish	72	0	40	1			
	b) Parents	20	0	27	0			
	c) Friends	0	0	6	0			
	d) Relatives	3	0	5	0			
	e) Social media	1	0	1	0			
f) Any others (specify)	1	0	0	0				
13	<b>Were you undergoing any other non Nursing courses before joining nursing Programme</b>							
	a) Yes	12	0	1	0			
b) No	85	0	78	1				

There was no significant association between perception on Nursing Profession with selected variables. The association could not be established since most of the cell values were 0.

## DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that majority of the First Year (100%) and Final Year (99%) B.Sc. nursing students have a positive image towards the nursing profession. Similar study conducted by Ibrahim Ali Tawfiq Al Jarrah (2010) that the associate nursing students generally have a significant positive perception about the image of the nursing profession. The present study showed that 35% of the Final Year students will pursue bedside nursing, similarly, a descriptive cross sectional study was conducted by Manpreet Kaur, Kuldeep Kaur, Suresh K Sharma, among nursing students of both B.Sc and GNM at DMCH Ludhiana Punjab, to assess and compare the perception towards nursing profession and future life orientation among just admitted and outgoing nursing students, 59.3 % of the outgoing students were inclined towards bedside nursing. The present study revealed that majority among the First Years (92%) and the Final Years (100%) will not change their course of study after graduation. Similarly a cross sectional study was conducted by Poreddi V, Rammachandra, Konduru R, Math SB among 129 nursing students to assess the attitude and perception towards nursing career, result showed upon graduation, 53.50% of subject preferred to pursue the nursing career.

## Conclusion

Students come into nursing education with the belief that it has evolved over the years and that it enables them to be

professionally socialized into the nursing career. Numerous factors, including curriculum, educators, practicing nurses, family, peers, school or other institutions, environment of a hospital and community settings form an important factor how students perceive nursing as a profession. This study established that both the First year and Final year B.Sc. Nursing students have a positive perception towards the Nursing Profession. Considering their positive attitude towards the Nursing Profession, it can be understood that the future of the Nursing Profession is bright. Though some of the students cited that it was stressful and hectic yet they would not change their profession after completing the programme and would continue in the profession. It was also found that the respondents would either pursue higher studies in nursing while others would pursue bedside nursing.

**Acknowledgement:** The researcher wants to thank all the participants of the study for their kind cooperation.

**Conflict of interest:** None declared

**Funding:** No funding sources

**Ethical approval:** This study was conducted after obtaining ethical clearance from the Institutional Ethics Committee and the written consent from each of the participants.

## REFERENCES

- Indian Nursing Council Act. Retrieved from [www.indiannursingcouncil.org](http://www.indiannursingcouncil.org)
- Jarrah IAT. 2013. Associate Nursing Student's Perceptions towards Nursing Profession in Jordan. *European Scientific Journal*, Vol-9(6); 147-166.

Kaur M, Kaur K, Sharma SK. 2007. Comparative study on perception toward nursing profession and future life orientation among just admitted and outgoing nursing students. *Nursing and Midwifery Research Journal*, Vol3 (3); 97-101.

Miligi E, Selim A. 2014. Saudi Nursing Student's Attitude towards Nursing Profession. *European Journal of Bussiness and Management*, Vol 6(29);197-207

Ngoma C. and Zulu C. 2015. A survey on the perception of the image of the nursing profession in Zambia by nursing students at the Department of Nursing Science, University of Zambia. *Unified Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*, Vol 1(1); 1-14

Swarna S. 2015. Nursing Student's Perception towards Profession and Future Intentions. *Journal of Nursing and Health Science*, Vol 4(5); 30-34.

\*\*\*\*\*