



A Methodological Study to Develop and Validate Attitude Scale Towards Nursing Profession Among Senior Secondary Students of North India

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Abstract

Background-Nursing is a one of the oldest and noblest profession. The responsibilities and duties of the nurses are diverse and the work of a nurse depends on the qualifications 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 thought 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 areas and opportunities for advancement. **Objective-** To develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary school students of North India. The study was carried out to develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary students. **Methodology-**A methodological study was used to collect data from 400 senior secondary schools of North India, and using multi stage sampling technique method. Data was collected by using attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary school students. **Results-**The result of the study findings shows that 71% of senior secondary students had satisfactory attitude and 21% of them had moderately satisfactory attitude of the senior secondary students towards nursing profession. Also, findings revealed that the overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient ($\alpha=0.88$) and split half of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool was 0.88 respectively, which indicated the high reliability and internal consistency of tool. (Ideally Cronbach's alpha coefficient should be > 0.70). **Conclusion-**Pooled results showed that the overall attitude of senior secondary students towards nursing profession is satisfactory.

Keywords: attitude, nursing, students, North India

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a one of the oldest and noblest profession. The responsibilities and duties of the nurses are diverse and the work of a nurse depends on the qualifications 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 thought 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 areas and opportunities for advancement. Nursing profession continued to grow and the attitude of the students towards it has been changed to some extent, but the attitude of the most of the students is believed to be negative towards this profession in India.¹ As per a descriptive study conducted to assess knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession and their preference for nursing as a career among senior secondary students of selected schools in Faridabad, result revealed that 74% of the total subjects had good knowledge, 24% had average knowledge, 2% had poor knowledge. 96% of total subjects had positive attitude, 4% had neutral attitude, 0% had negative attitude.²

Though nurses are the largest group of health care professionals, they failed to get adequate recognition in the health care system. A number of factors which determine the negative attitude of students may include the socio economic welfare of nurses are poor or inadequate, some nurses work in very difficult conditions, in both developed and developing nations, nurses are burned out by increased workloads, the nursing shortage make nurses to work long hours under stressful conditions, which can result in fatigue, injury, and job dissatisfaction.³ Also, it includes the low reputation of the profession in the society, no definite job description for nurses, no criteria for various administrative posts for higher post, dominance of doctors everywhere in all job settings, no autonomy to the profession and low salary of the nurses. There are few studies which attempted to measure attitude of senior secondary students towards nursing profession using self structured scales. Therefore, the authours decided to develop a comprehensive, valid, and reliable scale to measure attitude towards nursing profession among senior secondary students.

OBJECTIVE

- To develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary school students of North India.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

Methodological research design was used to develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary students.

SETTING

The present study was conducted in selected senior secondary schools of North India.

POPULATION

In present study, target population consisted of all the senior secondary school students studying of North India. The accessible population consisted of senior secondary school students studying of Rajasthan.

SAMPLE SIZE

Total sample size was 400 students studying in 11th and 12th class of the selected schools of Rajsamand, Rajasthan.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling refers to the process of selecting a portion of population to represent the entire population. Sampling is necessary because it is more economical and efficient to work with small group elements. The choice of sampling technique depends on the nature of the problem.

Multi stage sampling technique was employed to collect data by taking a series of random samples in three stages from selected senior secondary schools of North India.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL:

The research tool was developed to assess senior secondary students' attitude towards nursing profession in selected senior secondary schools of North India. After 4 rounds of Delphi survey, senior secondary students' attitude scale tool was prepared with total 42 items to assess senior secondary student's towards nursing profession.

Table 1**Categorization of Items for Preliminary Draft of senior secondary student's attitude scale tool towards nursing profession**

SR. No.	Areas/Domains	No. of Items	Item No.
1.	Personal	9	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
2.	Psychology	10	10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20
3.	Social	08	21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28.
4.	Professional	14	29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42.

Table 1 Reflects categorization of items of Senior secondary Students' attitude scale tool. Items were categorized under 4 areas which include; Personal (Item no. 1-9), Psychology (Item no. 10-20), and Social (Item no.21-28), Professional (Item no. 29-42).

PHASES OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY/ TOOL DEVELOPMENT:

Students' attitude scale towards nursing profession was developed by referring to books, journals, articles, websites and guidance of experts after Delphi survey rounds. It was prepared in concordance with the objectives of the research study to develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession. The tool development was divided into four phases with different steps.

PHASE-I- Preliminary Preparation of attitude scale towards nursing profession.

It further included 3 steps. In step-1, literature was reviewed related to attitude towards nursing profession among students. In step-2, related content was analyzed and various related aspects were pooled together. In step-3, first draft was prepared and total 50 items were categorized under 4 subheadings: Personal (1-13), Psychology (14-25), Social (26-33), Professional (34-50).

PHASE- II- Validation Phase of First Draft and Subsequent Drafts

It constituted 3 steps. In step-1, panel was selected comprising of 11 experts from the field of Nursing, Psychology, Education and Biostatistics. The first draft of tool was circulated among 11 experts from above stated fields.

In step-2, the modified Delphi technique was used to validate the draft. All the panelists were requested to give their valuable suggestions pertaining to the content, accuracy of information, the item order i.e. organization

and sequence of the items. The suggestions given by panelists were incorporated to generate the second draft of the tool. Changes were also made in the sequence of items as the experts' opinion. After second Delphi survey, Attitude scale was prepared and now total 48 items were categorized under 4 subheadings: Personal (item no. 1-12), Psychology (item no. 13-23) and Social (item no. 24-31), Professional (item no. 32-48).

First Try Out- After second Delphi round, first try out was done with senior secondary school students' attitude scale towards nursing profession tool-II on 20 senior secondary students' who were studying in 11th and 12th standard of Government senior secondary schools Udaipur. Written permission was sought from Principal of Government senior secondary school of Udaipur for the conduction of first try out of attitude scale towards nursing profession tool-II. First try out was done to check the reliability of items with in this tool.

After first try out of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-II, it was found that for first area of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool which was personal area includes total 12 items. Out of 12 items no items were having item to total correlation less than 0.2 (The optimal value for item to total correlation should be at least 0.2- 0.8).

Similarly, second area of attitude scale towards nursing Tool-II, i.e. (Psychology), contains total 10 items. All 10 Items were having item to total correlation 0.2. (The optimal value for item to total correlation should be at least 0.2-0.8).

Subsequently, third area of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-II, i.e. (Social), includes total 08 items. Thus, items had total correlation between 0.2-0.8.

Further, the next area of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-II, i.e. Professional includes total 17 items (Item no. 34,39,40 and item no. 42, 47). Out of these 17 items, 5 items (item no.34, The service given by nursing professionals are as important as that given by physician), item no. 39 (Nursing profession is meant to follow physician's orders), item no. 40 (Nursing profession makes you kind and compassionate human being), item no. 42(The major goal of nursing profession is to provide quality of care), item no. 47 (Health of the society only depends upon nursing profession). These 5 items showed incompatibility with the overall tool because they were having item to total correlation less than 0.2. Thus these items were either modified or deleted after experts' opinions.

Therefore, it was found that Nursing Students' Perception Tool –II needs further refinement to formulate next draft after subsequent Delphi rounds. Those items were either deleted or modified who were having item to total correlation less than 0.2(The optimal value for item to total correlation should be at least 0.2-0.8).

In step-3, as per the experts' opinions and after first try out the modifications in the attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-II were made to further refine attitude scale towards nursing profession tool and to get newly formulated attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool- III.

Phase –III- Second Try Out

After the third Delphi round, attitude scale towards nursing profession Scale-III was made which constituted of 43 items under sub- headings of Personal (items no. 1-10), Psychology (items no. 11-21), Social (22-29), Professional (30-43). After conducting first try out, changes were made in the subsequent drafts as per Delphi panelists. Then, second try out was done with new formulated attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-III on 20 students 11 and 12 standards school students of Government senior secondary school Udaipur. Permission was sought from higher authorities of respective Government senior secondary school Udaipur to conduct second try out with newly formulated attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool- III.

Cronbach's alpha (unstandardised) was used to check the reliability of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-III. After first try out, now there were total 43 items in the tool. It was observed that out of 43 items, 1 item was having item to total correlation less than 0.2. This item was item no. 6 (Nursing is a slavery profession was deleted as these item was having item to total correlation less than 0.2 and showed incompatibility with the overall tool.

Thus, changes were made in the sequence as well in number of items after second try out study. After results of second try out, attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-III was distributed among experts for the fourth Delphi round to get final draft of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool which was sub divided into Personal (item no. 1-9), Psychology (item no. 10-20), Social (item no.21-28), Professional (item no.29-42).

PHASE IV-Testing Feasibility and Reliability of Preliminary draft of Tool (Pilot Study)

In step-1, Draft prepared after the fourth Delphi round includes total 42 items in attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool. After refinement of the previous draft, the preliminary draft of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool was prepared within following areas such as; Personal (item no. 1-9), Psychology (item no. 10-20), Social (item no.21-28), Professional (item no. 29-42).

Pilot study was conducted to test the feasibility and reliability of preliminary draft of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool-IV. Thus, pilot study was done on 40 students 11th and 12th standards students from Government senior secondary school Udaipur after the fourth Delphi survey. Permission was sought from Principal Government senior secondary school Udaipur to conduct the Pilot research study. The investigator approached 11th and 12th students by establishing rapport with them and also explained the purpose of study. Then verbal and written consent was taken from them that they are willing to participate in the research study as well as their confidentiality will also be maintained. The school students' were identified by providing codes. After identifying codes, school students' were requested to fill attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool by using paper and pencil method. The average time taken to fill this school students' attitude scale Tool was 15-20 minutes.

RESULT**Table 1****Reliability Analysis of Preliminary Draft of Attitude Scale Towards Nursing Profession Tool by Cronbach's alpha**

Items of Attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Item1	125.3725	.373	.879
Item2	125.3950	.369	.879
Item3	125.3050	.358	.879
Item4	125.3325	.344	.879
Item5	125.7100	.423	.878
Item6	125.4475	.347	.879
Item7	125.5225	.319	.880
Item8	125.4300	.369	.879
Item9	125.4025	.308	.880
Item10	125.6675	.415	.878
Item11	125.2950	.353	.879
Item12	125.6275	.382	.879
Item13	125.3950	.379	.879
Item14	125.4325	.307	.880
Item15	125.2750	.350	.879
Item16	125.4725	.402	.878
Item17	125.4775	.429	.878
Item18	125.4350	.389	.878
Item19	125.3025	.354	.879
Item20	125.4875	.323	.880
Item21	125.4575	.307	.880
Item22	125.4550	.466	.877
Item23	125.3050	.380	.879
Item24	125.2550	.285	.880
Item25	125.3425	.442	.878
Item26	125.5050	.395	.878
Item27	125.3150	.311	.880
Item28	125.4075	.430	.878
Item29	125.5350	.405	.878
Item30	125.4250	.423	.878
Item31	125.3650	.318	.880
Item32	125.3575	.424	.878
Item33	125.2875	.353	.879
Item34	125.1975	.381	.879

Item35	125.0575	.355	.879
Item36	125.1850	.407	.878
Item37	125.0500	.321	.880
Item38	125.0000	.276	.880
Item39	124.9725	.328	.879
Item40	125.0750	.328	.879
Item41	125.3150	.311	.880
Item42	125.0575	.355	.879

-Overall scale mean 128.4*Item to total correlation < 0.2

-Overall reliability 0.88 (Unstandardised Cronbach's alpha)

Table 1 depicts reliability analysis of preliminary draft of attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool by using Cronbach's (Unstandardised). There were total 42 items in the attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool. Items were categorized under 4 areas which include, Personal (Item no. 1-9), Psychology (Item no. 10-20) and Social (Item no.21-28), Professional (Item no. 28-42) to assess attitude scale towards nursing profession

Table 2

Frequency And Percentage Distribution Of Levels Of Attitude Of Students Towards Nursing Profession In Selected Schools Of North India.

N=400

Levels of Attitude	Score	Frequency of Students (f)	Percentage (%)
Least Satisfactory attitude	40-90	3	0.75
Satisfactory attitude	91-130	284	71
Moderately Satisfactory attitude	131-170	85	21.2
Highly Satisfactory attitude	171-210	28	7
TOTAL	210	400	100

Table 14 and Figure 10 infer that more than 71% students attitudesatisfactory towards nursing profession. 7% students attitude were highly satisfactory attitude towards nursing profession. Whereas only 21% of students attitude were moderately satisfactory towards nursing profession. Further, o.75% students were attitude least satisfactory attitude towards nursing profession. Therefore, findings revealed that maximum numbers of students attitude that attitude towards nursing profession must possess all domains which were described in Students' attitude scale towards nursing profession Tool such as personal, psychology, social, professional.

DISCUSSION

Here, senior secondary attitude scale Tool was presented in selected senior secondary schools of North India on 400 senior secondary students. Maximum numbers (71%) of students satisfactory attitude towards nursing profession. Whereas only 21.2% of students from selected senior secondary students of North India believed that these moderate satisfactory attitude towards nursing profession and few (7%) of them were in favor that their high satisfactory attitude towards nursing profession.

The present study findings were more or less similar with the findings of **Kathreena MU, Jaslyn Jane D' Silva (2015)** who also reported that students Pooled results showed that the overall attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession is favourable.⁴

In the same line, **Manisha C. Gholap, Vaishali R. Mohite (2014)** reported that knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession among college Teachers overall knowledge is excellent and attitude is positive. There is correlation between knowledge and attitude.⁵

CONCLUSION

Nursing is one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge , skills and values. In India, the picture of Nursing Profession is changing day by day, while Nursing Profession still suffers a mild degree of so called stigma in certain states of the country. It is very essential that we must target the upcoming young. The present study was conducted to develop and validate attitude scale towards nursing profession among senior secondary students in selected senior secondary students of North India have satisfactory attitude towards Nursing Profession.

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ETHICAL CLEARANCE

It was obtained from, ethical committee of the Desh Bhagat University Mandi Gobindgarh Punjab & Principal, Government senior secondary school, Rajsamand, Principal, Government senior secondary school, Nathdwara, Principal, Government senior secondary school, Banediya, Principal, Emmanuel Mission Senior Secondary school, Rajsamand, informed consent was taken from respondents.

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