



A Study To Assess The Challenges Perceived By Nursing Students In Theoretical And Practical Aspects Among Nursing Students At Selected Nursing Institutes, Salem District

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Abstract: Background: Nursing students are facing a series of challenges progressively in the clinical practice as well as in education system. Clinical and educational learning environment not only influences the educational goals, but also effect career choices of nursing students. This study aims to know how much the nursing student's perceived challenges in practical and theoretical aspects. Objectives: To assess the level of challenges perceived by nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects among nursing students at selected nursing institutions, Salem district and to associate the level of challenges perceived by nursing students in theoretical and practical aspects among nursing students with their selected demographic variables. Methodology: A quantitative approach - Non Experimental, descriptive research design was used in this study. The sample consists of 105 nursing students, selected by consecutive sampling technique. Result: Majority of the nursing students 93(89%) were perceiving less challenges and 12(11%) were perceiving more challenges in practical and theoretical aspects. Conclusion: This study concluded that most of the Nursing students were perceiving less challenges and the challenges perceived by the nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects is associated with their demographic variables i.e Present academic year and not sought counseling to overcome challenges

Index Terms - Education system, Learning environment, Challenges, Theoretical aspect, Practical aspect

I. INTRODUCTION

Nursing students are facing a series of challenges progressively in the clinical practice as well as in education system. The influence of these challenges is on their learning skills^[1]. During the training of nursing profession students and professional nurses have faces many hurdles, which ultimately put a negative perception on the personality of nursing students and professional growth^[2]. To improve the quality of nursing education and learning it is necessary to evaluate the obstacles which influences on the nursing students learning and on their professional growth. Clinical and educational learning environment not only influences the educational goals, but also effect career choices of nursing students^[3].

II. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

As per Indian Nursing Council report march 2023 there is 4134 GNM and B.Sc Nursing colleges and 1,00,865 B.Sc Nursing seats, 1,30,182 DGNM seats are in India^[4] but still we lack nurses. Nurses shortages has been reported by the World Health Organization worldwide, that shortage of more than two million nurses that gives a nurse population ratio of 1.7:1000, which is 45% less than recommended^[5] due to several reasons, challenges facing during student period is one of the reason associated with that which influences professional growth.

In Lahore a study was conducted to identify nursing student's challenges at educational and clinical environment. The result shows that the most important challenge in the educational environment is that a gap between practice and education system (98.1%), educators follow traditional ways of teaching in their nursing care (97.1%), student not received constructive feedback from nurse educator/clinical facilitator during accompaniment (96.2%), there is a major difference in theory class and clinical environment (95.8%) no application of theoretical aspects of the nursing process in practice (69.6%).^[6] As a faculty we are observing that the Nursing students facing lot of challenges in their academic environment and as investigator we wanted to know how much the nursing student's perceiving challenges in practical and theoretical aspects.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the challenges perceived by nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects among nursing students at selected nursing institutions, Salem district.

IV. OBJECTIVES

To assess the level of challenges perceived by nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects among nursing students at selected nursing institutions, Salem district.

To associate the level of challenges perceived by nursing students in theoretical and practical aspects among nursing students with their selected demographic variables.

V. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Narjes Rahmati Sharghi et al. (2015) conducted a cross sectional study on academic training and clinical placement problems to achieve nursing competency. It was conducted in Gonabad University of Medical Sciences. The sample consisted of 60 nursing students and 129 staff nurses. The study revealed that lack of academic research in the clinical period (88.9%), no application of theoretical aspects of the nursing process in practice (85.6%), insufficient knowledgeable and professional educators (81.1%), the use of traditional routine –oriented methods on wards (75.6%), insufficient time for performance based on knowledge in relation to nurse's work load (86.5%), weakness and usefulness of scientific function encouragement system in clinic (85.2%), and learnt theoretical subjects not coming into practice in clinical fields after graduation (75.6%).^[7]

Shahram Baraz et al. (2015) conducted a qualitative study on learning challenges of nursing students in clinical environment among 18 undergraduate nursing students were selected by using purposive sampling method at Tehran and Shahid Beheshti University. Study identified the major two challenges are insufficient qualification of nursing instructors and unsupportive learning environment^[8]

Ghazanfar Rafiee et al. (2014) conducted a qualitative study on problems and challenges of nursing students. A sample of 8 nursing instructors and 40 nursing students was interviewed and the data on their opinion about the problems of the clinical evaluation were collected through semi structured deep interviews. Finally, major five challenges identified i.e Inappropriate clinical evaluation , method, problems of clinical evaluation process, problems related to clinical instructors, unsuitable programming of clinical education, and organizational shortcomings.^[9]

VI. METHODOLOGY

6.1 Research approach & Design

Quantitative, Non experimental, descriptive research design

6.2 Research Setting

The setting of the study is five selected nursing institutes in Salem, District

6.3 Sample

B.Sc Nursing and DGNM students studying in selected nursing institutions, Salem district. Those who fulfilled the inclusion criteria

6.4 Sample size

105 Nursing Students

6.5 Sampling technique

Probability Stratified sampling method was used. By using lottery method we have selected 5 nursing institutes in Salem District. 5 students from each year selected through lottery method. So that 20 students from B.Sc nursing course and 15 from DGNM course in each institution were included as sample.

6.6 Criteria for sample selection

Inclusion criteria

Students studying B.Sc Nursing from I year to IV year and DGNM from I year to III year in selected nursing colleges, Salem.

Students who can access mobile phone with internet.

Exclusion criteria

Students who are not willing to participate in the study

Students who are not available during the time of data collection.

6.7 Research Tool

Description of the tool

Section A – Demographic variables

It includes age, gender, religion, family income per month, board of study in higher secondary, medium of instruction up to higher secondary, Group in higher secondary, Present academic year, Residential status, and Sought counseling service to overcome academic challenges.

Section – B – Structured questionnaires

It includes 5 points likert's scale contains 30 questions related to challenges perceived by nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects. It is divided into two sub sections as challenges perceived by nursing students in theoretical aspect and practical aspects. In this 10 positive statements and 5 negative statement given in each sub division respectively.

Scoring procedure

Strongly agree	- 1 point
Agree	- 2 points
Neutral	- 3 points
Disagree	- 4 points
Strongly disagree	- 5 points

The reverse scoring was given to negative statements i.e item no 3,4,8,10,15, 17, 20, 22, 25, 28. The minimum score is 30 and the maximum score is 150.

Level of challenges score

Less challenges - 30 to 90

More challenges - 90 to 150

Testing of the tool

The tool is validated by 2 nursing experts in the field of nursing

6.8 Data collection method

Data collection period is two weeks (04.07.2023 to 18.07.2023). The investigator got permission from the Principal of respective nursing institution. The samples were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. The objectives of the study were explained to the study participants. Informed consent was obtained and structured questioner was administered to sample through Google form and response received.

6.9 Data analysis

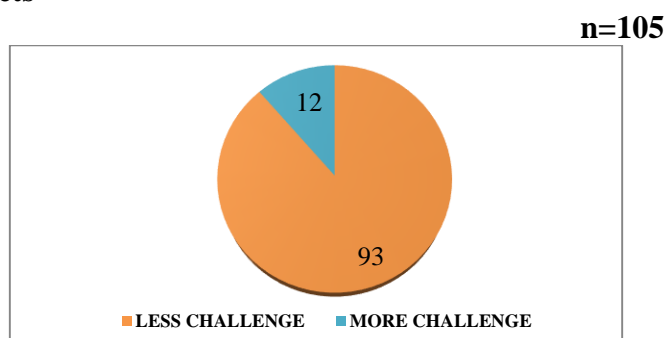
Demographic variables and level of challenges were analyzed by frequency and percentage distribution and Chi square test was used to find out the association between the level of challenges perceived by nursing students in theoretical and practical aspects with their selected demographic variables

VII. FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of B.Sc Nursing students at selected nursing colleges
n=105

S.no	Demographic variables	Options	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Age	< 20 years	50	48
		>20 years	55	52
2.	Gender	Male	14	13
		Female	91	87
3.	Religion	Hindu	97	92
		Christian	8	8
		Muslim	0	0
4.	Family income per month (in rupees)	<15,000	56	53
		>15,000	49	47
5.	Board of study in higher secondary	CBSE	1	1
		Matriculation	28	27
		State Board	76	72
6.	Medium of instruction in higher secondary	Tamil	67	64
		English	38	36
7.	Group studied in higher secondary	Maths biology	52	50
		Pure Science	39	37
		Nursing	9	8
		Other groups	5	5
8.	Present academic year	I B.Sc Nursing	15	14
		II B.Sc Nursing	15	14
		III B.Sc Nursing	15	14
		IV B.Sc Nursing	15	14
		I DGNM	15	14
		II DGNM	15	14
		III DGNM	15	14
9.	Current Residential status	Hosteller	49	47
		Days Scholar	56	53
10.	Sought counseling service to overcome academic challenges	Yes	29	28
		No	76	72

The above table reveals that majority of the nursing students 55(52%) were >20 years, 91(87%) were female, 97(92%) were Hindu, 56(53%) were having <15,000 rupees per month as family income, 76(72%) were studied at state board, 67(64%) were studied at Tamil medium, 52(50%) were studied maths biology group, 56(53%) were days scholar, 76(72%) were not sought counseling service to overcome challenges.

Fig 1: frequency and percentage distribution of level of challenges perceived by nursing students in practical & theoretical aspects

The above pie diagram depicts that, majority of the nursing students 93(89%) were perceiving less challenges and 12(11%) were perceiving more challenges.

Table 2: Association between level of challenges in practical & theoretical environment perceived by student nurses with their selected demographic variables

n=105									
S.no	Demographic variables		Level of challenges				χ^2		
			More		Less challenge				
			f	%	f	%			
1.	Age	< 20 years	8	8	42	40	1.97		
		>20 years	4	4	51	48	(P = 0.16)		
2.	Gender	Male	2	2	12	11	0.13		
		Female	10	10	81	77	(P= 0.718)		
3.	Religion	Hindu	10	9	87	83	1.56		
		Christian	2	2	6	6	(P=0.20)		
		Muslim	0	0	0	0	NS		
4.	Family income per month (in rupees)	<15,000	8	7	48	46	0.968		
		>15,000	4	4	45	43	(P=0.325)		
5.	Board of study in higher secondary	CBSE	0	0	1	1	2.533		
		Matriculation	1	1	27	26	(P=0.28)		
		State Board	11	10	65	63	NS		
6.	Medium of instruction in higher secondary	Tamil	9	9	58	55	0.735		
		English	3	3	35	33	(P=0.39)		
7.	Group studied in higher secondary	Maths biology	6	6	46	43	0.41		
		Pure Science	4	4	35	33		(P=0.93)	
		Nursing	1	1	8	8			NS
		Computer science	1	1	4	4			
8.	Present academic year	I Year B.Sc	2	2	13	12	23.33		
		II Year B.Sc	0	0	15	14		(P=0.00)	
		III Year B.Sc	0	0	15	14			S
		IV Year B.Sc	4	4	11	11			
		I Year DGNM	0	0	15	14			
		II Year DGNM	6	6	9	9			
		III Year DGNM	0	0	15	14			
9.	Current Residential status	Hosteller	4	4	45	43	0.96		
		Days Scholar	8	8	48	45	(P=0.32)		
10.	Sought counseling service to overcome challenges counseling services	Yes	7	7	22	20	6.39		
		No	5	5	71	68	(P=0.01)		

The above table describes that the challenges perceived by the nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects is associated with their demographic variables i.e Present academic year and not sought counseling to overcome academic challenges

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Disseminate the research findings through conferences, seminars, publications and journals

This study can be replicated with larger sample size all over in State and Nation

Researcher can conduct experimental and qualitative study with this related area of research

IX. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that, regarding demographic variables majority of the nursing students 55(52%) were >20 years, 91(87%) were female, 97(92%) were Hindu, 56(53%) were having <15,000 rupees per month as family income, 76(72%) were studied at state board, 67(64%) were studied at Tamil medium, 52(50%) were studied maths biology group, 56(53%) were days scholar, 76(72%) were not sought counseling service to overcome challenges.

With view of level of challenges, majority of the nursing students 93(89%) were perceiving less challenges and 12(11%) were perceiving more challenges in practical and theoretical aspects..

With regards of chi square association, the challenges perceived by the nursing students in practical and theoretical aspects is associated with their demographic variables i.e Present academic year and not sought counseling to overcome challenges

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