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Research Article

Awareness and Attitude of Senior Secondary Students Towards Nursing Profession

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ABSTRACT

The field of nursing is esteemed and honourable. Choosing nursing as a career might be a difficult option for students in the Senior Secondary level. In order to choose a profession, a student needs have a thorough understanding and favourable disposition towards it. The present study is to evaluate the level of awareness and attitude among Senior Secondary students towards the nursing profession. Additionally, it aims to determine the correlation between awareness and knowledge, as well as the association between socio-demographic variables and students' awareness and attitude towards the nursing profession. A descriptive research design was employed to study a sample of 60 Senior Secondary students from one English medium and one Hindi medium (common language of India) school in the Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh, India. The sampling method used was convenience sampling. A total of 20 structured awareness questions and 15 questions from an attitude scale were administered to participants in order to assess their responses. The study findings indicated that a significant majority of Senior Secondary students (95%) had a positive attitude and a high level of awareness (28.33%) towards the nursing profession. A mild positive connection (0.28) was seen between the level of awareness and attitude among the participants. However, no statistically significant relationship was established between the socio-demographic factors of Senior Secondary students and their level of awareness and attitude.

INTRODUCTION

Nursing profession has now been recognised as a distinct field with its own set of knowledge and ethical principles, and it has a broad range of responsibilities. Nursing is regarded as a prestigious occupation that operates independently and offers cooperative healthcare to persons of all ages, ethnicities, families, cultures, social groups, communities, nations, and in various environments. The primary goal is to foster wellness and deter the occurrence of ailments among individuals. Additional responsibilities encompass the provision of care for individuals nearing the end of life, those with disabilities and illnesses, the advancement of health education, doing research in healthcare, overseeing the healthcare system, and

engaging in health policy decision-making ^[1]. Selecting nursing as a profession can be a challenging decision for students, particularly when there is a wide range of choices to consider. The choice of career can be influenced by various elements, including interests, values, background, standards, luck, environmental circumstances, and more. To select a profession, a student must possess a sufficient awareness and desirable attitude towards it. The student's attitude can be influenced by both external and internal variables. As students choose a job and begin studying it, they cultivate a positive perception of it ^[2]. Lack of cooperation between nursing colleges and Senior Secondary schools has been observed. In

2007, H.T. Dave performed a study in Gujarat to assess the knowledge and attitude towards the nursing profession among male and female students in selected higher secondary schools. 200 samples were picked using the cluster sampling method from individuals who chose the scientific group. The data collection process utilised a structured knowledge questionnaire and a four-point Likert attitude scale. The results indicated that the students possessed a limited level of knowledge but held a favourable attitude towards the nursing profession. Female student demonstrated marginally superior knowledge compared to their male counterparts^[3]. A non-experimental survey approach was used with a descriptive comparative research design. The study recruited 30 adolescents from each community, who were between the ages of 14 and 19, and attended selected schools in rural and urban areas of Sikkim. The students were in the 11th and 12th grades. A probability cluster sampling technique was employed to select the district and schools from both urban and rural communities in Sikkim. Additionally, a probability simple random sampling technique was utilised to select the adolescent students from the chosen schools in both urban and rural communities of Sikkim. The data was collected using a validated structured questionnaire and attitude scale to assess the knowledge and attitude of students, and to analyse the relationship and association between them. The study's findings indicate that urban school pupils (352) possess superior knowledge compared to rural school students (319). Nevertheless, the urban school kids' attitude score was lower compared to that of the rural school pupils. The study also indicated a negative correlation between knowledge and attitude in the urban community ($P < 0.05$), but no correlation was seen between knowledge and attitude in the rural community ($P > 0.05$). The study found a significant link between knowledge and certain parameters. Specifically, gender and stream of study were shown to be associated with knowledge in the rural population, while religion was associated with knowledge in the urban community, as indicated by the χ^2 value ($P < 0.05$). In contrast, there was a correlation between attitude and gender in the urban population, whereas no correlation was observed in the rural group with any of the selected categories^[4]. Previous research studies have indicated that an increasing number of students

are choosing to pursue a career in nursing due to their altruistic inclination to assist others and their aspiration to attain higher education through post-graduation^[5]. Following the establishment of the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) in 1908 and the Indian Nursing Council (INC) in 1947, the nursing profession has steadily developed over the last century^[6].

The aim of present study was to assess the awareness and attitude of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession. Furthermore we have find out the awareness between knowledge and attitude of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A non-experimental descriptive research approach was employed to evaluate the awareness and attitude of 60 Senior Secondary students using a convenient sampling method. The study was conducted at chosen schools located in the Etawah area of Uttar Pradesh, India. The study included students from the 11th and 12th grades of both an English medium and a Hindi medium Senior Secondary school. The students recruited were from the science and commerce streams. The study employed a set of 20 structured awareness questions with a dichotomous response format, as well as 15 attitude scale with a five-point rating scale. The content validity of the tools was assessed by consulting five subject matter experts. The reliability of the tools was determined using the split-half reliability approach, yielding coefficients of 0.84 and 0.78, respectively. The analysis of awareness was categorised into six levels: poor, average, good, very good, excellent, and genius. Similarly, the analysis of attitude was categorised into three levels: unfavourable, neutral, and positive. Obtained ethical approval for the study was granted by both the institutional ethical committee and the administrators of the Senior Secondary schools.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result of study was analysed in following sections:

Analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of Senior Secondary students

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of demographic variables (N=60).

Socio-demographic variables	Frequency	%
Age		
15-16	26	43.3
17-18	33	55
19-20	0	0
21-22	1	1.7
Gender		
Male	30	50
Female	30	50
Father education		
Illiterate	6	10
Primary	4	6.7
Senior Secondary	28	46.7
Graduation	11	18.3
Post-graduation	11	6.7
Mother education		
Illiterate	13	21.7
Primary	10	16.7
Senior Secondary	29	48.3
Graduation	7	11.7
Post graduation	1	1.7
Religion		
Hindu	55	91.7
Muslim	5	8.3
Sikh	0	0
Christian	0	0
Socio-economic status		
Lower	12	20
Upper lower	15	25
Lower middle	9	15
Upper middle	15	25
Upper	9	15
Marital status		
Married	6	10
Unmarried	54	90
Area		
Rural	47	78.3
Urban	13	21.7

Birth order		
Younger	19	31.7
Elder	17	28.3
Middle	24	40
Information medium		
Magazine	3	5
News paper	11	18.3
TV	22	36.7
Internet	15	25
Friends	9	15
Family type		
Nuclear	18	30
Joint	42	70
Stream		
Science	54	90
Commerce	6	10
Class		
10+1	30	50
10+2	30	50
Medium		
Hindi	30	50
English	30	50

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of Senior Secondary students. The data reveals that the majority (55%) of students were between the ages of 17 and 18. The student population was evenly split between males and females, with both genders comprising 50% of the total. Approximately 46.7% of fathers and 48.3% of mothers had completed Senior Secondary education. The vast majority (91.7%) of students identified as Hindu. One-fourth (25%) of students belonged to either the upper lower or upper middle class. The majority (90%) of students were unmarried. A significant portion (78.3%) of students hailed from rural areas. Nearly one-third

(31.7%) of students were born later in their birth order. Similarly, almost one-third (36.7%) of students relied on television as their primary source of information. The majority (90%) of students pursued a science stream. A significant proportion (70%) of students came from joint families. Half (50%) of Senior Secondary students attended 10+1 & 10+2 schools, and an equal proportion attended schools that offered instruction in both Hindi and English.

Awareness of Senior Secondary Students Towards Nursing Profession

Table 2: Level of knowledge and percentage of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession (N=60).

Level of Awareness	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Genius	Mean \pm SD
Frequency	1	8	11	17	21	2	15.27 \pm 2.35
Percentage	1.66	13.33	19.33	28.33	35	3.33	

Table 2 indicates that among Senior Secondary students, the levels of awareness were as follows: 1.66% were classified as

poor, 13.33% as average, 19.33% as good, 28.33% as very good, 35% as exceptional, and 3.33% as genius level. The

average level of awareness among Senior Secondary students was 15.27, with a standard deviation of 2.35.

Attitude towards Nursing Profession

Table 3: Level of attitude and percentage of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession (N=60).

Level of attitude	Unfavourable	Neutral	Favourable	Mean \pm SD
Frequency	0	3	57	59.6 \pm 6.37
Percentage	0	5	95	

Table 3 indicates that 5% of Senior Secondary students exhibited a neutral attitude, whereas 95% displayed a positive view. The average attitude score among Senior Secondary students was 59.6, with a standard deviation of 6.4.

Relationship between Awareness and Attitude of Senior Secondary Students towards Nursing Profession

Table 4: Correlation between awareness & attitude of Senior Secondary students towards nursing profession.

Variables	N	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Mean	Std. Deviation	
Awareness	60	7.00	19.00	15.27	2.35	0.282 (mild positive correlation)
Attitude	60	45.00	73.00	59.6	6.37	

The average score for awareness was 15.27 with a standard deviation of 2.35, while the average score for attitude was 59.6 with a standard deviation of 6.37. A mild positive correlation of 0.252 was seen between the awareness and attitude of Senior Secondary students towards the nursing profession (Table 4).

Association Between Demographic Variables, Awareness and Attitude of Senior Secondary Students Regarding Nursing Profession

Table 5: Association b/w demographic variables and awareness of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession (N=60).

Demographic Variables	Chi Square	DF	P Value
Age	10.65	10	0.385 NS
Gender	5.85	5	0.321 NS
Father education	27.98	20	0.110 NS
Mother education	19.07	20	0.517 NS
Religion	2.11	5	0.833 NS
Socio-economic status	16.011	20	0.716 NS
Marital status	3.78	5	0.581 NS
Area	3.18	10	0.977 NS
Birth order	7.25	10	0.701 NS
Information medium	27.91	20	0.112 NS
Family type	6.64	5	0.249 NS
Stream	3.62	5	0.605 NS

NS = Non significant ($p > 0.05$)

Table 5 signifies that there was no significant association found between awareness of Senior Secondary students

towards nursing profession with their socio-demographic variables

Table 6: Association between demographic variables and attitude of Senior Secondary students regarding nursing profession (N=60).

Demographic Variables	Chi Square	DF	P Value
Age	0.20	2	0.903 NS
Gender	0.35	1	0.554 NS
Father education	5.25	4	0.263 NS
Mother education	1.85	4	0.763 NS
Religion	0.29	1	0.592 NS
Socio-economic status	2.34	4	0.674 NS
Marital status	0.35	1	0.554 NS
Area	0.87	2	0.646 NS
Birth order	2.90	2	0.234 NS
Information medium	1.12	4	0.892 NS
Family type	0.02	1	0.897 NS
Stream	1.91	1	0.167 NS

NS = Non significant

Table 6 signifies that there was no association found between attitude of Senior Secondary students towards nursing profession with their socio-demographic variables.

Majority of Senior Secondary students were having favourable attitude towards nursing profession, this result was similar by another study carried out by Neumbe et al., in year 2023 among 165 nursing students in two public universities in Uganda [7]. Present study reveals very good awareness of Senior Secondary students towards nursing profession. Result was similar to findings of another study among Senior Secondary students of selected schools in Faridabad, India [8].

CONCLUSION

The majority of Senior Secondary students exhibited a positive attitude and a high level of awareness towards the nursing profession. An affirmative and slight link has been discovered between the awareness and attitude of Senior Secondary students towards the nursing profession. No association was identified between the selected demographic factors of students and their level of awareness and attitude towards the nursing profession. This study suggests that there should be a co-operation between the two in order to create

awareness and develop attitudes among Senior Secondary students.

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None

Conflict of interest

NIL

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