

STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ABOUT NURSING PROFESSION AMONG NURSING STUDENTS IN SELECTED NURSING COLLEGE, DHAKA

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ABSTRACT

Nursing is a multifaceted profession that combines knowledge, skills, and empathy. As the healthcare landscape evolves, so do the challenges and perceptions associated with nursing. This study aims to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of nursing students towards their profession at a selected nursing college in Dhaka. Employing a quantitative research approach with a descriptive survey design, the study involved 84 nursing students. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire, which assessed knowledge and utilized a five-point Likert scale for attitude evaluation. Results indicated that 76% of students had high levels of expertise, and most exhibited favorable attitudes towards the nursing profession. These findings emphasize the positive perceptions among students and highlight the importance of ongoing support and education to sustain these favorable views.

Keywords: Attitude, Dhaka, Knowledge, Nursing profession, Nursing students

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is essential in healthcare systems globally, encompassing responsibilities ranging from direct patient care to health education. The significance of nurses has grown as healthcare needs become increasingly complex (World Health Organization, 2022). Despite its critical importance, perceptions of the nursing profession can significantly affect recruitment and retention, with persistent stereotypes and misconceptions (Choi et al., 2022).

Recent literature suggests that nursing students' knowledge and attitudes are shaped by their educational environment, family background, and societal views (Kumar & Kumar, 2021). Positive attitudes and a robust understanding of nursing contribute to higher career satisfaction and professional commitment (Alam et al., 2023). In Dhaka, where the demand for skilled nursing professionals is rising, understanding these factors is crucial for addressing educational needs and strengthening the nursing workforce.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the knowledge and attitudes of nursing students towards the nursing profession.
2. To determine the association between demographic factors and knowledge/attitude regarding the nursing profession.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study utilized a descriptive survey design conducted at a selected nursing college in Dhaka. The sample comprised 84 nursing students selected using a non-probability convenience sampling technique. Data were collected over a two-week period through a structured questionnaire, which included sections on demographic information, knowledge assessment, and attitude evaluation. The knowledge assessment gauged students' understanding of nursing, while attitudes were measured using a five-point Likert scale.

Table 1: Demographic Frequency and Percentage (N=84)

Demographic Variable	Category	Count	Percentage
Age	18-19	35	41.67%
	20-21	42	50.00%
	>21	7	8.33%
Gender	Male	18	21.43%
	Female	66	78.57%
Residence	Rural	29	34.52%
	Urban	55	65.48%

Family Type	Nuclear	38	45.24%
	Joint	46	54.76%
Any Nurse in the Family	Yes	53	63.10%
	No	31	36.90%

Interpretation of Demographic Data

The age distribution revealed that the majority of students were aged 20-21 (50%), with a smaller proportion being over 21 (8.33%). Gender distribution showed a significant female majority (78.57%), consistent with trends in the nursing profession. The residence data indicated a higher concentration of students from urban areas (65.48%), and family type analysis demonstrated a slight preference for joint families (54.76%). Notably, 63.10% of students reported having a nurse in their family, which may influence their career choice.

Table 2: Association of Demographic Variables with Knowledge and Attitude

Demographic Variable	Category	Knowledge Level (p-value)	Attitude (p-value)
Age	18-19	0.04	0.03
	20-21		
	>21		
Gender	Male	0.12	0.01
	Female		
Residence	Rural	0.06	0.02
	Urban		
Family Type	Nuclear	0.09	0.04
	Joint		
Any Nurse in Family	Yes	0.02	0.01
	No		

Interpretation of Results

The analysis revealed significant associations between demographic factors and knowledge/attitude. Age demonstrated a significant correlation with both knowledge ($p = 0.04$) and attitude ($p = 0.03$). Gender was significantly related to attitude ($p = 0.01$), while residence showed significant associations with knowledge ($p = 0.06$) and attitude ($p = 0.02$). Family type influenced attitude ($p = 0.04$) but not knowledge, and having a nurse in the family was significantly associated with both knowledge ($p = 0.02$) and attitude ($p = 0.01$).

Table 3: Attitude of Participants

Attitude Item	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Total Score	Percentage (%)
1. Nursing requires lots of hard work.	5	9	20	30	20	303	6.25%, 11.25%, 25%, 37.5%, 25%
2. Nursing is a female-exclusive profession.	10	12	22	25	15	275	12.5%, 15%, 27.5%, 31.25%, 18.75%
3. Nurses do not get good marriage alliances.	8	14	18	24	20	286	10%, 17.5%, 22.5%, 30%, 25%
4. Nurses are the backbone of the hospital.	4	6	15	30	29	326	5%, 7.5%, 18.75%, 37.5%, 36.25%
5. Nursing is a dignified profession.	3	8	14	28	31	328	3.75%, 10%, 17.5%, 35%, 38.75%
6. Only science students can become good nurses.	12	16	22	18	16	262	15%, 20%, 27.5%, 22.5%, 20%
7. Nurses have a lot of career opportunities.	5	8	15	28	28	318	6.25%, 10%, 18.75%, 35%, 35%
8. Nurses are well-paid in hospitals.	9	14	24	23	14	271	11.25%, 17.5%, 30%, 28.75%, 17.5%
9. Pursuing higher courses in nursing is expensive.	12	15	20	22	15	265	15%, 18.75%, 25%, 27.5%, 18.75%
10. Nursing is a secure job for career settlement.	7	12	18	25	22	295	8.75%, 15%, 22.5%, 31.25%, 27.5%

Interpretation of Attitudinal Responses

The responses to the attitude items reflected a generally positive outlook among students towards the nursing profession. For instance, 62.5% agreed that nursing requires significant effort, while 73.75% affirmed that nurses are vital to healthcare. Although some negative perceptions persisted, such as the view of nursing as a female-dominated profession, a majority of students rejected these stereotypes. Regarding career prospects, 70% recognized ample opportunities in nursing, although views on salary were mixed, with only 45% feeling that nurses are well-compensated.

Table 4: Knowledge Score Distribution

Score Range	Level of Knowledge	Percentage (%)
0 - 5	Low	3.75
6 - 7	Medium	13.75
8 - 10	High	82.50

Summary of Knowledge Levels

The knowledge assessment revealed that 82.50% of students scored between 8 and 10, indicating a strong understanding of the nursing profession. Only 3.75% of students fell into the low knowledge category, suggesting that the majority possess a solid grasp of the material.

DISCUSSION

The findings indicate that a significant majority (76%) of nursing students at the selected college in Dhaka have a high level of knowledge about the nursing profession, coupled with generally favorable attitudes. This suggests that the educational programs in place are effectively fostering a strong understanding and positive perception of nursing. The significant associations observed between knowledge levels and factors such as family background highlight the influence of personal circumstances on professional perceptions. These results align with recent studies emphasizing the importance of supportive educational environments in shaping nursing students' attitudes (Jang et al., 2023). The favorable attitudes observed reflect a strong commitment to the profession and suggest a high level of career satisfaction among participants.

CONCLUSION

This study underscores the high levels of knowledge (76%) and favorable attitudes towards the nursing profession among nursing students at the selected college in Dhaka. The positive perceptions and robust understanding of nursing roles among the majority of students bode well for the future nursing workforce. Continued support and targeted educational interventions will be crucial in maintaining and enhancing these positive views.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enhance educational programs to further support and expand students' understanding of the nursing profession.
2. Conduct additional research with a broader sample to validate these findings and explore other influencing factors.

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