

Youthful Students' Perception of The Nursing Profession: A Preliminary Single-group Research

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Abstract

Aim: This study had four objectives: (1) examine how adolescents perceive nursing before and after organized teaching programs; (2) examine how adolescents perceive nursing after structured teaching programs; (3) compare pre-test and post-test results to assess the efficacy of a structured teaching program; (4) relate the mean improvement in nursing image to particular demographic factors.

Background: This study assists in identifying potential areas for improvement or any potential interventions to enhance the perception of nursing among adolescent pupils who are potential nursing students. The appearance of nurses is also significantly influencing how people perceive them. Nursing leaders will find it difficult to decide if universal standards for nursing professionals should be established given the profession's dual reputation. The nursing profession's values and dignity should be improved right now. Most young people choose their careers based on their interests, their happiness, or their desire to serve others, not on the volume of revenue they will make. **Design:** The term "research design" refers to a researcher's entire strategy for discovering the answers to their research questions and putting their research hypotheses to the test. The research design outlines the methods the researcher will use to produce reliable, unbiased, and understandable data. The pre-experimental design, which consists of a single group pretest and posttest with manipulation, is used to gauge how adolescents' students perceive nursing. **Method:** The research approach adopted for the study is an evaluative approach. The current study utilized a pre-experimental research design known as a single-group pre-test and post-test design. The sample consists of 80 students of II PUC science group who were selected for the study and put into study group. **Result:** The study's findings reveal that the II PUC science group students had a negative pre-test level of perception of nursing, with a total percentage of 36.7%, a mean of 56.5, and a standard deviation of 12.2 indicating a negative perception. Students in the study group made up a total of 69.4% of the post-test level of nursing's II PUC science

group, with a mean of 107.7 and SD of 7.03. 32.8% of students found the structured teaching program proved effective. **Conclusion:** The study's findings confirm the necessity of implementing educational initiatives to foster among teenage pupils a positive perception of the nursing profession. The results of the study suggest that adolescents have a negative perception of the nursing profession. As a result, there is a need to introduce educational programs in the future that can improve their perception of the nursing profession.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of civilisation, nursing has been a noble vocation. The primary emphasis of nursing revolves around providing care to patients. Nursing is the practice of caring for, attending to, assisting those who are ill or healthy, and addressing their medical requirements. It covers disease prevention, health promotion, therapeutic care, and rehabilitation. As a result, nursing serves individuals, their families, and the broader community by providing essential services [1-4].

Both science and art go into nursing. In other words, a professional nurse learns to provide care in an artistic manner while showing compassion, care, and respect for each client's humanity and dignity. Nursing is an evidence-based discipline grounded in a constantly evolving body of knowledge, shaped by ongoing discoveries and advancements. When nurses combine the science and art of nursing into their profession, the level of care they deliver is at an excellence that has numerous advantages for the patients.

In India, nursing was denigrated as a menial profession. In the eyes of the community, nurses had a poor status. Because of this, the perception of nursing in our nation varies greatly from person to person. Currently, private nursing homes and hospitals need to start the process of hiring staff nurses who are trained to provide nursing care. Most private nursing homes and hospitals employ untrained personnel to deliver nursing services. The public's perception of nursing is currently deteriorating due to staff members working without a minimum level of qualification who may hurt patients instead of providing nursing care in all areas (Fig 1).

The nursing shortage is a further obstacle for the modern healthcare system. The negative perception of nursing is a significant contributing factor to the global shortage of nurses. Despite being recognized as both a young and ancient art, nursing continues to suffer from a negative public image. Nowadays, nursing is a specialized discipline that integrates scientific knowledge and artistic skills. Science involves the systematic study of natural phenomena through observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation. Nursing is a scientific field with a practical foundation in scientific study, as well as a therapeutic interpersonal process. Because it tackles responses of the individuals and families to current or potential health problems in a humanistic and holistic manner, nursing as a profession is exceptional. Nursing care therefore encompasses all facets of patients' and families' current and potential health issues. Nurses do not receive the same esteem and respect as doctors due to social stigma.



Figure 1. Variety of functions.

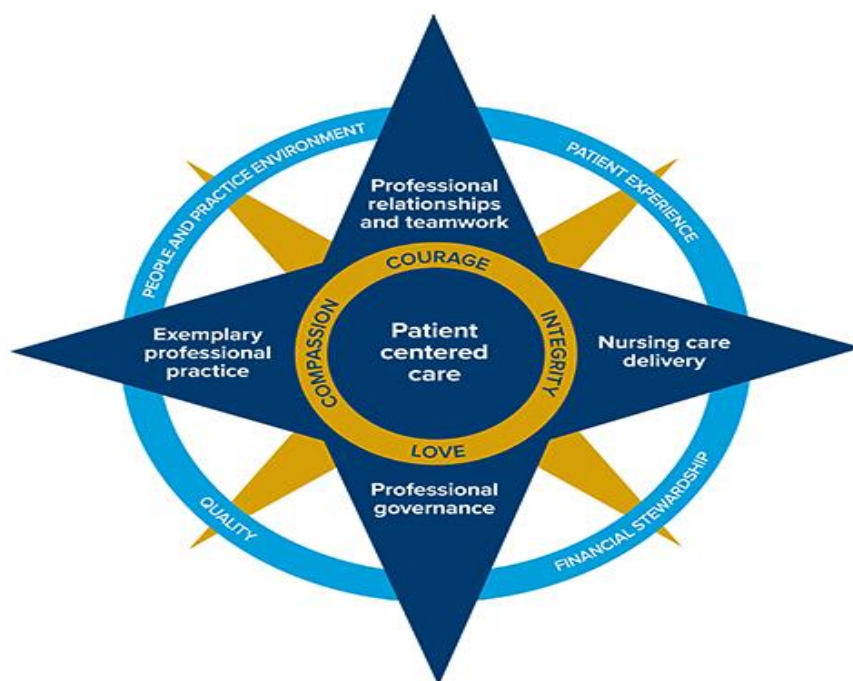


Figure 2. Professional practices.

Currently, nurses play a variety of functions, including decision-makers, advocates, teachers, and caregivers. They frequently play multiple tasks at once. The general public continues to believe that nurses are the servants of doctors and that formal training is not required to become a nurse. By providing effective care and building great relationships with the public, we as nurses should work to promote a positive perception of nursing. The government must assume responsibility for identifying the factors that are harming the public's perception of the nursing profession and work to improve it [5].

Nurses are often subject to stereotypes in society, ranging from being seen as saints and heroines to being associated with negative perceptions such as prostitutes and witches. These stereotypes are linked to the perception of nurses primarily as assistants to doctors and the notion that they have limited social lives. However, the nursing profession plays a crucial role in the healthcare system of India and the world. It is important for us to foster a positive attitude, perception, and image towards nursing (Fig 2) [6]

A new professional has a wide range of job options, including management, administration, management, clinical practice, and even entrepreneurship. The time is right to pursue a career as a nurse. There are countless opportunities in nursing. This nation has several top-notch medical facilities and educational institutes that can provide nurses with the best training possible. Understanding the breadth of nursing practice and how nursing affects the lives of the clients we care for is crucial for a student just starting their profession [7].

The image and the impact are all too easy to forget when we are faced with the challenges of delivering quality care in today's health care environment. It is essential for us to make an effort to uphold a favorable perception of our profession and ourselves. A negative image has the potential to manifest as a self-fulfilling prophecy [8].

Active initiation should be taken from the respective government to implement above stated strategies at the earliest. So that public will accept nursing as a career choice for their children, by which better image for nursing will be achieved [9].

Media should have an awareness of nursing profession so that they can display a better image of nurses to the public so the people will get positive attitude towards the profession. The analysis focused on Hollywood films, and data were gathered using the approach outlined by Rose. Several categories of discourse analysis emerged, including the portrayal of nurses as normalizing the hospital environment, depicting nurses as subordinate and low-ranking professionals, presenting nurses as either villains or heroes, and representing nursing as a predominantly feminine profession [10].

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Biologist Ludwig Von Bertalanffy developed this General System Theory in 1936. General system theory is meant to explain the set of interrelated facts or ideas and to assist scientists from disciplines to speak and learn from each other (Fig 3).

Major Concept and Definition

A concept is an idea or understanding of a fact or theory, and it is an integral part of the vocabulary used by nurses in all areas. It provides an explanation for the relationships among facts, concepts, and propositions.

A theory, on the other hand, is a comprehensive and systematic view of reality that serves a scientific purpose. It consists of a set of interrelated concepts that are formed into propositions, which can be utilized for prediction and control. According to Rapaport, a system is an entity that can maintain its organization despite internal or external changes. All living systems are open, meaning they engage in a continuous exchange of matter, energy, and information. Open systems interact to varying degrees with their environment, receiving matter, energy, and information from it.

Input

The general system theory defines input as the energy or raw information that is converted by the system information. This includes resources like cash, time, energy, human effort, and raw materials of various kinds. The information gathered during the evaluation process is referred to as input, and it comprises information about the immediate surroundings.

The II PUC science group students' socio-demographic information and specific criteria that satisfy inclusive and exclusive criteria are used in this study to collect data from the participants. Teenage students have a negative perception of the nursing profession.

Throughput

The methods the system employs to transform environmental energy inputs into finished goods that can either be used by the system itself or by the environment. Thinking, planning, making decisions, building, sorting, exchanging data, gathering in groups, talking, shaping, hammering, etc.

After the researcher used a pre-test and a structured teaching program to determine the level image of nursing among II PUC science group students. Processing of matter, energy, and information is done continually.

Output

The good or service that comes about as a result of the system's processing of technical, social, and financial input. software, paperwork, judgments, laws, regulations, funds, help, vehicles, attire, and other expenses.

The goal of a system is to assess the efficiency of a structured teaching program among students in the II PUC science group. The environment is being affected by the system to the environment. After the organized instruction program, students' perceptions of the nursing profession improved.

Feedback

Feedback is characterized as knowledge about specific characteristics of data or energy by output, and students who fall into the poor image and very poor image categories require structured teaching on the image of nursing in accordance with their level of understanding and perception of the nursing profession and environment.

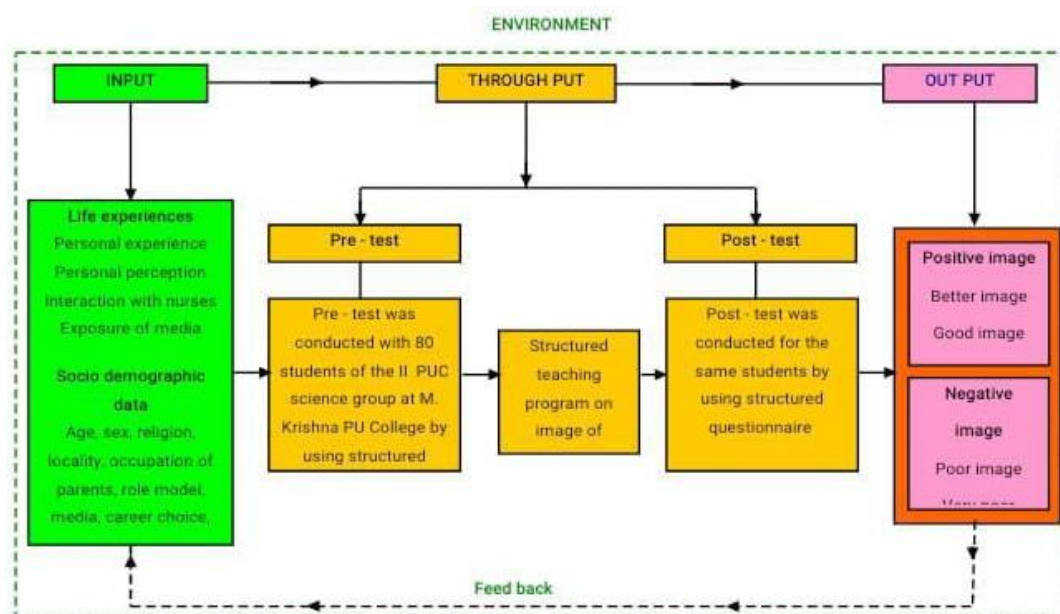


Figure 3. Modified conceptual framework based on Ludwig open system model – 1936.

METHODOLOGY

The study followed an evaluative approach as its research approach. The research design utilized in this study is a pre-experimental design specifically known as a single-group pre-test and post-test design. The sample consists of 80 students of II PUC science group who were selected for the study and put into study group.

The present study was conducted in the classroom of II PUC at M. Krishna PU college, Hassan, Karnataka. The researcher employed a non-probability convenience sampling technique to select the participants for the study. The investigator prepared the structured teaching program to educate the II PUC Science group students of M. Krishna PU College regarding nursing profession. The description of the tool was organized into two sections: The tool consisted of two major sections. They are: (1) Socio demographic schedule. (2) Image of nursing questionnaire.

Section I: Socio demographic schedule.

This schedule includes age, gender, locality, religion and occupation of parents, better role model, media, and career choice and opinion about nursing.

Section II: Image of nursing questionnaire.

It consists of 38 questions. The data was systematically organized and presented using descriptive and inferential statistics, as planned for the analysis.

Results

The result of the study shows that (Table 1) the pre-test level of image of nursing of the II PUC science group students of study group's total percentage was 36.7%, mean is 56.5 and SD is 12.2 which indicate that the II PUC science group students had poor image towards nursing profession.

From the below results according to the Examine how adolescents perceive nursing before organized teaching programs.

Table 1. Shows the percentage, mean, SD of pre-test image of nursing in four aspects.

S.N.	Aspects	Pretest score		
		Percentage	Mean	SD
1.	Nursing education	36.54%	13.2	3
2.	Nursing practice	37.8%	24.2	6.1
3.	Public opinion	37.2%	13.4	3.3
4.	Sex image	34.3%	5.5	1.9
5.	Total	36.7%	56.5	12.2

In post-test level of image of nursing of II PUC science group students of study group's total percentage was 69.4%, mean was 107.7 and SD was 7.03. The effectiveness of structured teaching program was 32.8%.

From the below results according to the second objective of the study the image of nursing assessed in the adolescent students after the structured teaching program (Table 2).

Table 2. Shows the percentage, mean, SD of post-test image of nursing in four aspects.

S.N.	Aspects	Post test score		
		Percentage	Mean	SD
1.	Nursing education	76.61%	27.6	4.4
2.	Nursing practice	71%	45.6	5.2
3.	Public opinion	67.4%	24.2	4.4
4.	Sex image	63.8%	10.11	3.1
5.	Total	69.4%	107.2	7.03

Table No 3 shows that the paired 't' test analysis of pre-test and post-test score of image of nursing. Over all mean of the pre-test score was 56.5 and SD 12.2. After the intervention the post-test score was 107.5 and SD 7.03. The mean difference between the pre-test and post-test was 50.6 and SD 11.1. The 't' value was 45.1. ($P < 0.001$) shows that there is significant increase in the image of nursing after the structured teaching program. The percentage mean difference was 32.8% (Fig 4).

Table 3. Paired 't' test analysis of image of nursing among adolescent students in the overall pre-test score and post-test score.

S.N.	Type of test	Percentage	Mean	SD	't' Value
1.	Pre test	36.7%	56.5	12.2	T = 45.1 P < 0.0 01 S**
2.	Post test	69.4%	107.5	7.03	
3.	Mean difference	32.8%	50.6	11.1	

S* -Significance $P < 0.001$, NS – No Significance $P > 0.05$

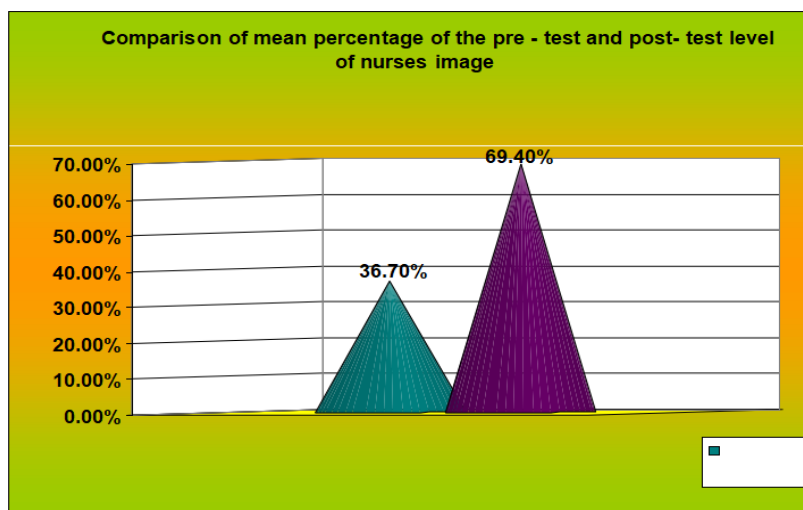


Figure 4. Multiple bar diagram showing the distribution percentage of image of nursing in the overall pre-test and post-test.

DISCUSSION

This article covers the objectives of the study and their relevance to the findings obtained from the results and reviews of relevant studies. The study's objective is to evaluate the impact of a structured teaching program on adolescents' perceptions of nursing at M. Krishna PU College Hassan in Karnataka. 80 students from the II PUC scientific group were chosen using the non-probability convenient selection technique based on inclusion criteria in order to meet the study's objectives.

CONCLUSION

The survey shows that the public's perception of nursing is not accurate. It is necessary to change the perception/image accordingly. The nursing faculty and nursing schools should take the initiative to inform students in high school and college about the features, revealing the multifaceted reality of nursing, as the general public is unaware of the scope of nursing. The pre-university curriculum might include an introduction to nursing and other vocations, which would raise students' awareness and aid in better decision-making. Students in college and high school should get the chance to visit hospitals and interact with nurses so they can witness the activities, responsibilities, and obligations of nurses. Exhibitions and workshops introducing nursing could be organized by nurses and nursing students. The nursing council should conduct an examination, which should be passed before certifying them as nurses and midwives in the nation.

SUMMARY

These young people have discussed the different ramifications and made recommendations for additional research on this topic as part of an ongoing effort to educate young people about the nursing profession and its significance today.

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