

A Study to Assess the Attitude of Public toward Nursing in Selected Community of District Patiala, Punjab

¹ Reny Thomas

¹(Principal, Swift Institute of Nursing, Rajpura, Patiala (Punjab), India)

Abstract: The present study has been undertaken to assess the attitude of public towards nursing in a selected community area, Punjab. The tool for the study was structured questionnaire which consists of two parts-PART-I consisted questions related to Socio-demographic data; PART-II consisted of structured questionnaire to assess the attitude of public toward nursing. The data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. The most significant finding was that 45% were scored high score, 53% were average and 2% were low score on attitude scale. According to criteria measurement peoples who scored average to high score that is from 72-120 are having positive attitude towards nursing and peoples who scored below average that is from 24-72 are having negative attitude. It was suggested that the most adolescents are aware of the calling & helping nature of nursing but have little knowledge about the diverse nursing career opportunities in teaching, management & administration.

Keywords: Assess, Attitude, Community, Nursing, Public.

Date of Submission: 20-05-2018

Date of acceptance: 02-06-2018

I. Introduction

Nursing is one of the most delightful arts, which needs blending of knowledge, skills and values. Nursing is a noble profession, which requires loving hearts & deserve for compassionate care. Today there are numerous vocations & occupations available to an individual to an individual to choose. But vocational interest & choice of a career do not appear all of a sudden. They emerge as a result of the developmental process. A nurse is defined as someone who nurses or fosters some quality of person, usually a woman, charged or trained for the care of sick (Treecce, 1988). The public image of an occupation determines its financial remuneration & also the type of person who will enter it. When stepping out the gates of school or college, there is wide variety of careers available & awaiting for youngsters. Young people have career ideas of their own. Many youngsters, inspite of the wide range of career choices, instinctively opt for engineering or medicine. One reason could be lack of information. Especially in the case of nursing many studies reveal that most adolescents are aware of the calling & helping nature of nursing but have little knowledge about the diverse nursing career opportunities in teaching, management & administration (Grosman, 1993).

Background of the study

The nursing profession is changing rapidly; it owes much to the influence of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), a woman with a vision who is a pioneer of nursing. When nursing was regarded with contempt, Miss Nightingale crusaded to change the world's view of a nurse. Her contribution is the education of women, her development of theories of nursing practice and hygienic techniques, the emphasis on the preparation of nurses for the care of sick, protection and promotion of health of the individuals and society are important facts of nursing spectrum today (Nancy, 1991).

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 counter. It is very essential that we must target a younger population. If we have to attract younger students, we must emphasize lifelong learning and possibilities that a bound with further education and credentialing. A study which was conducted by H.T Dave on assessing the knowledge & attitude towards nursing profession showed that 89.5% respondents had positive attitude towards nursing but this attitude is not translated into adverse for joining nursing. This may be due to some stigma attached to nursing (Hodgman, 1999). In India about 90% of people have minimum knowledge regarding nursing. They consider nursing to be a simple task and that anyone can be a nurse. They consider nurses to be physician's assistants and perform menial work like cleaning, bathing, and grooming of patients (Swamy, 2009).

Operational definitions

1. **Attitude:** Attitude is the evaluation of an object, person, behavior or event based on beliefs guiding behaviour of and individual.
2. **Public:** The people constituting a community, state or nation or a group of people sharing a common interest.
3. **Nursing:** Nursing is a profession within the health care sector focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities so they may attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life.

II. Review of Related Literature

Ashalata (2013) assessed the knowledge and attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession among 183 students of Manipal College of Medical Science Pokhara Kaski District Nepal. The study revealed that 98.4% of the students shown positive attitude. The statement on the scope of nursing is very broad and highly demanded. Out of 183 students, 92.9% had negative attitude towards the statement on any one can be a nurse easily.

Patida (2012) conducted a cross sectional survey in Punjab on future nurses perception towards profession and carrier plans among a group of 530 nursing students (GNM, BSC, Post Basic Nursing) in Punjab, India. The study revealed that 83.2% students were self motivated to join nursing, 99.1% students' perceived nursing profession as an opportunity to serve humanity. This study concluded that perception of nursing profession among nursing student is changing towards positive side.

Pugsley (2011) assessed the nurse attitude towards their profession on 45 junior nursing students. The study revealed that 100% of students stated that the role of the bed side nurse was vitally important in this era of health care and that they believe other profession recognizes the important of nursing and work they perform.

Lobo (2011) a descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge and attitude of public towards nursing profession in a selected hospital at Mangalore. The sample for the study comprised of 300 publics selected from a hospital. Among the samples selected, 75% were male and 25% were female. Data was collected using a questionnaire and attitude scale. The findings revealed that a significant association was found between attitude, knowledge and the presence of nurse in the family and source of information.

Luchesi et al. (2009) a study was conducted in Ilala district, Dar Es Salaam, to assess the knowledge and attitude of secondary high school students towards nursing profession, explore factors that promote aspiration to enroll in nursing schools. The study was an exploratory cross sectional, using both qualitative and quantitative methods and was conducted in Azania and Jangwani secondary school in Ilala district. Using convenience sampling and multistage sampling, 50 male and 50 female students who opted for physic, chemistry and biology were selected. The findings revealed that girls were more aware 79.2% about nursing as a profession compared to boys 76.9%. Non awareness was mostly about nurses being capable of independent practice, making decisions for themselves, working with high technology, following physician's orders without questioning and feeling good about what they do although students were aware of nursing they did not want to opt to join the profession, due to the image they have of it from the public.

III. Research Methodology

For the purpose of the study, a questionnaire was designed (Appendix-1). The questionnaire was pre-tested before using it with the survey population. All the respondents were given the same questionnaire irrespective of their status. The questionnaire was distributed to any of the respondents who willingly agreed to participate in the study. The respondents were also interviewed to fill the gaps.

Research Approach

Non experimental research approach was used for present study as the study aimed at assessing the attitude of public toward nursing in selected community area (Punjab).

Research design

A descriptive research design was utilized to assess the attitude of public towards nursing.

Independent variables

Independent variables in present study were age of people, sex, religion, education, occupation and any family member in nursing profession.

Dependent variable

Dependent variables in present study were attitude of public toward nursing.

Selection & description of setting

The study was conducted in village Ghaggar Sarai, Rajpura, Patiala. The total population of village is. The village is situated about 8 km away from Rajpura.

Population

In present study the population refers to male and female 20-40 years.

Delimitations of study

- ❖ Study was delimited to sample size of 100 peoples.
- ❖ Study was delimited to age group of 20-40 years.

Sample

The sample for study consists of male and female between the age group of 20-40 years.

Sample Size

The size of selected sample was 100 peoples.

Development & description of tool

An attitude scale was developed after review of literature to design the appropriate tool for collection of data. Review of literature from books, journals and internet provided foundation for the construction of tool. A proposed draft was prepared comprising of items as follow:

- ❖ Section A: Demographic variable-6
- ❖ Section B: Attitude scale-28

The tool was given to 7 experts and deletions, additions & modifications were done based on experts opinions. After that the tool comprising the items as follows:

- ❖ Section A- demographic variable-6
- ❖ Section B- Attitude scale-24

To accomplish the objectives of study, a attitude scale was constructed to measure the attitude. The tool consisted of two sections.

Section A: This part consisted 6 items related to demographic data of people related to their age, sex, religion, education, occupation and if any family member in nursing profession.

Section B: This section consisted of 24 statements having rating that is strongly agreed, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. They public gave their opinion by rating the scale.

Criterion measure

The criterion measure used in the study was attitude rating by public regarding their attitude on nursing profession.

Section A: it was related to demographic variable so was not included in rating system.

Section B: Total number of statements in this section is 24. There are two types of statement i.e. 18 positive statements and 6 negative statements.

Maximum attitude score-120

Minimum attitude score-24

The criterion measure was classified into the level as follow:

Sr. No	Level of attitude	Score	Percentage
01	High	96-120	80-100
02	Average	72-95	60-79
03	Low	24-71	20-59

Pilot Study

Pilot study was conducted in second week of April, 2014 to see the feasibility and reliability of the study after obtaining the formal permission from Sarpanch of village Bhuri Majra. Data were collected by attitude scale. 10 people who met inclusion were selected by using convenient sampling.

Reliability

The reliable of tool is consistency with which it measures the attitude. It is supposed to be measuring. Reliability was determined by administering it to 10 people of the selected community. The respondent did not find any difficulty in understanding and answering the question of the attitude scale. The reliability of tool found to be $r=0.88$ by computing coefficient of correlation by Karl Pearson's formula. Hence the tool was found to be reliable.

Objectives of the Study

- ❖ To determine the attitude of people toward nursing.
- ❖ To find an association between attitude and selected demographic variables.

Assumption

- ❖ The study assumes that public is having favorable attitude toward nursing profession.

Statement of the Problems

A study to assess the attitude of public toward nursing in selected community of district Patiala, Punjab

IV. Analysis & Interpretation

Organization of data for analysis

The analyzed data was organized according to the objectives and was presented under the following sections:

- ❖ **Section I:** Description of socio demographic characteristics of participants.
- ❖ **Section II:** Knowledge of students regarding alcoholism and its hazards.
- ❖ **Section III:** Association between knowledge of students regarding alcoholism and its hazards with selected demographic variables.

SECTION-I

Distribution of subjects according to socio demographic variables

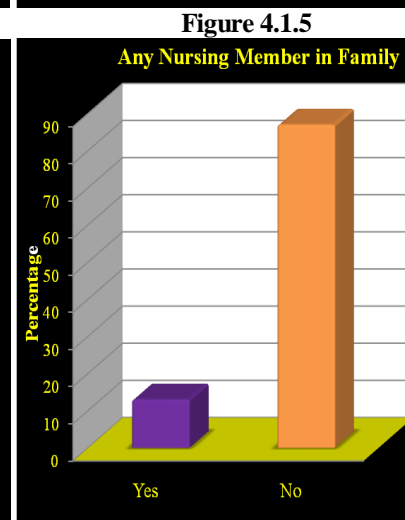
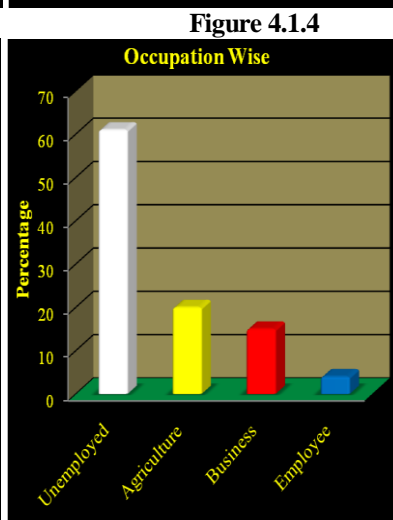
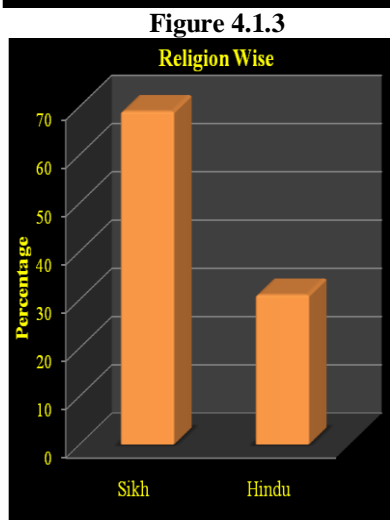
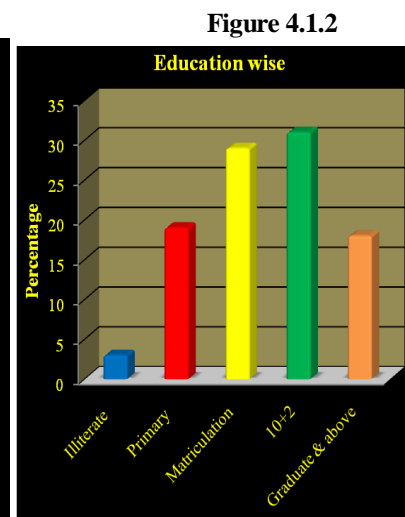
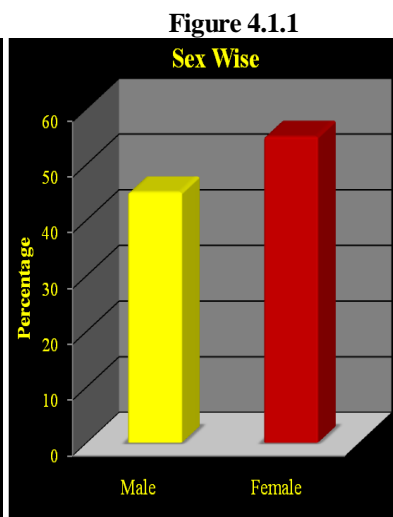
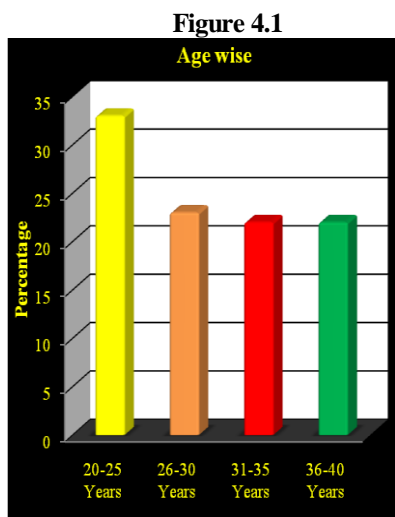
Table-4.1 Frequency and Percentage wise distribution of sample according to their demographic variables

Socio Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Age wise	20-25 Years	33
	26-30 Years	23
	31-35 Years	22
	36-40 Years	22
Sex Wise	Male	45
	Female	55
Education wise	Illiterate	03
	Primary	19
	Matriculation	29
	10+2	31
	Graduate & above	18
Religion Wise	Sikh	69
	Hindu	31
Occupation Wise	Unemployed	61
	Agriculture	20
	Business	15
	Employee	04

Any Nursing Member in Family	Yes	13	13
	No	87	87

N=100

Table 4.1 reveals that 33% of the selected community people were in the age group of 20-25 years followed by 23% in the age group of 26-30 years and rest 22% and 22% were in the age group of 31-35 years and 36-40 years, respectively. Majority 55% of selected community people were females and remaining 45% were males. Majority 69% of selected community people were from Sikh religion, 31% from Hindu religion. Regarding educational status, majority of 61% of selected community people were unemployed 20% belongs to agriculture profession, 15% had their business and rest 4% was employed. There were 13% of selected community people have a family member that belongs to nursing profession, and 87% have not any family in nursing profession.



Section-II

Table No. 4.2 Frequency distribution of Public according to their score

Category	Score	Percentage
High	96-120	45
Average	72-95	53
Low	24-71	02

Maximum score is 120, Minimum=24

It is shows that 45% were scored high score, 53% were scored average score and 2% were scored low score on attitude scale. According to criteria measurement peoples who scored average to high score that is from 72-120 are having positive attitude towards nursing and peoples who scored below average that is from 24-72 are having negative attitude. So, percentage distribution shows that 98% people have positive attitude towards nursing and 2% have negative attitude towards nursing in selected community area.

Table 4.3 Mean Median and standard deviation of knowledge scores of students on structured knowledge Questionnaire

Test	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Attitude scale score	93.70	94	8.740

In descriptive statistics mean score is 93.70, median score is 94, SD 8.740, Number 100, maximum score 113, minimum score 65, range 48 and mean% is 75.56.

Section-III

Description of the Association between attitude and selected demographic variables

Table 4.4 Descriptive statistics & ANOVA

Socio Demographic Variable		Mean	SD	Mean	N	F test	P Value
Age	20-25 Years	93.06	9.02	75.05	33	1.204 NS	0.313
	26-30 Years	95.91	8.88	77.35	23		
	31-35 Years	91.32	9.35	73.64	22		
	36-40 Years	94.73	7.27	76.39	22		

NS=Not Significant

Table depicts that most of the people's attitude towards nursing from the age group of 20-25 years (33) with mean value 93.06 & SD 9.02 followed by age group of 26-30 years (23) with mean value of 95.91 and SD value 8.88, age group of 31-35 years (22) with mean value of 91.32 and SD value 9.35, age group of 36-40 years (22) with mean value 94.73 and SD value 7.27. The value of was 1.204 which was not significant.

V. Finding of the Survey

- ❖ Most of the people's attitude towards nursing from the age group of 20-25 years (33) with mean value 93.06 and SD value SD 9.02 followed by age group of 26-30 years (23) with mean value of 95.91 and SD value 8.88, age group of 31-35 years (22) with mean value of 91.32 and SD value 9.35, age group of 36-40 years (22) with mean value 94.73 and SD value 7.27. The value of was 1.204 which was not significant.
- ❖ Out of people (100) 55 were females having attitude towards nursing with mean value of 93.31 & SD value 8.40 and 45 were males with mean value 94.18 & SD value 9.22. The value of F was 0.243 which was not significant.
- ❖ Most of the people's attitude towards nursing from Sikh religion (69) with the mean value of 93.68 & SD value 9.12 and Hindu religion (31) with mean value of 93.74 and SD value 7.98. The F value was 0.001 which was significant.
- ❖ Most of the people having attitude towards nursing were studied up to 10+2 (31) with mean value of 91.26 and SD value 8.57, matriculation (29) with mean value of 96.83 and SD 8.94, primary (19) with mean value of 93.16 and SD 6.41, graduate (18) with mean value of 94.44 and SD value is 10.16 and illiterate (3) people with mean value of 87.67 and SD value 3.79. The value was 2.022 which were not significant.
- ❖ Most of the people having attitude towards nursing were unemployed (61) with mean value 92.95 and SD value 8.57, followed by agriculture (20) with mean value 95.20 and SD value 7.70 business (15) with mean value 92.73 and SD value 19.95 and employed (4) with mean value 101.25 and SD value. The F value was 1.42 which was not significant.
- ❖ Majority of (87) having attitude towards nursing were not have any family member that belongs to nursing profession with mean value of 93.06 and SD value 8.70 and rest 13 peoples were have a family member that belongs to nursing profession with mean value of 98.00 and SD value 8.02. The value of F was 3.716 which were not significant.

VI. Conclusion

On the basis of the results of data analysis, the following conclusion was reached:

The finding it can be concluded that most of the people were age group of 20-25 years most of them were females and most of them belongs to Sikh religion and had educational status up to 10+2 and most of the people are unemployed. Overall attitude of people towards nursing was positive. No significant association was found between attitude score of people and demographic variables but religion of people shows significant relationship.

Implications

- ❖ **Nursing Education:** The finding will help the peoples to understand about the important of nursing.

- ❖ **Nursing Research:** The findings of the study can be utilized for conducting research using large sample.

Limitations

- ❖ Study was delimited to sample size of 100 peoples.
- ❖ Study was delimited to age group 20-40.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank the almighty God the most beneficent and merciful, who blessed me for completing this work. It is not possible to record in words the inspirational guidance of my husband Mr. Kurian Noji Mathew for the inspirational & motivational guidance.

References

- [1]. Ashalata, Devi. (2013). A study to assess the knowledge and attitude of nursing student towards nursing profession among students of Manipal college of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Kaski District Nepal, *International Journal of Nursing Care* 1(1), 10-15.
- [2]. Grosman, D. G. & Northrop C. (1993). What high school students think of a nursing career: A survey of Dode Country Senior High Schools, *Journals of Nursing Education* 32(4), 157-162.
- [3]. Hodgman, C.E. (1999). High school students of color tell us what nursing and college mean to them, *Journal of Professional nursing* 15(2), 95-105.
- [4]. Loba, Roshal Savina. (2011). A study to access the knowledge and attitude of pre-degree student towards nursing as a profession in selected pre-university colleges at Mangalore.
- [5]. Luchesi et al. (2009). An instrument to analyze secondary level student's image about nurses: *Rev Esc Enferm USP* 43(2), 272-278
- [6]. Nancy, Sr. (1991). Principles and practices of nursing, 1 ed. N.R. brother.
- [7]. Patidar, A. B. (2011). Nursing and midwifery research journal 7(4) Retrieved from May 05, 2018, from www.medind.nic.in/nad/+11/i4/nadt/11
- [8]. Pugsley, L.m. (2011). Poster presentation. Nurses attitude towards their profession. Water's Edge Ballroom, Hilton Waikoloa Village.
- [9]. Swamy, D.S.V. (2009). Attitude of people towards nursing, *Nightingale nursing times* 5(9), 33-35.
- [10]. Trece, E.W, & Trece, J. W. (1988). Elements of Research in nursing, 5ed. Mosby, London.

About Author



Reny Thomas is presently working as vice principal in Swift Institute of Nursing, Rajpura (Patiala). She holds an M.Sc in Psychiatric nursing and Pursing PhD from NIMS University, Jaipur (Rajasthan).

Reny Thomas "A study to assess the attitude of public toward nursing in selected community of district Patiala, Punjab ." *IOSR Journal of Nursing and Health Science (IOSR-JNHS)*, vol. 7, no.3 , 2018, pp. 48-54.