

Opting Nursing as a Profession among B.Sc. Nursing Students in India: A descriptive survey research

Anupama Devi K.^{1*}, Kumar Singh S.²

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17511/ijmrr.2022.i04.03>


^{1*} Khumukcham Anupama Devi, Tutor, College of Nursing AIIMS, Patna, Bihar, India.

² Sudhakar Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, MGM College of Nursing & Paramedical, Patna, Bihar, India.

Introduction: Nursing as a career is widely accepted to be viewed positively by society because it provides job security, mobility, and career variety. As this paper demonstrates, the desire to help and care for others remains the primary reason for choosing nursing in the twenty-first century.

Objective: The purpose of this paper is to determine why B.Sc. Nursing students choose nursing as a career and what factors play a role in their choice. **Method and Material:** Quantitative, descriptive survey research design adopted and by using convenience sampling collected 312 respondents all over India. Self-questionnaires were developed in the google form, and circulated among B.Sc. Nursing students and information were collected. **Result:** Female respondents are four folds more and around 51% of respondents appeared in NEET exams before joining a nursing career. Another common misconception that plagues the nursing profession is that students choose nursing as a second career after failing to gain admission to medical school. **Conclusion:** In general, nurses are extremely enthusiastic about their jobs. Although there are numerous reasons why people choose nursing as a profession, one constant is that nurses can make a difference in someone's life, as evidenced by all of the COVID-19 cases reported from around the world.

Keywords: Opting, Nursing, Profession, B.Sc. Nursing

Corresponding Author	How to Cite this Article	To Browse
Khumukcham Anupama Devi, Tutor, , College of Nursing AIIMS, Patna, Bihar, India. Email: khumukcham.devi@aiimspatna.org	Khumukcham Anupama Devi, Sudhakar Kumar Singh, Opting Nursing as a Profession among B.Sc. Nursing Students in India: A descriptive survey research. Int J Med Res Rev. 2022;10(4):128-133. Available From https://ijmrr.medresearch.in/index.php/ijmrr/article/view/1393	

Manuscript Received
2022-08-02

Review Round 1
2022-08-04

Review Round 2
2022-08-11

Review Round 3
2022-08-18

Accepted
2022-08-25

Conflict of Interest
Nil

Funding
Nil

Ethical Approval
Yes

Plagiarism X-checker
19%

Note



© 2022 by Khumukcham Anupama Devi, Sudhakar Kumar Singhand Published by Siddharth Health Research and Social Welfare Society. This is an Open Access article licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> unported [CC BY 4.0].



Introduction

In India, the nursing profession has traditionally been devalued, but in recent years, it has gained more respect. The most and least respected professions are revealed in a new international YouGov survey of over 22,000 people in 16 countries. [1]. Respondents were asked whether they would be happy for their child to work in each job to see how people feel about it and Scientists top the list, with an average score of +72 across the 16 countries. Doctors are close behind, at +69, and nurses' average score was +41 same rank as musicians. According to Indian respondents, the average score was only +25 for nurses which are even behind social media influencer average score of +44, police officer average score of +39 and farmer average score of +31, elderly care worker+27. From this, we concluded that the acceptance rate of nurses among Indians is very below.[1]. World Health Organization's Global Health Workforce Statistics, OECD, supplemented by country data published on Nurse and Midwife per 1000 in India is 2.4. Highest North America 15.3, Finland 14.9 and lowest Chad and Somalia 0.1 per 1000 population.

Background

Nurses and midwives are essential in the delivery of health care. These are the people who dedicate their lives to caring for mothers and children, providing life-saving vaccines and health advice, caring for the elderly, and addressing other basic health needs. They are frequently the community's initial and only point of contact for medical help. If the world is to achieve universal health care by 2030, it will require an additional 9 million nurses and midwives. As a result, the World Health Organisation has declared 2020 to be the International Year of Nurses and Midwives [2].

Although nursing was not everyone's first choice, it was clear that everyone wanted to work in a field that entailed caring. Participants' professional choices were influenced by family or friends who worked in the field. [3]. The decision to pursue a career in nursing is primarily influenced by practical considerations, such as employment opportunities. Although young people are aware of the nursing profession's low prestige in Poland, they believe it is possible to improve its image and prestige.[4].

Caregiving appears to have reached an all-time low in terms of perceived worth. whether it's for children and the elderly at home or in the clinic (bedside) (homemakers). Individuals who refuse to take advantage of any opportunity (for themselves) to care for another person are currently viewed as weak and/or unmotivated. As a result, it's not unexpected that modern society frequently disregards nursing professionals' talents, skills, and even clinical abilities. Nursing professionals have a complex variety of set duties, involving drug dosage, troubleshooting, ongoing patient monitoring, and providing holistic comfort and support to the sick and needy. Beyond the traditional nursing role, the profession has expanded to include nurse practitioners, administrators, researchers, and even educators. Nursing professionals, given the wide range of responsibilities they perform, deserve greater respect and power than being treated like "ward housewives." [5].

The decision to pursue a career in nursing is primarily influenced by practical considerations such as employment opportunities. Despite being aware of the nursing profession's low prestige in Poland, young people believe it is possible to improve its image and prestige. It's critical to learn how students view nursing and why they choose nursing as a career. Researchers are interested in the motivations for becoming a nurse.[6].

Objective

The purpose of this paper is to determine why B.Sc. Nursing students choose nursing as a career and what factors play a role in their choice.

Method and Material

Research approach: Quantitative Research Approach

Research Design: Descriptive survey research design

Population: Nurses of India

Setting: India

Sampling Technique: Convenience sampling technique.

Sample Size: 312 students responded.

Description of Tool: The tool consists of 2 parts.

1. Demographic Profile: Gender, State, Class of study, Family income, Literate members in the family, type of community.

2. Self-Administered Questionnaire: It consists of five questions

1. Have you attended NEET before joining nursing?
2. Was Nursing Profession your first choice as a career?
3. Was it your own choice to join this profession?
4. Why did you choose the Nursing Profession?
5. Are you satisfied with the decision you made.

Validity of Self-administered questionnaire: After developing the questionnaire in the google form and it was validated by 10 experts.

Method of data collection: After getting Ethical Clearance, the google form was shared all over India through the mail and WhatsApp groups.

Result

Table No.1: Description of demographic variable and self-administered questionnaire and frequency percentage.

S. N	Variables	Frequency Percentage	
1	Gender	Female	80.2
		Male	19.8
Self-Administered Questionnaire			
2	Have you tried for NEET before joining Nursing?	Yes	53.2
		No	46.8
3	Was Nursing your first choice as a Career?	Yes	50.3
		No	49.7
4	Was Nursing your own choice to join this profession?	Yes	81.8
		No	17.9
5	Why you chose Nursing Profession? Because	By word of mouth from others	6.1
		Pressure by family/peer	6.4
		To get respect like a doctor in society	8.3
		Inspiration from the nurses working in hospitals/community health centres	10.9
		We can't afford private medical college fee	12.2
		To get a job at aboard	13.27
		For job security	20.1
		Own choice to serve people	22.73

Discussion

In this paper Gender – males -19.8% and females 80.2%. In India, a total of 3688 nursing institutions spread across the country offer students the opportunity to pursue education in various nursing courses in 1,48,090 seats. Among these, 2127 institutes offer B.Sc. Nursing degrees, with a total of 1,07,814 seats available as informed by The Minister of State for Health Dr Bharti Parveen Pawar in the Lok Shaba.[7]. The number of coeducation nursing colleges is less in India, according to an Analysis of Gender equity in the health workforce of 104 countries, the percentage of female and male nurses is 79% and 21%. in South-East Asia Region which includes India.[8] The poor ratio of 1.7 nurses and auxiliary medical staff to 1,000 people in India, 43 percent less than what the World Health Organization recommends, demonstrates that nursing does not attract enough people (WHO). Nurses, midwives, health visitors, and auxiliary nurse midwives are all included. Ironically, WHO has designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. In India, the nurse-patient ratio is 1:20, compared to the international standard of 1:4.

The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) crisis has taught us that nurses' working conditions and pay should be drastically revised. They work long hours for little pay and benefits. The word nurse is spoken of with skepticism and contempt because it is not considered a job for men. This attitude is evident in India, where the male-to-female nurse ratio is 20:80.[9].

According to the decision of the Central Institute Body, an 80:20 ratio is used in the NORCET (Nursing Officers Recruitment Common Eligibility Test) Examination, which means that 80 percent of the seats are reserved for female candidates and 20 percent for male candidates.

In this paper, 50.3% of students (only half of the sample strength) chose the Nursing profession as their first choice, whereas 53.2% (more than half the sample strength) appeared National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (pre-medical entrance test) which shows that Nursing was not everybody's first choice. 26.9% chose the nursing profession because they haven't got admission to MBBS "In India, nursing as a profession gets caught in the hierarchy, where doctors are considered

Superior to nurses," said Anant Bhan, global health, health policy, and bioethics researcher. [10]. There is a myth in India that nurses work as assistants of doctors as because nurses are frequently depicted as doctors' assistants in the media, television, and movies, which influences the public perception of nurses.[10]. 81.8% of students chose this profession on their own. After taking admission 90.4% of students were satisfied with the profession.15.4% by inspiration from a known nurse in their family/relatives.30.1% for Job Security, and 10.9% by inspiration from the nurses working in a hospital/community. 6.1% by word of mouth from others,6.4% by Family/peer pressure.

8.3% chose the nursing profession by thinking that they will get respect like doctors in their community.35.3% by their own choice to serve people in health care need,12.2% chose because they can't afford private MBBS college fees,13.5% chose to get a job abroad and 0.3% to help others in need.

The World Health Organization has acknowledged that the hard work and selfless service provided by India's health workers, including nurses and midwives, have undoubtedly contributed to the country's impressive 31.15 percent recovery rate. Nurses described their difficulties in keeping their charges and themselves safe on a COVID-19 repatriation flight, in hospitals and ICUs, providing antenatal care, elderly care, and psychosocial support in the context of COVID-19, and, for one nurse, being quarantined for two weeks after caring for patients who tested positive for the virus.[11].

Migrant-friendly health-care policies. India, which has the most medical colleges in the world (541), is one of the largest exporters of healthcare workers to the developed world, which includes countries in Europe, the Gulf region, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel. According to OECD data from 2017, there were 69,000 doctors from India working in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Australia, as well as 56,000 Indian nurses working in these four countries. After the Philippines, India is the world's largest source of nurses, and they have been offered higher pay and benefits since the outbreak of the pandemic.[12].

There is no doubt that women make up a larger proportion of the nursing

Workforce around the world than men. However, the notion that nursing is only for women is completely false. A growing number of men are choosing and must choose nursing as a profession. However, trends are changing gradually. The fight against COVID-19 is a good example of how this myth was completely debunked. Both men and women have contributed to the care of patients infected with the virus. Overcoming the fight against COVID-19 has been more about being a caregiver than about gender discrimination.[13].

A nursing career is unique, rewarding, and one of the best choices a healthcare professional can make. Our battle with COVID-19 has demonstrated unequivocally that nurses play a critical role in ensuring that patients are safe. It has dispelled many myths that serve as misunderstandings in preventing potential nurses from entering the field. Understanding this profession is critical to ensuring high nurse recruitment rates. Many people will be able to enter the nursing profession after myths are debunked at COVID-19. Students will now be able to consider nursing as a rewarding profession that allows them to focus their efforts on helping those who are sick and suffering.[13]. Nurses are frequently depicted as doctors' assistants in the media, on television, and in movies, which influences the public perception of nurses, this should be avoided by spreading awareness about the roles and responsibilities of nurses.

Nursing Implementation

Nursing Administration

Nursing leaders have not been involved in the decision-making which results in a lack of job satisfaction because of a lack of appreciation and, a lack of promotion. So, it is the responsibility of the Administration to clear the myth during the initial period to increase job satisfaction and active participation in problems like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nursing Research: Nurses should encourage to research to fill the gaps

1/5th of the nursing population comprises females, half of the subjects chose nurses as their own choice and tried for NEET before joining the Nursing profession, only 1/5th chose nursing to serve needy people and still there are a lot of misconceptions about the profession.90% B.Sc. Nursing satisfied with their choice

Recommendation

1. Find out the reason for job satisfaction among nurses and undervalued by society and how to stop brain drain by higher authorities what is the role of the Nursing manager to motivate the young generation
2. To close these gaps and myths, more investment in health infrastructure, professional colleges, and technical education is needed, as well as policies that improve the capacity and quality of the health workforce.
3. Health directorates of the states where the state nurse's registration council works must be headed by a nurse in an executive role or as director in chief of the councils. So that nurses must be strengthened.
4. Nurses must be given equal opportunity to head prestigious institutions like AIIMS, PGIs, etc as Directors and Chiefs of the Health Care Facility.
5. Governments and people must come forward and debunk all the myths related to the profession and try to make this profession lucrative and the first choice (parallel to doctors because it is seen that most nurses once wanted to be doctors) so that people may look up to it and want to become one.
6. To improve the public image of nurses and midwives by highlighting their contribution toward an effective healthcare delivery
7. To gather the highest levels of political support by raising the issues to move the nursing and midwifery agenda in the current pandemic and immediate future.

Conclusion

The ratio of Nurses and population ratio is very low in India however there is a brain drain. Female percentages are contributing to the huge population and nursing as a career is not the first choice among B.Sc. Nursing students and many students appeared for MBBS entrance before joining nursing. But after joining the course the satisfaction rate is increasing.

Reference

01. Smith M, Ballard J. Scientists and doctors are the most respected professions worldwide

| YouGov [Internet]. Today. *yougov.com*. 2022 [cited 8 February 2021] [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

02. Masso M, Sim J, Halcomb E, Thompson C. Practice readiness of new graduate nurses and factors influencing practice readiness: A scoping review of reviews. *Int J Nurs Stud*. 2022 May; 129:104208. doi: 10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2022.104208 [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

03. Mooney M, Glacken M, O'Brien F. Choosing nursing as a career: a qualitative study. *Nurse Educ Today*. 2008 Apr;28(3):385-92. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2007.07.006 [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

04. Marcinowicz L, Owlaszuk A, Slusarska B, Zarzycka D, Pawlikowska T. Choice and perception of the nursing profession from the perspective of Polish nursing students: a focus group study. *BMC Med Educ*. 2016 Sep 20;16(1):243. doi: 10.1186/s12909-016-0765-3 [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

05. Mishra S. Respect for nursing professional: silence must be heard. *Indian Heart J*. 2015 Sep-Oct;67(5):413-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ihj.2015.07.003 [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

06. Boniol, Mathieu, et al. Gender equity in the health workforce: analysis of 104 countries. No. WHO/HIS/HWF/Gender/WP1/2019. 1. *World Health Organization, 2019* [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

07. Misra B. 1,07,814 BSc Nursing, 13,971 MSc Nursing Seats available at 3,688 Colleges in India [Internet]. *Medical dialogues*. in. 2022 [cited 1 September 2021] [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

08. Nurses and midwives (per 1,000 people) - India | Data [Internet]. Data. *worldbank.org*. 2022 [cited 19 June 2019] [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

09. Hindustan Time. Valuing nursing can transform health care. [Internet]. 2020 [cited 19 June 2022]. [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

10. Kurian S. How India undermines the role of nurses in the healthcare system. *The News Minute* [Internet]. 2021 [cited 19 June 2022]. [Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]

11. Nurses in India caring for COVID-19 patients

Contribute to an impressive recovery rate [Internet]. WHO. int. 2022 [cited 19 June 2022]. *[Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]*

12. Kumar S. Exporting Indian healthcare workers to the world [Internet]. Observer Research Foundation; 2021. . *[Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]*

13. 5 myths about nursing that were busted during COVID-19 - Global Nursing opportunities in Canada & UK [Internet]. Global Nursing opportunities in Canada & UK. 2021 [cited 19 June 2022]. . *[Crossref][PubMed][Google Scholar]*