

Saudi Secondary School Students Perception toward Image of the Nursing as a Profession

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Abstract

During the 21st century, nursing is one of growing field internationally wherever image in nursing is an important component of a profession. Thus, nursing image means that the manner of nursing personnel is professionals who technically and caring competent in comparing to other professionals in the healthcare settings. Objective: assess Saudi secondary school students ' perception toward Image of the Nursing as a Profession. A cross-sectional descriptive correlational research design was developed to collect the data in this research study. The area of studying was carried out at female and male secondary schools at the western region in Jeddah. The sampling technique was utilized non-probability convenience was utilized for this study. The estimated number of students' was 150 students from previous settings. The study tool was nursing image questionnaire classified into two parts: the first part is general information and the second part consists of 28-item that classified into four subscales namely: nursing as a profession, nurses' roles, the image of nursing, and context of social value. Results the main finding of this study was that a statistical significance was found between dimensions of the nursing image and sources of nursing information as a profession in terms of the context of social value with no differences in between male and female Saudi secondary school students perception of nursing as a profession. Therefore, it is recommended that increase the community awareness through mass media to highlight the advantages of the nursing occupation.

Introduction

In spite of universal challenges among nursing profession which face with common problems all over the world, therefore, nurses still confront many problems associated with their images and that influencing their controlling for quality of health care. Nursing is art and science that used as safeguard, advocate, and support of health and avoid of sickness and harm for people as well as their families, society and community. ^(1,2) The nursing profession integrated nursing science with medical science and others

sciences in treating the variety of sick people quality of life. Based on the scope of nursing practice all nurses working in the nursing profession should have at least one qualification to meet the minimum standards of competency in different specialized areas. ^(3,4)

Typically, nursing is considered as a most applicable and suitable to work by women as traditional gender roles of women were in natural born as the female, mother to provide the care for their families. ⁽⁶⁾ Due to the negative image of nursing presented by social media focused on women and make nursing career unwelcome by society especially for employment of man. Therefore, improvement of qualified males among nursing career likely predicts by sexual category. ^(7,8)

Nurses act as centrality roles that they were a professional who should be knowledgeable and skillful in performing and provide a holistic care for all people from different ages and social background based on their physiological and psychological needs. ⁽⁸⁾ They one member of a multidisciplinary team because they provide the high quality of patients care both interdependently, or dependently in collaboration with medical staff and other healthcare professionals. In addition, nurses perform their activities widespread in the variety of settings such as acute and long care facilities, home care, industrial settings, general clinic as well as physician offices. ^(9,10)

All over past 50 years, images of nursing history were extremely developed and changed. A nursing image was defined as a cognitive description of several ways how persons see themselves, others, disciplines among different aspects of life together with providers and consumers of health care services. ⁽¹¹⁾

According to Johnson et al (2010), they stated that a nursing image can be affected by many factors influencing the decision for the selection of nursing as a profession. These factors are nurses' picture in the mass media, society awareness about nursing status, word of mouth from experience of one family members, or friends working as a nurse. In addition, physician and nurses' interpersonal relationship, exposure to health and workplace violence risk, low income as well as poor working conditions. ⁽¹²⁾

A positive nursing image is essential for the nursing profession to help the educational settings in selecting the excellent undergraduate students for joining career of nursing. Also, it can support undergraduate students in developing the mutual relationships with clients and their families as well as in the future communicate a professional nurses' involvement in the positive effect for health care results. ^(13,14)

In Arab countries, nursing is emergent very quickly as a respected and significant profession. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a well-developed country in which it has rapid advanced changes through supported the vision of the Saudisation policy (vision 2030) in overall life aspects. Moreover, in recent years nursing is marked the image as an essential part of its profession. The progress of professionalism among nursing has focused on the preparation of different programs based on educational and systematic methods. ⁽¹⁵⁾

A positive nursing image is a clear progress and expansive evident. It is hoped that the findings will indicate how secondary school students compete to the nursing and enrolling the best smart students into the nursing profession. Also, using the results to market nursing approach to ensure that they have a realistic view of the profession and consider it as a career. ⁽¹⁶⁾

Materials and Methods

Materials

Objective:

Assess Saudi secondary school students 'perception toward the image of the Nursing as a Profession.

Specific objectives:

1. Determine knowledge and opinion of Saudi school secondary school students toward the image of nursing as a profession.
2. Compare between knowledge and opinion of male and female Saudi school secondary school students toward the image of nursing as a profession.

Study design:

A cross-sectional descriptive correlational research design was utilized to collect the data in this research study.

Study Settings:

The area of studying was carried out at female and male secondary schools at the western region in Jeddah.

Study Sample:

For the current study, the sampling technique was utilized non-probability convenience. The estimated number of students is 150 classified into 75 males and 75 females. The study sample was from secondary schools at the western region in Jeddah. 25 students will be selected from each level of secondary school.

Inclusion criteria:

- Female and male students from high secondary schools
- Age of students ranged between 15-22 years
- Willingness to participate in the study

Instrument

The **Nursing Image Questionnaire** developed by the researcher was used to measure the perception of Saudi secondary school students' toward the image of the nursing as a Profession.^(3,7,16,17) The study questionnaire was classified into two parts:

The first part is general information about the sample such as age, sex, and educational levels.

The second part: consists of 28-item that classified into four subscales namely:

Nursing as a profession (n=6), Nurses roles (n=9), Image of nursing (n=4), Context of social value (n=9).

The measurement method was a 5-point Likert scale where 5 meant 'strongly agree' and 1 meant 'strongly disagree,' with the higher score meaning more positive nursing image.

Methods of Data collection

After obtaining an official agreement from the authorized persons and heads of secondary schools at Western region – Jeddah using for collecting the necessary data. The questionnaire was developed and constructed in English and then translated into Arabic a panel comprising of three experts in the field of the study were seek advice for the design of the questionnaire. Then back translation was done by English language experts to make sure face and content validity. Accordingly, the necessary modification was done. The researcher proves internal consistency using Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the nursing image questionnaire (0.803 $p \leq 0.05$). Consequently, the pilot study was carried out for the study questionnaire by distribution to 15 Saudi secondary students affiliated to different academic levels. In order to ensure the clarity, meaningful, and estimating time spending for fulfills the questionnaire. Therefore, rewording some questionnaire statements was done. The questionnaire estimate 15-20 minutes to complete and covered a period of one and half month. One hundred thirty- nine of subjects participating in this study and the participation rate were 92.0%.

Statistical analysis

Data collected were processed and tabulated using statistical package for social science (SPSS) with version (17) for analysis of the study results. Descriptive statistics include mean and standard deviation were used to analyze the socio-demographic characteristics of study participants. Different multiple statistical measures as Chi-square, One-way analysis variance (ANOVA), Student test (t-test), correlation coefficient to explore the relationships between categorical variables were calculated. 5% level of significance was chosen.

Ethical Considerations

The research study included a self-administrated questionnaire once the students are recruited from the previous settings and agree to share in the research. Confidentiality of the study participants' identities was maintained and participation was voluntary. Data was presented in an aggregated format so; students' identifications were secured. The researcher has distributed the study questionnaire to the participants with the cover page that describe the objective of the study. Each participant was asked for the sign the consent form and filling the attached study questionnaire.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of the Saudi secondary school students

Socio-demographic characteristics	Saudi secondary school students (n=139)	
	No	%
Gender		
Male	64	46
Female	75	54
Age group		
15 y > 17 y	77	55.4
17y > 20 y	50	36.0
20 + y	12	8.6
Level of Educational		
Level one	50	36.0
Level two	50	36.0
Level three	39	28.0
Marital Status		
Single	129	92.8
Others	10	7.2
Residence place		
Villa	40	28.8
Apartment	60	43.2
Popular house	39	28.0

Table 1: present the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics of Saudi secondary school students. More than half of Saudi secondary school students (54.0%) were female, age 15 years old to less than 17years old (55.4%). The majority of Saudi secondary school students were single (92.8%) and more than one-third of them (43.2%) were living in the apartment

Table 2: Dimensions of the nursing image questionnaire as distributed by Saudi secondary school students

Dimensions of nursing image	Saudi secondary school students (n =139)		
	Minimum	Maximum	X±SD
Nursing as a profession	1.00	5	3.59±0.66
Nurses roles	1.00	5	3.20±0.51
Image of nursing	1.75	5	3.61±0.69
Context of social value	1.33	5	3.65±0.58
Total nursing image	1.94	5	3.51±0.44

Dimensions of the nursing image questionnaire as distributed by Saudi secondary school students were shown in table 2. The table illustrates the overall dimensions of the nursing image mean score ranged from 1.94 to 5 with a mean of 3.51 ± 0.44 . These dimensions in order, were the context of social value 3.65 ± 0.58 , followed by the image of nursing 3.61 ± 0.69 , while the rest of the dimensions had a lower mean score namely nurses roles 3.20 ± 0.51

Table 3: The nursing image dimensions of Saudi secondary school students as compared by their gender

Dimensions of nursing image	Gender		t- test	P
	Male (n= 64)	Female (n = 75)		
	X±SD	X±SD		
Nursing as a profession	3.50±0.72	3.67±0.60	1.445	0.15
Nurses roles	3.27±0.60	3.14±0.42	-1.463	0.15
Image of nursing	3.60±0.70	3.62±0.68	0.219	0.83
Context of social value	3.64±0.62	3.65±0.56	0.018	1.00
Total nursing image questionnaire	3.50±0.51	3.52±0.37	0.211	0.83

Table3: reveals the nursing image of Saudi secondary school students as compared by their gender. This table reflects that there is no statistically significant was found between dimensions of nursing image and gender. As the table shows that the increase in the mean score of female secondary school students (3.67 ± 0.60) as compared to male secondary school students 3.50 ± 0.72 in term of nursing as a profession, while the lowest mean score was in nurses’ roles for both male and female secondary school students (3.27 ± 0.60 and 3.14 ± 0.42 respectively).

Table 4: The sources of information about nursing as a profession of Saudi secondary school students as compared by their gender

Sources of information about nursing as a profession	Gender			
	Male (n= 64)		Female (n = 75)	
	No	%	No	%
Mass media (T.V and Radio)	20	31.25	18	24.00
Internet	10	15.63	20	26.67
Social meeting	12	18.75	19	25.33
Past experience with nurses	17	26.56	15	20.00
Most of all reasons	5	7.81	3	4.00
X ² - test	4.804			
P –Value	0.308			

Table 4: shows the sources of information about nursing as a profession of Saudi secondary school students as compared by their gender. It was found that gender had no statistically significant reflection on the gender of Saudi secondary school students’ and sources of information in relation to the nursing profession. It can also be noticed that male Saudi secondary school students recorded 31.25% their sources of information about nursing has come from mass media (T.V and Radio). Also, female Saudi secondary school students take their sources of information about nursing from the internet (26.67%)

Table5: relationship between sources of information about nursing as a profession among Saudi secondary school students according to their socio-demographic

Socio-demographic characteristics	Sources of information about nursing as a profession									
	Mass media (T.V &Radio) (n =38)		Internet (n =30)		Social meeting (n= 31)		Past experience with nurses (n= 32)		Most of all (n =8)	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Age group										
15y >17 y	20	52.63	18	60	21	67.74	14	43.75	4	50.00
17y >20 y	9	23.68	12	40	10	32.26	15	46.87	4	50.00
20+y	9	23.68	0	0	0	0.00	3	9.38	0	0.00
X ² - test	40.056*									
P -Value	0.021									
Educational background										
First level	12	31.58	10	33.33	15	48.39	11	34.38	2	25.00
Second level	13	34.21	12	40.00	9	29.03	11	34.38	5	62.50
Third level	13	34.21	8	26.67	7	22.58	10	31.24	1	12.50
X ² - test	5.723									
P -Value	0.678									
Martial Status										
Single	31	81.58	29	96.67	31	100.0	32	100.0	6	75.00
Others	7	18.42	1	3.33	0	0.0	0	0.00	2	25.00
X ² - test	16.526**									
P -Value	0.002									
Residence place										
Villa	5	13.16	8	26.67	6	19.36	18	56.24	3	37.50
Apartment	18	47.37	18	60.00	16	51.61	7	21.88	1	12.50
Popular house	15	39.47	4	13.33	9	29.03	7	21.88	4	50.00
X ² - test	26.472**									
P -Value	0.001									

* p ≤ 0.05 at 1% level denotes a significant difference.

** p ≤ 0.01 at 1% level denotes a highly significant difference.

Table 5 shows the relationship between dimensions of sources of information about nursing as a profession among Saudi secondary school students according to their socio-demographic. The table illustrated that a statistical association was recognized between sources of information about nursing as a profession and age groups, marital status, and residence place ($X^2 = 40.056$ $p < 0.05$, $X^2 = 16.526$, 26.472 $p < 0.01$ respectively)

The highest mean percent was observed for single nursing students than another aging group. Also, the highest mean percent was observed for those aging between 15 years old and less than 17 years old as compared to those aging for more than 20 years old. While the relationship between Saudi secondary school students' educational level and sources of nursing information as a profession was not statistically significant.

Table 6 the relationship between dimensions of nursing image questionnaire among Saudi secondary school students according to their sources of information about nursing as a profession

Dimensions of nursing image	Sources of information about nursing as a profession						
	Mass media (T.V & Radio)	Internet	Social meeting	Past experience with nurses	Most of all	F-test	P
	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD	X±SD		
Nursing as a profession	3.61±0.57	3.72±0.56	3.47±0.67	3.59±0.80	3.48±0.80	0.583	0.676
Nurses roles	3.17±0.30	3.30±0.62	3.14±0.37	3.18±0.69	3.25±0.49	0.452	0.771
Image of nursing	3.48±0.75	3.71±0.62	3.62±0.061	3.68±0.74	3.56±0.76	0.581	0.677
Context of social value	3.44±0.66	3.67±0.54	3.77±0.47	3.81±0.52	3.39±0.74	2.697*	0.022
Total nursing image questionnaire	3.43±0.40	3.60±0.41	3.50±0.32	3.57±0.55	3.42±0.56	0.895	0.469

* $p \leq 0.05$ at 1% level denotes a significant difference.

Table 6 illustrates the relationship between dimensions of nursing image questionnaire among Saudi secondary school students according to their sources of nursing information as a profession. In addition, Saudi secondary school students had slightly highest mean score related to the ideas of nursing as a profession from past experience with nurses (3.81±0.52), followed by social meeting and internet 3.77±0.47, 3.67±0.54 respectively. Also, it was observed that a statistical difference was documented only between mean scores of sources of nursing information as a profession and nursing image dimensions in term of the context of social value (F-test 2.697 $p < 0.05$).

Discussion

In modern decades, professionalism was significantly toward nursing to create the nursing programs through using a base of systematic knowledge. The aim of this study was assess Saudi secondary school students' perception toward the image of the Nursing as a Profession.^(3,4,5) One hundred thirty- nine study participants was agree to participate in the research study.

Of great concern, the present study revealed that a statistically difference was recorded only between mean scores of sources of information about the nursing as a profession and nursing image dimensions in term of context of social value. Moreover, the overall dimensions of nursing image mean score ranged from 1.94 to 5 with a mean of 3.51 ± 0.44 . Context of social value dimension mean score was slightly higher means score (3.65 ± 0.58), while the lowest mean score was nurses' roles 3.20 ± 0.51 . These findings can be explained by the nursing career awareness has a strong affected on control the society custom. According to Tawashetial (2012) suggested that the care of patients and their families have a positive effect on governmental community and society because it reflects as powerful and motivating strategy for nursing profession.⁽¹⁷⁾

Moreover, this finding could be attributed to indicate that developing a nursing shortage occur due to increase demand for professional nurses and change of health care community and culture that can be described in the highlighted of the mass media as a professional problem.⁽²⁾ In the same line, Valizadeh and Ali (2008) proved this finding; they found that nursing education needs to encourage an optimistic figure in nursing through stimulate more persons enter nursing profession in the society.⁽¹⁸⁾

In addition, the current study supported that in Saudi Arabia face with many obstacles to enroll males in nursing profession. So that they encourage many strategies and approaches to motivate and improve the awareness among Saudi male through opening male branch in different college of nursing to facilitate their joining the nursing career.⁽¹⁾ This finding goes relatively with the results of by Al-Kandari and Lew (2005), who recommended that female nurses most of time suffer from culture difficulty when giving care for male patients for this reason needs to encourage more male nurses to recruit nursing profession to give care for male patients.⁽¹⁹⁾

Regarding Saudi secondary school students' perception of nursing image dimensions and information sources about nursing as a profession as compared by their gender, it is interesting to notice that gender had no significant reflection on nursing images dimensions and their sources about ideas of nursing as a profession. This result could be contributed to the fact that the males have great responsibilities to manage their lives, therefore predicable causes for males to join nursing profession in the Arabic countries due to male professional nurses after graduation can employ regularly and they have chance to travel overseas to work in different countries Arabic or western.^(9,10,12) This results was supported by the findings of both Buerhaus et al.,(2005) and Abdl-Karim et al., (2004), they described that more than 75% of the study subjects need to enrolled nursing career because they gain great chance for accessibility to work.^(20,21)

Conclusion

The present study concluded that a marked statistically significant improvement towards society's value awareness of nursing as a profession. With no differences between male and female Saudi secondary school students their perception for a profession in nursing. Also, the results show there is no significant difference of ideas of nursing as a profession between male and female Saudi secondary school students, so male students discover their ideas about nursing from mass media (T.V and Radio) followed by past experience with nurses while female students take their ideas about nursing from internet followed by social meeting. Moreover, the study confirmed that socio-demographic characteristics as age, marital status and residence place Saudi secondary school students have an effect on their ideas of nursing as a profession.

Recommendation

Based on the marked findings of the current study, the recommended strategies can be directly or regular visiting of secondary schools to talk with students about the broad role of the nurse, multiple job opportunities and diverse profession to improve their career nursing image. Also, initiate a future nursing Club for students who interested in nursing and gives them lectures, discussions and work on field trips to introduce the nursing as a profession to the community.

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