

Assess The Attitude And Intention Towards The Nursing Profession Among B.Sc Nursing First-Year Students, Studying In Bhaarath College Of Nursing: Longitudinal Study

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: This study investigates the perceptions of first-year B.Sc. Nursing students at Bhaarath College of Nursing over a four-year period, shedding light on the factors affecting their attitudes towards the nursing profession. By examining their demographic characteristics and attitudes, the research aims to identify the influences on their career intentions. The study reveals the dynamic nature of these attitudes and the significance of societal, educational, and personal factors in shaping the future of healthcare.

Methods and Materials: A longitudinal survey from 2020 to 2023 involved 321 first-year B.Sc. Nursing students using a convenience sampling technique. Data collection included demographic information and a Likert-scale questionnaire assessing attitudes and intentions. Cronbach's alpha ensured internal consistency. Descriptive and inferential statistics analyzed trends and associations.

Objectives: 1. Determine the demographic characteristics, including age, gender, geographical region, socio-economic background, previous hospitalization experience, education status of parents, and parents' occupation, among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students. 2. Analyze the frequency and percentage distribution of the level of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students. 3. Compare the levels of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First-Year Students across different intake cohorts. 4. Conduct pairwise comparison of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students to identify significant differences. 5. Determine the inter-item correlation of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students. 6. Investigate the association of the level of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession with demographic variables among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students.

Result and Discussion: The demographic analysis of first-year B.Sc. Nursing students at Bhaarath College of Nursing from 2020 to 2023 reveals several patterns and shifts. The highest representation is found in the southern region, peaking at 94% in 2022. The northern region experienced a high level of representation in 2021 at 49%, while the eastern region and Union Territories have minimal representation. Students under 20 years dominate the age distribution, with 96% of them in 2022 and 89.1% in 2023, while those aged 20-25 years decreased after 2020. Females are predominantly represented with consistently high numbers at 95% in 2020 and around 85% in subsequent years, while male representation spiked only in 2021 at 61%. The middle class forms the majority across all years, with 87% representation in 2022, while the lower middle class and upper middle class have lesser representation. The research on nursing students' attitudes and intentions from 2020 to 2023 indicates that they consistently maintain a strong and positive attitude towards the profession. In 2020, all students showed a favorable attitude, which

slightly decreased to 98% in 2021. In 2022, the percentage of students with a favorable attitude dropped to 89%, but it rebounded to 95% in 2023. Moderately favorable attitudes were rare, with none in 2020, 2% in 2021, 11% in 2022, and 5% in 2023. No students had unfavorable attitudes across the four years.

Conclusion: The study highlights evolving demographics and consistently positive attitudes towards nursing among first-year students. Significant demographic differences underscore the need for targeted interventions. Positive correlations between respect, job security, and career intentions suggest fostering a supportive environment to enhance students' commitment to nursing.

Keywords: Nursing profession, Nursing students, Attitudes towards nursing, Career intentions

Introduction:

The nursing profession plays a vital role in healthcare delivery, with nurses being at the forefront of patient care and advocacy. Understanding the attitudes and intentions of nursing students towards their profession is crucial for shaping the future of healthcare. This manuscript aims to explore the findings of a longitudinal study conducted at Bhaarath College of Nursing, focusing on first-year B.Sc. Nursing students' perceptions of the nursing profession.

By assessing demographic variables and students' attitudes towards nursing, this study provides valuable insights into the factors influencing students' career intentions. The research highlights the dynamic nature of attitudes towards nursing and the impact of societal, educational, and personal factors on students' perceptions.

Through a comprehensive analysis of survey data collected over four years, this study offers a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding students' attitudes towards nursing. The implications of these findings extend to nursing education programs, policymakers, and healthcare institutions aiming to promote nursing as a respected and rewarding career choice.

By delving into the attitudes and intentions of nursing students, this manuscript contributes to the ongoing dialogue on enhancing the appeal and value of the nursing profession. The insights gained from this study can inform targeted interventions and educational strategies to nurture a positive attitude towards nursing among future healthcare professionals.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A Study to Assess the Attitude and Intention towards Nursing Profession among B.Sc Nursing First-year students, studying at Bhaarath College of Nursing.

OBJECTIVES

1. Determine the demographic characteristics, including age, gender, geographical region, socio-economic background, previous hospitalization experience, education status of parents, and parents' occupation, among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students.
2. Analyze the frequency and percentage distribution of the level of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students.
3. Compare the levels of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First-Year Students across different intake cohorts.
4. Conduct pairwise comparison of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students to identify significant differences.
5. Determine the inter-item correlation of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students.
6. Investigate the association of the level of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession with demographic variables among B.Sc. Nursing First Year Students.

HYPOTHESIS

There are significant differences in the levels of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing First-Year Students across different intake cohorts.

There will be a significant association between attitude and selected demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

Attitude towards Nursing Profession: In this study attitude towards the nursing profession refers to extent of favorable or unfavorable evaluations or feelings that B.Sc. Nursing first-year students have about the nursing profession.

Intention towards Nursing Profession: Intention towards nursing profession among B.Sc Nursing first-year students refers to their self-reported likelihood or willingness to pursue a career in nursing upon completion of their academic program.

ASSUMPTION:

- Students enrolled in the B.Sc Nursing program have an initial interest or inclination towards the nursing profession.
- Cultural and societal perceptions of nursing as a profession impact the students' attitudes and career intentions.
- Awareness of diverse career opportunities within the nursing field affects students' intentions to pursue specific areas in nursing after graduation.
- The development of a professional identity as a nurse begins during the first year of nursing education and influences students' commitment to the profession.
- External factors such as family support, financial considerations, and job market trends play a role in shaping students' attitudes and intentions towards nursing.

DELIMITATION:

- The study is delimited to B.Sc Nursing first-year students. Students from other academic years or nursing programs are not included in the study population.
- The study will be delimited to selected college.
- The study's findings are limited to the specific time frame covered by the longitudinal data collection and may not reflect changes occurring outside of this period.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of this study encompasses the evaluation of attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession among first-year B.Sc. Nursing students at Bharath College of Nursing. This investigation includes a comprehensive analysis of demographic variables such as age, gender, geographical region, socio-economic background, previous hospitalization experience, education status of parents, and parents' occupation. The study aims to understand how these variables influence students' perceptions of the nursing profession. Additionally, the research compares attitudes and intentions across different academic years, provides pairwise comparisons, examines inter-item correlations, and identifies significant associations with demographic factors. The findings are expected to inform educational strategies and interventions to enhance the attractiveness and perceived value of the nursing profession among undergraduate students.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the attitudes and intentions of first-year B.Sc. Nursing students towards the nursing profession at Bharath College of Nursing. The TPB highlights three key factors influencing behavioral intentions:

Attitude: Reflects students' evaluations of nursing, including perceptions of societal value, personal interest, job satisfaction, and challenges in the profession.

Subjective Norms: Considers social influences such as family, peers, and societal perceptions of nursing as a career.

Perceived Behavioral Control: Examines students' beliefs about their ability to pursue nursing, including self-efficacy, perceived barriers, and confidence in future prospects.

This framework guides the study in exploring the interplay of individual attitudes, social norms, and perceived control in shaping students' intentions towards a nursing career.

METHODS AND MATERIALS:

A longitudinal survey was conducted from 2020 to 2023 among first-year B.Sc. Nursing students at Bharath College of Nursing to investigate their attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession. The study employed a convenience sampling technique, with a sample size of 321 students meeting the inclusion criteria. Data collection was carried out using a two-part questionnaire:

Section A: Demographic variables, including geographical region, age, gender, socio-economic background, previous hospitalization, and parental education and occupation.

Section B: Attitude and Intention Questionnaire, divided into three subdivisions assessing attitudes towards nursing, job satisfaction, and intentions related to pursuing a nursing career. Participants rated items on a 5-point Likert scale.

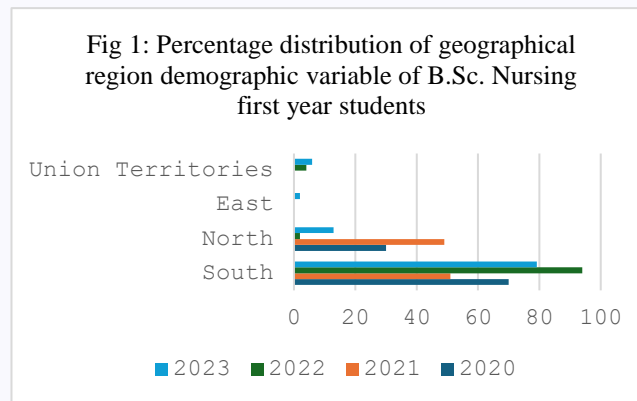
The internal consistency of the questionnaire was assessed using Cronbach's alpha coefficients, with values of 0.83 for knowledge, 0.71 for attitude, 0.84 for intention, 0.70 for factors preventing students from becoming nurses, and an overall reliability coefficient of 0.83.

Data analysis included descriptive statistics and inferential statistics to examine trends and associations within the survey responses. The study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics surrounding the nursing profession among undergraduate nursing students at Bharath College of Nursing, Chennai.

This methodology section outlines the research design, data collection tools, and analytical techniques employed to investigate students' attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession, offering insights into the factors influencing career choices among nursing students.

RESULT:

The demographic analysis of B.Sc. Nursing first-year students at Bharath College of Nursing from 2020 to 2023 reveals notable trends and shifts. The geographical distribution shows a strong dominance of students from the southern region, particularly peaking in 2022 with 94.0% and slightly decreasing to 79.2% in 2023. Representation from the northern region varied, being significantly high in 2021 at 49.0%, while students from the east and Union Territories were minimally represented, with the east appearing only in 2023 and Union Territories from 2022 onward.



Age-wise, students under 20 years were predominantly represented, especially in 2022 (96.0%) and 2023 (89.1%), while the 20-25 age group saw a notable drop after 2020. Gender-wise, the majority were female, consistently high at 95.0% in 2020 and around 85.0% in subsequent years, whereas male representation spiked only in 2021 (61.0%).

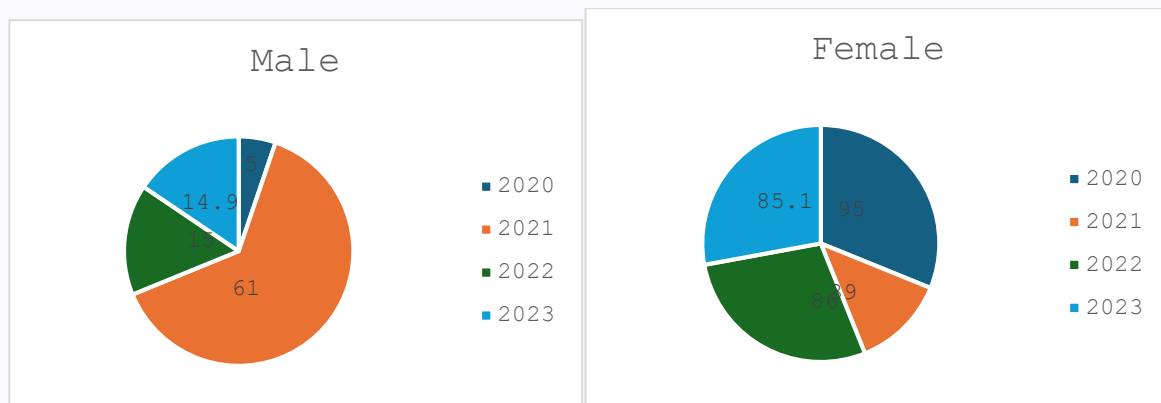
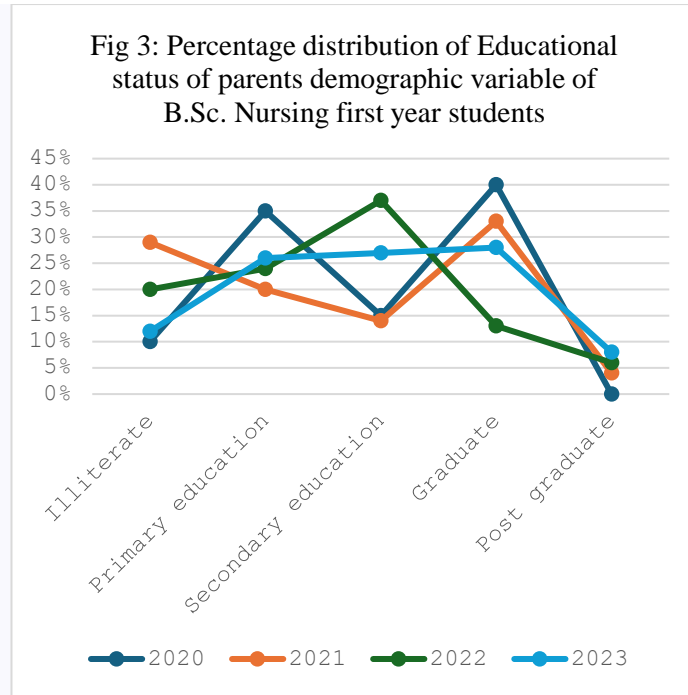


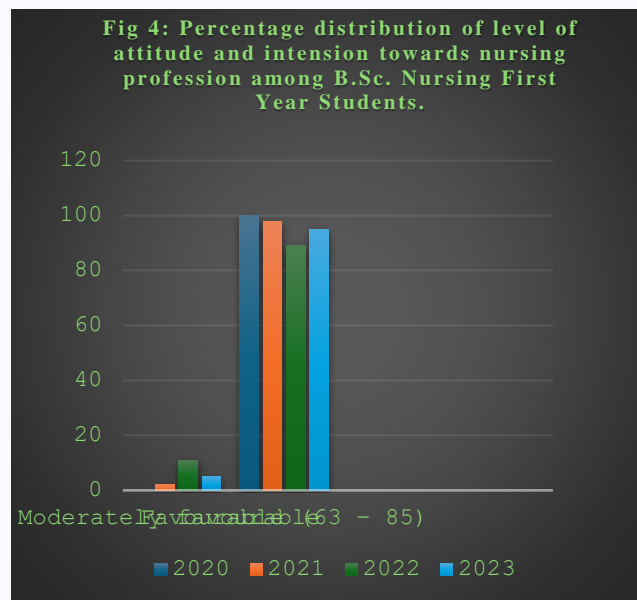
Fig 2: Percentage distribution of gender demographic variable of B.Sc. Nursing first year students

Socio-economically, the middle class formed the majority across all years, peaking at 87.0% in 2022, with the lower middle class and upper middle class having lesser representation. Previous hospitalization experiences among students showed an increasing trend from 10.0% in 2021 to 46.5% in 2023, while those without such experience decreased accordingly. The educational status of parents varied, with a notable presence of illiterate and primary-educated parents in the early years, and an increasing number of graduate and postgraduate parents by 2023 (28.0% and 8.0%, respectively).

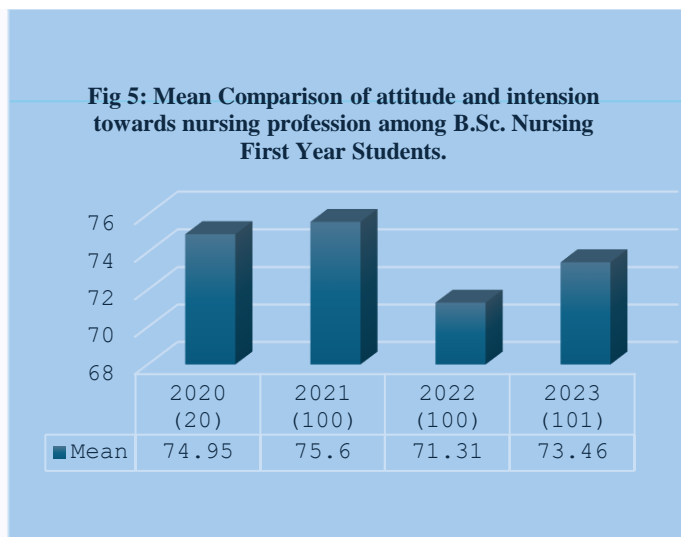


Regarding parental occupation, self-employment was the dominant category, particularly high in 2020 (55.0%), with government and private sector employees showing steady presence, and minimal representation from medical professionals and other occupations.

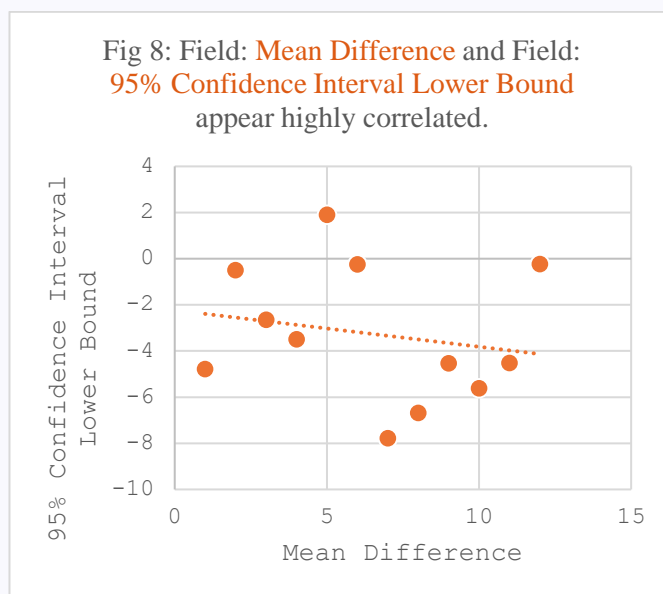
The frequency and percentage distribution of attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing first-year students from 2020 to 2023 indicate a consistently strong and positive attitude towards the nursing profession. There were no students with an unfavourable attitude across all four years. In 2020, all students (100%) displayed a favourable attitude, which slightly decreased to 98% in 2021. In 2022, the percentage of students with a favourable attitude dropped to 89%, but it rebounded to 95% in 2023. Moderately favourable attitudes were rare, starting with none in 2020, a small 2% in 2021, rising to 11% in 2022, and then reducing to 5% in 2023.



The comparative analysis of attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession among first-year B.Sc. Nursing students over the years 2020 to 2023 shows fluctuations in the mean attitude scores, with the highest mean in 2021 (75.60) and the lowest in 2022 (71.31). The one-way ANOVA test yielded an F-value of 7.913 and a p-value of 0.0001, indicating a statistically significant difference in the mean attitude scores across the four years ($p < 0.05$).



Pairwise comparisons revealed that the most notable and statistically significant difference was between the years 2021 and 2022, with a significant mean difference of 4.29000, suggesting a substantial shift in attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession between these years.



The inter-item correlation analysis highlights the relationship between respect, job security, and intention. Significant positive correlations were found among all three variables from 2021 to 2023, indicating that as the level of respect and perceived job security within the nursing profession increased, so did the intention of B.Sc. Nursing first-year students to pursue a career in nursing.

The association of level of attitude and intention towards the nursing profession with selected demographic variables in 2020 and 2021 showed some significant differences. In 2020, significant differences were observed based on socio-economic background, where students from the lower middle-class background had higher mean attitude and intention scores compared to those from the middle-class background. In 2021, significant differences were observed based on geographical region, with students from the North region having higher mean scores compared to those from the South region. Additionally, significant differences were found based on age, with students aged 20 to 25 showing higher mean scores compared to those aged less than 20 years. Gender differences were also significant in 2021, with male students having higher mean scores compared to female students.

SUMMARY:

The data analysis of attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing first-year students at Bharath College of Nursing from 2020 to 2023 reveals evolving demographic characteristics and consistently positive attitudes towards the profession. Significant differences in attitudes based on demographic variables highlight the importance of targeted interventions to support diverse student needs and enhance their educational experience. The consistent positive correlation between respect, job security, and

intention underscores the need for fostering a supportive and secure work environment to enhance students' intention to enter and remain in the nursing profession.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS:

Nursing Education:

Nursing education programs can utilize the study findings to tailor curriculum content and teaching strategies that enhance students' positive attitudes towards the nursing profession.

Implementing modules on diverse career opportunities within nursing and emphasizing the value of different specialties can broaden students' perspectives and improve engagement, retention, and commitment to pursuing a nursing career.

Nursing Practice:

Healthcare institutions can create a supportive environment that nurtures a positive professional identity among nurses based on the study results.

Implementing mentorship programs and professional development initiatives that reinforce the value of nursing practice can enhance job satisfaction, reduce burnout, and increase retention rates among nursing staff.

Nursing Management:

Nurse managers can use the study findings to understand the factors influencing nurses' attitudes and intentions, guiding leadership strategies to support staff well-being and career development.

Fostering a culture of appreciation and recognition for nursing staff can improve staff morale, increase job satisfaction, and create a more cohesive and motivated nursing workforce.

Nursing Research:

Researchers in the field of nursing can build upon the study's findings to further explore the complex interplay of demographic factors on attitudes and intentions towards nursing.

Continued research in this area can contribute to a deeper understanding of the factors influencing perceptions of the nursing profession and inform future interventions and strategies to promote positive attitudes towards nursing among students and professionals.

CONCLUSION:

The study at Bharath College of Nursing assessed first-year B.Sc. Nursing students' attitudes and intentions towards the nursing profession over four years, revealing key factors influencing their career perceptions. Demographic factors such as geographical region, age, and socio-economic background significantly impacted students' attitudes, with notable fluctuations in attitude scores over time, suggesting shifting perceptions.

These insights are crucial for developing educational strategies that enhance nursing's appeal. Tailoring curriculum content, implementing mentorship programs, and promoting diverse nursing career opportunities can foster positive attitudes and intentions. Addressing demographic disparities, supporting professional identity formation, and encouraging a commitment to nursing are essential for cultivating a dedicated and resilient nursing workforce capable of meeting society's healthcare needs.

The study's findings provide evidence-based recommendations for nursing educators and policymakers to create an engaged and responsive nursing workforce.

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