

# A Cross-Sectional Descriptive Survey to Identify the Adolescent's Perception of Nursing as a Career Choice and the Factors Influencing their Choice

Monica N. Umaraniya<sup>1</sup>, Janaki Shinde<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Child Health Nursing, Dr. J J Magdum Institute of Nursing Education, Jaysingpur  
Email: [monicapanchal20\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:monicapanchal20[at]gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Professor and Head of the Department, Child Health Nursing, Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Nursing, Kolhapur  
Corresponding Author Email: [janakishinde2011\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:janakishinde2011[at]gmail.com)

**Abstract:** ***Introduction:** This study aimed to assess the perception and to identify the factors influencing the junior college students to choose Nursing as their future career. **Methods:** A cross sectional descriptive exploratory designed was used. by non-probability purposive sampling technique samples of 201 junior college adolescents chosen at Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Structured Likert scale was administered to samples to identify their perception regarding nursing. And structured questionnaire was given to identify the factors influencing adolescents to choose nursing as their career. **Analysis:** Data was analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. **Results:** The study revealed that 105(52.20%) adolescents said Yes to choose nursing, 96(4.80%) said No to nursing as their career. Among 201 samples, 80 had positive perception, 117 had moderate perception and only 4 had negative perception towards Nursing profession. Also results revealed that there is a significant association found between the perception of nursing with their selected socio demographic variable. i.e. (age, gender, stream) at 0.05 level of significance.*

**Keywords:** adolescents, perception, nursing, factors, career

## 1. Introduction

Beyond the time-honoured reputation for sympathy and commitment lies a highly specialized profession, which is constantly developing to address the needs of society. From ensuring the most accurate diagnoses to the ongoing education of the public about critical health issues; nurses are essential in safeguarding public health. [1] Nursing has been called the oldest arts and sciences in health care delivery system. For as long as there has been life, there has been the need to give care and comfort to patients suffering from illness and injury. Nursing is considered as one of the greatest of humanitarian services to all people whether ill or well, rich or poor, literate or illiterate, young or old are likely at some point in their life to depend upon the care given by the nurses. [2]

The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession is important for the effective employment and retention of healthcare workers. [3] The public's perception of nursing plays a major role in identifying young people's choice of nursing as a career. Public perception of the nursing profession have a major crash on the private and government picture of nursing. Gender's function in choosing a profession is a very remarkable idea, as males make up almost half of the upcoming recruitment pool. Noticing a crash ridiculed manly nurse would stop children from thinking about a career in nursing. [4] In addition, the image of the nursing profession is influenced by other dynamics such as media, government image, social status, nurses themselves, other medical professions, school preparations, role models, nursing teachers, and the risk of violence and exposure to health risks. [5]

Globally, nurses face the greatest workforce order and yet the most remarkable challenges in recruiting and retaining nurses. [6] In terms of numbers, nurses formed the largest health care profession. They are also the ones who deliver most direct patient care and the key staff in managing multiple chronic health conditions in all settings. [7] With aging population, nurses' role has become increasingly pivotal and they are now known as the leaders in aging care. [8] Nurses play censorious roles in addressing the challenges of the global long-lived population such as being in the front line of preventive care in the community, acute hospital care, long-term nursing homes as well as helping living facilities. Owing to nurses' close proximity to patients and their scientific understanding of care processes across the continuity of care, they are likely the leaders in improving and redesigning the health care system and its practice environment. [9]

Many countries have announced worsening nursing shortage despite efforts to recruit and employ nurses. [6] There is a shortage of nursing professionals worldwide. American Association of Colleges Nursing study showed that there will be a shortage of 9 million nurses by the year 2030, which will be a serious issue and threat to patient safety. [4] In addition, it was found that nursing students are generally found to be older, mainly more than 20 years. [10] This means that the nursing program is facing difficulty in recruiting high school graduates.

A recent systematic review identified the differences in career choice influences among healthcare students. Medical and nursing students were found to have inherent factors informing their career decision, whereby a wish to help others was their primary career motivation. On the other hand, dentistry and pharmacy students valued factors such as financial payment, job stability, job freedom, and prestige as important career motivators. [11] Nursing, however, was found

Volume 14 Issue 1, January 2025

Fully Refereed | Open Access | Double Blind Peer Reviewed Journal

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

to be a disliked choice among the healthcare courses. [12] In general school leavers' perceptions of nursing were seen to be an "unpleasant job." [13] Many secondary school students suspected that nursing was a proper degree course due to its low entry requirement when compared to other courses. [14] Moreover, school leavers considered nursing to have poor social status, involving low skilled 'dirty' work such as cleaning others [13], poor financial remuneration [15], low autonomy [16], and lacking in career advancement. [17]

There are total 919 Nursing colleges in India offering 1480 courses that trains students to become professionals of this Nursing field. These colleges teach students regarding the process and procedure related to patient care. Technical training is also included. There are total 59 B.Sc. Nursing Colleges in Maharashtra from which only 2 colleges D.Y. Patil college of nursing and Vivekananda college of nursing is providing BSc nursing course in Kolhapur. [17] It was also found that the Government and private hospitals are finding it difficult to recruit new and additional healthcare workers to care for Covid-19 patients even as the number of people testing positive continues to grow. The Covid-19 pandemic has added to the stress of an overburdened healthcare workforce. [14]

Hence, the above study was conducted to find out the factors that influence to choose Nursing as career choice and also rule out the myths and misconception regarding nursing profession. So that those myth and misconception can be sorted out through career guidance program.

## 2. Materials and Methodology

The study was conducted at selected Junior colleges like Vivekananda junior college, Mahavir Mahavidyalaya and New model junior college of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. 201 students studying in standard 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Kolhapur were included in this study.

### Inclusion criteria

Adolescents who were studying in science, commerce and arts stream, knew to read and write English and students who were ready to give consent.

### Exclusion criteria

Adolescents who were not present during data collection.

The pilot study was conducted among 19 Junior college students of standard 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from D Y Patil Junior College, Kolhapur on 2nd June 2021. After pilot study, three Junior colleges were selected randomly for the main study. The main study was conducted from 16/07/2021 to 19/07/2021. (From 4pm to 6pm). Planning of the time schedule was done as per the timings provided by the authorities of the colleges. The researcher obtained formal permission from the concerned authorities of the Junior college, Kolhapur. And time was scheduled by the class coordinator of that college. The meeting was conducted in 3 setting for 3 colleges. The researcher scheduled a zoom meeting with the participants and link to join was sent to all the participants. The researcher introduced herself to the samples and explained the objectives and purpose of the study. Informed consent was taken from the samples. Once all

the samples joined the meeting, the link for online Google form containing the questionnaire for data collection was sent to the participants in the chat box. The researcher simultaneously was explaining every question to the samples and was clarifying their doubts too. Once, all the responses were recorded on the Google form, the researcher thanked the samples and ended the meeting. The collected data was tabulated and analysed.

## 3. Results

**Table 1:** Frequency and percentage distribution of participants according to their Selected Socio-demographic variables.

(n = 201)

Sr No	Socio – demographic Variable	Frequency percentage	
		f	%
01	<b>Age in years</b>		
	16-17	40	19.90
	17-18	71	35.32
	18-19	90	44.78
02	<b>Gender</b>		
	Male	76	37.81
	Female	125	62.19
03	<b>Religion</b>		
	Brahmin	1	0.50
	Christian	12	5.97
	Hindu	161	80.10
	Jain	13	6.47
	Muslim	13	6.47
	NA	1	0.50
04	<b>Stream</b>		
	Arts	24	11.94
	Commerce	60	29.85
	Science	117	58.21
05	<b>Habitat</b>		
	Rural	72	35.82
	Urban	129	61.18
06	<b>Socioeconomic class</b>		
	Upper – I	17	08.40
	Upper middle – II	88	43.70
	Lower middle – III	53	26.30
	Upper lower – IV	40	19.90
	Lower – V	03	01.40

In the above Table 1., majority of the samples (90) belonged to the age group of 18 to 19 (44.78%) years, 40(19.90%) belonged to the age group 16-17 years. 125(62.19%) were female while 76 (37.81%) were male. 161 (80.10%) were belonged to Hindu religion, while 12(5.97%) belonged to Christian religion. Majority of samples 117(58.21%) belonged science stream, 60(29.85%) belonged to commerce stream, 24(11.94%) belonged to arts stream. 129(64.18%) were residing in urban area while 72(35.18%) belonged to rural area. 88(43.7%) belonged to Upper Middle (II) class whereas only 3 (1.4%) belonged to lower class.

**Table 2:** Finding related to distribution of samples according to their career choice. Frequency and percentage (%) distribution of data related to career choice, (n = 201)

Question	Response	Frequency F	Percentage %
Will you consider Nursing as career choice?	Yes	105	52.20
	No	96	47.80

Table 2. indicates, out of total samples, majority of sample 105(52.2%) said YES for choose nursing as their career. And 96(47%) said NO for nursing as their career choice.

**Table 3:** Frequency and percentage distribution of samples those who said “Yes” to nursing as career choice

Sr. No.	Factors	Frequency f	Percentage %
1	Parents	31	29.50
2	Friends	13	12.30
3	Relatives	10	9.50
4	Nurses at hospital	16	15.20
5	Self (personally like nursing)	45	42

In Table 3. majority of samples 45(42%) said they will choose nursing because they personally like nursing. 31(29.50%) said they will choose nursing because of their parents’ choice.16(15.20%) said because of nurses at hospital, 13(12.30%) answered because of their friends, and 10(9.50%) said because of their relatives as the reason for choosing nursing as their career.

**Table 4:** Frequency and percentage distribution of samples those who said “No” to nursing as career choice

Sr. No.	Factors	Frequency f	Percentage %
1	Parents	36	37.50
2	Friends	07	07.20
3	Character of nurse in books, tv, media.	31	32.20
4	Personal family experience.	12	12.50
5	This profession doesn’t meet my expectations.	35	36.40
6	Low salary.	23	23.90
7	Long working hour.	12	12.50
8	Night shift duty.	22	22.90
9	Poor public image.	24	25
10	I don’t like to work in hospital.	22	22.10
11	Nursing course has a difficult curriculum.	09	09.30
12	Nursing degree need money to pursue nursing education	01	01
13	Job scope in nursing education is limited.	11	11.40
14	It’s a substandard profession.	07	07.20
15	Nurses faces many dirty things (blood, saliva, flesh, stool, cough) at working place.	10	10.40
16	Nurses have danger of own life while working with infected patients.	09	09.30
17	Sometimes nurses have to perform unpleasant task to care for their patients.	07	07.20
18	I am very poor at study.	02	02
19	I want to become a nurse but I am a boy.	02	02
20	Others		
	• I have different plans in future.	01	01
	• I am from commerce stream.	02	02
	• Not interested in Nursing.	01	01
	• Want to become a chef.	01	01
	• I don’t like uniforms of nurses.	04	04.10
	• Handicapped	01	01

Majority of samples (37.50%) said they will not choose nursing because their parents does not want them to become nurse. 36.40% said that nursing profession does not meet their expectations. 32.20% said that they will not choose nursing because of the character of nurses portrayed in media (TV shows, books etc) while 2% had misconception that they cannot choose nursing because he is a boy and 1% had misconception that because of they are handicapped they cannot choose nursing.

**Table 5:** Distribution of Samples According to Their Perception

Perception score	Frequency f	Percentage %
Positive	80	39.8
Moderate	117	58.2
Negative	4	1.99

Table 5. indicates, among 201 subjects, 39.8% had positive perception, 58.2% had moderate perception and 1.99% had negative perception.

**Table 6:** Mean, Median, Mode, Range, Standard deviation of perception score (n =201)

Descriptive statistics	Values
Mean	64.4
Median	64
Mode	61
Range	40
Standard deviation	8.2

Table 6. indicates among 201 samples, the mean value was 64.4, the median was 64, mode was 61, range was 61 and standard deviation was 8.2.

**Table 7:** Association between the perception of nursing and their selected socio-demographic variable, n = 201

Variable		Perception Score			P-value
		Good	Average	Poor	
Age	16 – 17	12	28	0	0.0004
	17 – 18	18	52	1	
	18 – 19	50	37	3	
Gender	Female	55	68	2	0.2807
	Male	25	49	2	
Religion	Brahmin	0	1	0	0.8159
	Christian	7	5	0	
	Hindu	64	94	3	
	Jain	5	8	0	
	Muslim	4	8	1	
Stream	Arts	4	20	0	0.00003
	Commerce	14	46	0	
	Science	62	51	4	
Habitat	Rural	31	41	0	0.2778
	Urban	49	76	4	
Occupation of the head of the family	Unemployed	7	5	0	0.1549
	Elementary Occupation	3	9	0	
	Plant & Machine Operators and Assemblers	8	8	0	
	Craft & Related Trade Workers	1	5	1	
	Skilled Agricultural & Fishery Workers	4	6	0	
	Skilled Workers and Shop & Market Sales Workers	16	26	0	
	Clerks	3	5	1	
	Technicians and Associate Professionals	5	20	0	
	Professionals	21	22	1	
Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	12	11	1		
Education of the head of the family	Illiterate	2	5	0	0.1661
	Primary school certificate	6	4	0	
	Middle school certificate	10	16	0	
	High school certificate	16	28	1	
	Intermediate or diploma	2	15	0	
	Graduate	24	37	2	
Monthly Income of the head of the family	10,002 – 29,972	34	39	1	0.1963
	29,973 – 49,961	14	22	0	
	49,962 – 74,755	13	17	0	
	74,756 - 99,930	4	17	0	
	99,931 - 199,861	5	7	1	
	≥ 199,862	10	15	2	

Table 7. reveals that, the calculated P-value for the variable Age is (0.0004) & for Stream the P-value is (0.00003) which is significant at a P > 0.05. This shows that there is an association between the perception of nursing and their selected socio-demographic variable.

Standard Deviation	7.96	8.18	
Median	61	66	
IQR	13	12	

Table 9. indicates, The p-value < 0.05 i.e., 0.0036. at 0.05 % significance level it can be concluded that the perception score in male and female are not equally distributed.

**Table 8:** Association between the perception of nursing and factors influencing their choice of nursing

Nursing as a career choice?	Perception Score			P-value
	Good	Average	Poor	
No	18	68	4	0.0000
Yes	62	49	0	

Table 8. reveals that, the calculated P < 0.05, i.e., 0.0000. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant association between the perception of nursing and factors influencing their choice of nursing.

**Table 9:** Wilcoxon-Rank-Sum Test for comparing the Perception Score According to Gender, n =201

Statistics	Perception Score		P-value
	Male	Female	
Mean	62.55	65.9	0.0036

Before going to Unpaired-T Test the researcher had checked if the data is normally distributed or not. Based on the p-values of the “Anderson-Darling” & “Shapiro-Wilk” tests of normality are 0.0208 & 0.0467 respectively, hence the p-value < 0.05 so Wilcoxon-Rank-Sum Test was done.

**Table 10:** Wilcoxon-Rank-Sum Test for comparing the Perception Score According to Habitat

Statistics	Perception Score		P-value
	Urban	Rural	
Mean	64.59	64.72	0.9818
Standard Deviation	8.44	7.93	
Median	64.00	65.00	
IQR	13.00	12.25	

The p-value > 0.05, i.e., 0.9818. at 0.05 % significance level there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the perception score in urban and rural are not equally distributed.

**Table 11:** Kruskal-Wallis-Test for comparison of Perception Score in Stream.

Statistics	Perception Score			P-value
	Arts	Commerce	Science	
Mean	60.21	62.85	66.46	0.0001
Standard Deviation	6.47	6.13	8.98	
Median	59.50	62.50	68.00	
IQR	8.25	9.00	15.00	

From Table 11. at 5 % significance level we have sufficient evidence to conclude that perception score in stream is not equally distributed.

#### 4. Discussion

In the above study, first hypothesis seen was that, at 0.05 % significance level there was sufficient evidence to conclude that their significant association between Age & Perception of nursing. As the P value is 0.003 and 0.004 respectively. Also, there is a significant association between Stream & Perception of nursing.

Also in the study by Wilcoxon-Rank-Sum Test for comparing the Perception Score, according to Habitat, the result obtained was p-value > 0.05, i.e. 0.9818 and no association was found between perception with habitat. A contraindicated study was found that is "Knowledge and Attitude towards Nursing Profession among Adolescent Students of Sikkim"- study done by Das M, Devi B, Devi R, Bhutia SD [18], validated structured questionnaire and attitude scale was used to collect the data to see the knowledge and attitude of students and compare the relationship and association. The study also revealed that there is an inverse relationship between knowledge and attitude of urban community (P<0.05) but no relationship found between knowledge and attitude in rural community (P>0.05). Regarding the association of knowledge with selected factors, it was seen with gender and stream of study in rural community and with religion in urban community as seen by x2 value (P<0.05). On the contrary, the association of attitude was seen with the gender in urban community whereas no association was seen in rural community with any selected factors. These findings have important implication for the recruitment of adolescent students into nursing.

Also, Wilcoxon-Rank-Sum Test for comparing the Perception Score according to Gender was done, at 0.05 % significance level. The P-value obtained was 0.0036. The perception score in male and female were not equally distributed. Perceptions of high school students about nursing as a career choice study was done by Jan A, Sikander S [19]. Objective was to evaluate high school student's perceptions about nursing. Methods used was descriptive cross-sectional study and data were collected from 570 high school students of 12 colleges from Rawalpindi and Islamabad by using self-administered questionnaires. The data were analysed on SPSS 16.0. Results revealed that, In positive perception of nursing in career image, the mean score for male=17.34 while that for female=16.58 with a significant p value=0.002

#### 5. Conclusion

Hence from the above study we can conclude that the image of nursing is reinforced as a feminine profession and also entails as a dedicated profession. Sex is not a determining factor to become a better nurse in the findings of the above study. Also, there are many significant association found in perception of nursing with sociodemographic variable (age, stream, gender) and significant association with factors.

#### References

- [1] Reinhard S, Hassmiller S. The future of nursing: transforming health care. The Journal. 2015; <http://www.advanced-care.us/the-future-of-nursing-transforming-healthcare/>. Accessed 20 Jan 2020
- [2] Grady PA. Advancing the health of our aging population: a lead role for nursing science. *Nurs Outlook*. 2011;59(4):207. doi: 10.1016/j.outlook.2011.05.017. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
- [3] Zulu, Caroline. (2015). A survey on perception of the image of the nursing profession in Zambia by nursing students at the Department of Nursing Sciences, University of Zambia. *Unified Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*. November 2015 Vol 1(1). pp. 001-014.
- [4] Kiwanuka A. Image of nursing profession as viewed by secondary school students in Ilala district, Dar Es, Salaam. *DMSJ* 2010:12-8
- [5] Mooney M, Glacken M, O'brien F. Choosing nursing as a career: a qualitative study. *Nurse Educ Today*. 2008;28(3):385-392. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2007.07.006.
- [6] Pool IA, Poell RF, ten Cate TJ. Perspectives on age and continuing professional development for nurses: a literature review. *Vocat Learn*. 2013;6(3):297-321. doi: 10.1007/s12186-013-9096-2.
- [7] LT W, Low MMJ, Tan KK, Lopez V, Liaw SY. Why not nursing? A systematic review of factors influencing career choice among healthcare students. *Int Nurs Rev*. 2015; 62:547-562. doi: 10.1111/inr.12220. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
- [8] Liaw SY, LT W, Holroyd E, Wang W, Lopez V, Lim S, Chow YL. Why not nursing? Factors influencing healthcare career choice among Singaporean students. *Int Nurs Rev*. 2016; 63:530-538. doi: 10.1111/inr.12312.
- [9] Degazon CE, Ben NM, Shaw HK, Ehrenfeld M. Multi-ethnic high school students' perceptions of nursing in the USA and Israel: a descriptive quantitative study. *Nurs Educ Today*. 2015;35(1):57-62. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2014.05.016.
- [10] Rossiter JC, Bidewell J, Chan PT. Non-English speaking background high school students' attitude towards the nursing profession. *J AdvNurs* 1998;27(3):604-13
- [11] Rossiter JC, Foong A, Chan PT. Attitude of Hong Kong high School students towards the nursing profession, *Nurse Educ Today*; 19(6):464-71
- [12] Neilson GR, Lauder W. What do high academic achieving school pupils really think about a carrier in nursing: analysis of the alternative from paradigmatic case interview. *Nurse Educ Today* 2008;28(6):680-90

- [13] Bartfay WJ, bartfay E, Clow KA, Wu T. Attitude and perception towards men in nursing education. Internet Journal of allied health sciences and practice 2010;8(2):1-7
- [14] Okrainec G. Men in nursing. The Canadian nurse 1986;82(7):16-8
- [15] Girad MJ. Men and nursing editorial. AORN Journal 2003; April(1):1-3
- [16] Swamy DSV. Attitude of public towards nursing. Nightingale nursing times 2009;5 (9):33-35
- [17] Patidar AB, Kaur J, Sharma SK, Sharma N. Future nurses' perception towards profession and career plan: A corss-sectional survey state Punjab 2011;7(4):175-85
- [18] Das M, Devi B, Devi R, Bhutia SD. Knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession among adolescent students of Sikkim. Asian Journal of Nursing Education and Research. 2014;4(3):357-64.
- [19] Jan A, Sikander S. Perceptions of high school students about nursing as a career. Rawal Medical Journal. 2012;37(1):13-7.