Professional Socialization among Nursing Students

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Abstract

Objective : The objectives of our study is to determine the professional socialization among nursing students, to find out the association between professional socialization and demographic characteristics and to find the subgroup comparison of level of professional socialization among outgoing batch students and first year B.Sc. nursing students

Methodology: A descriptive study was conducted among all four years of nursing students of a private nursing college. Nursing students who meet the inclusion criteria (357) were selected using purposive sampling.

Results: The majority of the students are 'Experts' in maintaining professional socialization. But in the subgroup comparison of level of Professional socialization among the final year students with first year showed a 1.1% less in 'Expert' category. The results showed a significant association of level of professional socialization with 'Gender', 'Mode of Admission' and 'Reason for selecting nursing as a profession'

Conclusion: The need for developing professional socialization has to be considered at the most priority. The results of this study shows the need for introducing new plans to make sure that the students level of socialization

Keywords: *Professional Socialization, Autonomy, Competence, Commitment, Group participation, Nursing Students.*

Introduction

Socialization is the process during which people learn the roles, statuses and values necessary for participation in social institution. Socialization is a lifelong process that begins with learning the norms and the roles of the family and subculture and making self-concept as individual grow older and join new groups and assume new roles, they learn new norms and redefine their self concept[1].

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Nursing as the largest part of professional personal in forefront line of delivering services in health care systems have multiple and expanded roles and duties. The roles of nursing are multiple and complex and nursing as a professional work require responsibility, attention and caution[2]. Development of the concept of socialization in nursing literature dates back to before 1985[3] and socialization is described as a major issue in nursing[4].

Socialization is a process of acquiring individual identity in which he learns required values, norms and skills for serving his social task as an effective person his unique position[5].Socialization a basic concept in nursing that is due to interaction among interpersonal, intrapersonal and work functional relationships[6]. These relationships give members the opportunity to organize themselves and their resources and solve their problems

by cooperation. In fact, professional socialization is a learning process of the professional roles[5]. It consist of anticipatory, accommodation and role management .The process to achieve required professional norms ,values and skills for professional survival is not well known[7].

A study was conducted in Ilam University of medical sciences in 2016 for assessing the level of professional socialization in nursing students. 130 nursing undergraduate students were studied, in that 21.4% of them have average socialization level and 78.6 % were at high level, it was assessed based on the developed questionnaire[8].

A similar study was done on concept analysis of professional socialization in nursing. And they were able to identify that professional socialization varies depending on time, context and different and disciplines the result of the study describes professional socialization as a complex, inevitable, diverse, dynamic, continual, and unpredictable process. In addition they found that for individuals to be successfully socialized into their profession, measures such as the provision of comprehensive educational programmes, competent role model, supportive clinical and educational structures, and opportunity for field experience and constructive feedback are some determining factors[9].

Another study which was conducted among the students and graduate nurses and the results shows that ,the most significant time of stress for student and graduate nurses is when in the clinical practice environment, new comers express that learning how to behave appropriately in the work place is more difficult than bridging the gap between the theory and practice[10].

Professional attitude and commitment is seen decreased as compared to the older times among nursing professionals. Social behaviour must be built among nurses from the student period onwards. Proper identification and processing of the determinants of professional socialization like knowledge, skills and attitude in early stage of nursing can acquire professional identity, adapting with the professional role, professional and organizational commitment and hence improve

the overall nursing care quality and interpersonal relationship.

A qualitative research study on professional socialization was conducted among undergraduate nursing students and registered nurses with work experience with 8 to25 years. The finding shows that nursing profession still struggles with problem that can alter professional identity and there should be increase in providing educational experience to improve professional identity[11].

The results of all these research studies shows the significance of studying about the professional socialization in undergraduate nursing students and hence to provide interventions to improve socialization in nursing profession.

As the nursing profession is in need to improve in their socialization with their co-workers and with the patients and relatives, the significance of studying professional socialization is increasing. Thus this study is needed, to assess the professional socialization of nursing students and to improvise the nursing care quality.

Methods and Materials

The aim of the study was to assess the professional socialization among undergraduate nursing students which is developed during the nursing undergraduate period.

We started data collection on 3/10/2020.the consent and the data were collected through google forms. Students were given the google form links after 4pm. from the purposive sampling the students who didn't met the inclusion criteria and those who were not willing to participate in the study are not included in the research study.

The study questionnaire was developed from previous research study on professional socialization, whose result had indicated some variables that influence the professional socialization process .these questionnaire were validated by different educators.

The study questionnaire was consisted of 5parts demographic data, professional autonomy, professional commitment and belonging, group participation and professional competence. The study was conducted in 357undergraduate nursing students through developed questionnaire.

The result scoring are based on Benner's stage on clinical competence .total we have 40 questions and the minimum score is 40 and the maximum score is 280. According to the Benner's stage of clinical competence. The results could be divided into 5 stages. 40-88 novice, 89-137 advanced beginners, 138-184 competent, 185-232 proficient and 233-280 expert.

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics is done for data analysis. The tests used where frequency, percentage, mean and Standard Deviation for finding the distribution of personal characteristics. Independent t-test and Analysis of Variance (Anova) for finding the association between variables. SPSS software 18 is used for analysis and the significance level considered was $p \leq 0.05$

Results

Table 1. Personal Characters of Nursing Students

n = 357

	Criteria	Frequency	Percentage
Age	17 to 18 years	12	3.36%
	19 to 20 years	195	54.62%
	21 to 22 years	134	37.54%
	23 and above	16	4.48%
Gender	Female	348	97.48%
	Male	9	2.52%
Religion	Hindu	273	76.47%
	Christian	80	22.41%
	Muslim	2	0.56%
	Others	2	0.56%
Year of Study	2nd year A batch	47	13.17
	2nd year B batch	48	13.45%
	3rd year A batch	48	13.45%
	3rd year B batch	44	12.32%
	4th year A batch	53	14.85%
	4th year B batch	45	12.61%
	Outgoing batch	72	20.17%
Mode of Admission	Through merit quota	285	79.83%
	Through management quota	72	20.17%

Cont... Table 1. Personal Characters of Nursing Students

n = 357

Reason for selecting nursing as a profession	Compulsion from the family	44	12.32%
	like to work in the service sector	198	55.46%
	Dream / Passion	106	29.69%
	Didn't get admission for any other course	9	2.52%
Extra Curricular Activities	Yes	229	64.15%
	No	128	35.85%
Academic results	Not attended any university exam	86	24.09%
	Passed all subjects	240	67.23%
	Attending ongoing supplementary exams	31	8.68%

The personal characteristics shows that majority (54.62%) of the samples belongs to the age group of 19 to 20 years and 348 of them (97.48%) where females. The Majority 76.47% of the samples were Hindus 27.46% were from the third year batch. The best part (79.83%) were admitted through merit quota, who liked to work in service sector (55.46%) and who have passed all subjects in the university exam (67.23%)

Professional socialization of nursing students

Table 2 : Level of professional socialisation among nursing students

Scoring	Frequency	Percent	Mean	SD
Competent	2	0.6%		
Proficient	65	18.2%	246.08	17.14
Expert	290	81.2%		
Total	357	100 %		

n = 357

According to Benner's Clinical Competency Scale, the structured tool for assessing professional socialization was graded as Novice (40 – 88), Advanced Beginner (89 – 137), Competent (138 – 184), Proficient (185 – 232) and Expert (233 – 280). From the study, the examined samples (n=357) showed a result that a lion's share (81.2%) were Experts in Professional socialization were as the outvoted were only (2%). This is an inarguable result that clearly emphasizes how the samples taken from the particular college is keeping a high level of socialization in nursing profession. The mean is 246.08 and SD is 17.14. There are no students in the categories Novice and Advanced beginner.

Association between professional socialization and personal characteristics

Table 3 : Association between professional socialization and personal characteristics

n = 357

Personal Characteristics	Levene's test for equality of variances		T – test for equality of Means		
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.2 - tailed
Age	0.755	0.52	2.20	352	0.52
Gender	0.309	0.579	2.272	355	0.024*
Religion	1.086	0.355	3.18	353	0.355
Year of study	0.15	0.699	- 0.275	165	0.783
Mode of admission	0.25	0.618	2.201	355	0.028*
Reason for selecting nursing	3.22	0.023	9.2	3	0.023*
Extracurricular achievements	2.44	0.119	1.768	355	0.078
Academic results	1.678	0.188	4.9	2	0.188

(Equal variances assumed)

*Significant at the level < 0.05

Table 3narrates the association of level of professional socialization and personal characteristics which shows that there is a significant association between gender, mode of admission, reason for selecting nursing and level of professional socialization at $p \leq 0.05$ interval.

Sub group comparison of level of Professional socialization among students of fourth year and first year BSc nursing

Table 4 : Subgroup comparison of level of Professional socialization

n = 357

| Year of study | Level of Professional Socialization | | | | | | Total | Mean ± SD |
| | Competent | | Proficient | | Expert | | | |
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
First year A & B batch	1	1.1 %	19	20 %	75	78.9 %	95	244.06 ± 19.03
Fourth year	1	1.4	15	20.8 %	56	77.8 %	72	245.26 ± 18.02

Table 4 represents the subgroup comparison of level of professional socialization of first year B.Sc. Nursing and fourth year B.Sc. Nursing students shows that 78.9% of first year students shows expert socialization whereas 77.8% of fourth year shows expert socialization. The mean value of samples in first year is 244.06 with a SD 19.03 and that of fourth year is 245.26 with a SD of 18.02.

Table 5: Independent t-test results

n = 357

| | Levene's test for equality of variances | | T – test for equality of variances | | |
	F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2 – tailed)
Equal variances assumed	0.15	0.699	-0.275	165	0.783
Equal variances not assumed			-0.278	157.024	0.782

Table 5 illustrates the results of independent t-test, clearly depicts that there is no significance at the level of $p < 0.05$ because the Sig.(2 – tailed) is 0.783 which is > 0.05 p value. Hence there is no significance in the level of professional socialization of first year and fourth year B.Sc. nursing students when they are compared.

Discussions

Nursing is a health care profession which differ from other healthcare providers by their approach to patients and scope of practice. They identifies the issues in each patients individually and plans care, implements it with interdisciplinary collaboration. Hence nurses

needs to collaborate with other health care providers throughout their care and here is the importance of studying Professional Socialization among student nurses. The objectives of the study were to assess the level of professional socialization among the samples, to find its association with personal characteristics and to find subgroup comparison of level of professional socialization with first year and fourth year B.Sc. Nursing students. The study was conducted among 357 samples out of 375 total students of a nursing college who were selected by purposive sampling.

The assessment of level of professional socialization among the students shown that the majority of the students came under the category of experts (81.2%) and only 0.6% came as competent. Also it has to be noted that no students came in the first two levels, ie; novice and advanced beginner, which is an excellent result that shows the students are fit enough to be in nursing profession

A study done by Nebhinami M Kumar and et.al on Stress and Coping Strategies among undergraduate students, in Western Rajasthan says that students are facing lot of stress during their academic period and active coping was used as the most common coping strategies. This result is quoted here to exclaim that his study samples also may be using such coping strategies for overcoming stress and this helped the majority to keep the professional socialization at its maximum[13].

The association of level of professional socialization and personal characteristics shown that there is a significant association with 'gender', 'mode of admission' and 'reason for selecting nursing as a profession'. A study done by Cherkil S and et.al on coping styles and its association, done in medical students also have a similar association. The study results shown a positive results on 'self-expectation' and stress score. This result can be read along with the results of present study that 'reason for selecting nursing as a profession' and 'self-expectation' brings up the same meaning at the end[14].

When the third objective, subgroup comparison of level of professional socialization, was done with first year and fourth year B.Sc. Nursing students, the analysis gave the result that there is no significance in the comparison. The results also shown a 1.1% more experts in first year than fourth year. This difference need to be addressed. A few studies will give a support to this result. One study was done by Raghunathan D et.al among dental students on prevalence of depression and the other study was done by Sreedevi P A et.al in nursing students of the same college on correlation of assertiveness and self-esteem of undergraduate students. The first study shows the result of a few protective factors and a few risk factors and concludes with the call for implementing interventions for those at high risk of developing depression. The second study which was done on nursing students came out with the result of need for including assertiveness training in nursing education programme. Both the above said studies shows how the extraneous variables are affecting the students on their academics and on their mind. Farrell SM et.al had done a study on wellbeing and burnout in medical students and the study concludes that majority of the samples experience burnout and this needs to be addressed.

All the above quoted studies gives the picture that even though the research results are near to the accepted ones, the unnoticed variable areas surrounding the samples also need to take into account.

Conclusion

Nursing is one among the precious profession which is emerging day by day, with the advancement in science and technology and with the increasing needs of human population. The need for developing professional socialization has to be considered at the most priority. The results of this study shows the need for introducing new plans to make sure that the students level of socialization is keeping its needed status and the students are able to practice this in their professional life also.

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