

Opinions of nursing students regarding their occupation

Funda Ozpulat*, Department of Nursing, Selcuk University, Aksehir, Konya-42010, Turkey.

Nevin Gunaydin, Department of Psychiatric Nursing, Ordu University, Ordu-52000, Turkey.

Suggested Citation:

Ozpulat, F. & Gunaydin, N. (2017). Opinions of nursing students regarding their occupation. *International Journal of Emerging Trends in Health Sciences*. 1(1), 07-12.

Received February 20, 2017; revised April 15, 2017; accepted May 04, 2017.

Selection and peer review under responsibility: Prof. Dr. Huseyin Uzunboylu, Near East University, North Cyprus.

© 2017 Academic World Education & Research Center. All rights reserved.

Abstract

The present descriptive study was conducted at the health high school of the Ordu University and Aksehir Kadir Yallagöz Health High School of the Selcuk University in April and aimed to determine opinions of nursing students regarding their occupation. Within the scope of this study, nursing students at the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades of both vocational high schools were aimed to be included in the study. No any sampling group was selected. While the study was conducted on the volunteer base, data collection was conducted through a data collection form comprising 2 sections. In terms of student distribution, whereas 54.3% of participant students were from Aksehir Kadir Yallagöz Health High School of the Selcuk University; 24.2% were male; 39.1% were at the 2nd grade. While 40.1% were graduated from the Anadolu High School, 28.1% and 17.2% were graduated from Regular High School and Natural Sciences High School, respectively. Whereas mother of 60.6% of students and 32.5% of fathers were graduated from primary school, 83.8% have elementary family; 13.9% have large family. 72.8% stated that their income is equal to their expenses; 18.9% stated that their income is less than their expense. Regarding opinions of students regarding their occupation, 80.5% of students from the Selcuk University, Kadir Yallagöz Health High School and 70.5% of students from the Ordu University Health High School stated that they like nursing occupation; and it was observed that sympathy towards the nursing occupation differs according to the schools (<0.05). As a result of the present study, it was determined that sympathy and adoption levels of nursing students toward their occupation are effective on their opinion, their future plans regarding their profession, and their preferences about the major to be specialized in. It is considered that if it is ensured that nursing occupation is preferred willingly and by sympathy, it would make significant contributions into the occupation and would increase nursing quality.

Keywords: Opinions of students, nursing, occupation.

*ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: **Funda Ozpulat***, Department of Nursing, Selcuk University, Aksehir, Konya, Turkey
E-mail address : funda_ozpulat@hotmail.com / Tel: 03328136368.

1. Introduction

In our contemporary world, numbers of new occupations have arisen owing to advancements in science and technology. Turkish Language Institute defines occupation as “job based on systematical knowledge and skills, whose rules are described, and gained through a certain education and/or training, and performed to produce beneficent goods and services in the exchange of income” (TDK, 2016). Occupations could not be considered apart from the relevant society. In all societies, there is reciprocal relationship between occupation and society. Societies acknowledge significance of occupations undertaking vital functions for them; and they allow occupations to be independent in management of its operations. The fact, that nursing occupation is concerning undeniably the most natural and essential right of a person, makes nursing irrevocable (Karadag, 2002). Education Commission of the Turkish Nurses Association (1981) describes nursing as an health discipline composed of science and art responsible from planning, organization, evaluation and execution of nursing services in order to protect, develop and treatment of health and wellbeing of persons, families and society and from training and education of individual who would practice these duties” (Birol, 2004).

Nursing is composed of practices based on knowledge and theories. These theories provide resources for nursing practices (Adiguzel, Tanriverdi & Sonmez, 2011). Therefore, nursing is an occupation with content including theory and practice based on science and art; it should not be considered only as a care / practice-based occupation (Karagozlu, 2005). Similar to all occupations, nursing is influenced significantly by the society. Social structure forms attitudes of nurses, nursing practices and opinions of society regarding nursing; and affects individuals who prefer nursing as an occupation as well (Andsoy, Gungor & Bayburcluoglu, 2012). Essences of adoption of an occupation and practicing professionally, that is conscious of occupation, commence in the education years; and it continues along all professional life. Starting career as equipped with occupational conscious allows students develop this conscious quickly and positively affect the occupation (Beydag, Gunduz & Ozer, 2008).

Nursing students who are trained to protect, develop and to undertake caring and treatment of health of individuals, family and society, and who would be one of the health care professionals of the future are first required to be healthy in terms of bio-psychology (Kaya, Kaya, Yalcin, Turan, Eskimez et al., 2012). Occupations interacting with human beings intensively do not process their tasks in monotony. The process always accompanied with affection. Accordingly, affection management becomes prominent part of the task. Thus, theoretical knowledge is important. But, theoretical knowledge is not solely enough in affection management; awareness created by sensitivity and love gains importance (Kipay, 2016).

2. Materials and Methods

The purpose of this descriptive study conducted at the health high school of the Ordu University and Aksehir Kadir Yallagöz Health High School of the Selcuk University in April is to determine opinions of nursing students regarding their occupations. Within the scope of the study, it was planned to reach nursing students at the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades of both schools; and no any sampling group was selected. Whereas the study was conducted on voluntary basis, a data collection form comprised of two sections was utilized.

In the first section of the data collection form, there are 11 questions concerning ages, gender, grade, residential place, graduated school, educational status of their parents, accommodation type, economic status of the family, and family type. The second section of the survey includes 8 questions about status of students regarding preference of nursing occupation and their sympathy towards this profession; their future plans with this occupation; whether they would continue with this occupation in the future; their point of view regarding future of the nursing occupation; and major which students might prefer to work on afterwards of the graduation.

Collected study data was analyzed through the SPSS 17.0 (Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Windows). While collected data was analyzed in terms of percentage and mean scores; their

descriptive characteristics, students' opinions about nursing occupation were also analyzed through Chi-Square Test.

3. Findings

When findings about respondent students are considered, it could be seen that whereas 54.3% of participant students were from Aksehir Kadir Yallagöz Health High School of the Selcuk University; 24.2% were male; 39.1% were at the 2nd grade. While 40.1% were graduated from the Anadolu High School, 28.1% and 17.2% were graduated from Regular High School and Natural Sciences High School, respectively. Whereas mother of 60.6% of students and 32.5% of fathers were graduated from primary school, 83.8% have elementary family; 13.9% have large family. 72.8% stated that their income is equal to their expenses; 18.9% stated that their income is less than their expense.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of nursing students

| School | n | % |
|--|-----|-------|
| Age: 21,07 ±1,29 | | |
| Selcuk University Aksehir Kadir Yallagöz Health School | 164 | 54,3 |
| Ordu University Health School | 138 | 45,7 |
| Sex | | |
| Woman | 229 | 75,8 |
| Man | 73 | 24,2 |
| Sınıf | | |
| 2. class | 118 | 39,1 |
| 3. class | 85 | 28,1 |
| 4. class | 99 | 32,8 |
| Graduated School | | |
| Regular High School | 85 | 28,1 |
| Anatolian High School | 121 | 40,1 |
| Vocational High School | 35 | 11,6 |
| Natural Sciences High School | 52 | 17,2 |
| Other | 9 | 3,0 |
| Education Status of mother | | |
| Primary School | 183 | 60,6 |
| Secondary School | 68 | 22,5 |
| High School | 40 | 13,2 |
| Undergraduate | 5 | 1,7 |
| Graduate degree and above | 6 | 2,0 |
| Education Status of father | | |
| Primary School | 98 | 32,5 |
| Secondary School I | 80 | 26,5 |
| High School | 65 | 21,5 |
| Undergraduate | 17 | 5,6 |
| Graduate degree and above | 42 | 13,9 |
| Settlements with grow | | |
| Provincial Center | 147 | 48,7 |
| District | 110 | 36,4 |
| The Town Village | 45 | 14,9 |
| Where he left off | | |
| Domitory | 126 | 41,7 |
| Home | 174 | 57,6 |
| Other | 2 | ,7 |
| Economic Status | | |
| Less than expense income | 57 | 18,9 |
| Equivalent to the income and expense | 220 | 72,8 |
| Expenses than income | 25 | 8,3 |
| Family Type | | |
| Elementary family | 253 | 83,8 |
| Large family | 42 | 13,9 |
| Broken family | 7 | 2,3 |
| Total | 302 | 100,0 |

Regarding opinions of students regarding their occupation, 80.5% of students from the Selcuk University, Kadir Yallagöz Health High School and 70.5% of students from the Ordu University Health High School stated that they like nursing occupation; and it was observed that sympathy towards the nursing occupation differs according to the schools (<0.05). Whereas 79.3% of students from the Selcuk University, Kadir Yallagoz Health High School stated that they were making plans for the future of the occupation, 71.2% of the students from the Ordu University stated the same expression; and it was determined that their status regarding making plans for future differs according to the schools (<0.05). While 40.9% of the students from Selcuk University, Kadir Yallagöz Health High School were not desirous to continue their career with the nursing occupation; 66.7% of the students from the Ordu University, Health High School stated the same; and it was determined that answers were given to these questions exhibited difference according to schools (<0.05). It was determined that opinions of students from both schools regarding future of their occupations were at “medium” level; and that proportion of the students with positive point view regarding future of the nursing occupation was less than the ones with negative opinion.

Table 2. Some features on the profession of nursing students according to the school

| Features for professional | Selcuk University | | Ordu University | | Total | | X ² | p |
|---|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | | |
| Opt-State School of Nursing | | | | | | | | |
| Willingly | 122 | 74,4 | 91 | 65,9 | 213 | 70,5 | 2,573 | ,129* |
| Unwillingly | 42 | 25,6 | 47 | 34,1 | 89 | 29,5 | | |
| Enjoying status of the nursing profession | | | | | | | | |
| Love | 132 | 80,5 | 81 | 58,7 | 213 | 70,5 | 17,122 | ,000* |
| Doesn't love | 32 | 19,5 | 57 | 41,3 | 89 | 29,5 | | |
| The vision for the profession | | | | | | | | |
| A member of the health team | 125 | 76,2 | 92 | 66,7 | 217 | 71,9 | 3,843 | ,146 |
| A person who aids and services to patients | 35 | 21,3 | 39 | 28,3 | 74 | 24,5 | | |
| Other | 4 | 2,5 | 7 | 5,0 | 11 | 3,6 | | |
| Planning on the Future Status of the Profession | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 130 | 79,3 | 85 | 61,6 | 215 | 71,2 | 11,414 | ,001* |
| No | 34 | 20,7 | 53 | 38,4 | 87 | 28,8 | | |
| Want to stay nursing profession in the future | | | | | | | | |
| Wants | 97 | 59,1 | 46 | 33,3 | 143 | 47,4 | 20,030 | ,000* |
| Doesn't want | 67 | 40,9 | 92 | 66,7 | 159 | 52,6 | | |
| Perspective on the Future of Nursing Profession | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 56 | 34,1 | 30 | 21,7 | 86 | 28,5 | 5,689 | ,058 |
| Nötr | 82 | 50,0 | 81 | 58,7 | 163 | 54,0 | | |
| Negative | 26 | 15,9 | 27 | 19,6 | 53 | 17,5 | | |
| The area which nursing students want to work | | | | | | | | |
| Manager | 31 | 18,9 | 54 | 39,1 | 85 | 28,1 | 27,583 | ,000 |
| Educator | 57 | 34,8 | 57 | 41,3 | 114 | 37,7 | | |
| Clinical Nurse | 48 | 29,3 | 18 | 13,0 | 66 | 21,9 | | |
| Research Assisstant | 28 | 17,0 | 9 | 6,6 | 37 | 12,3 | | |
| Total | 164 | 100,0 | 138 | 100,0 | 302 | 100,0 | | |

* Fisher's exact test was used.

Table 3. Some features on the profession of nursing students according to the gender

| Features on the job | Woman | | Man | | Total | | X ² | p |
|---|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | n | % | n | % | n | % | | |
| Opt-State school of nursing | | | | | | | | |
| willingly | 168 | 73,4 | 45 | 61,6 | 213 | 70,5 | 3,657 | ,076* |
| unwillingly | 61 | 26,6 | 28 | 38,4 | 89 | 29,5 | | |
| loving state of the nursing profession | | | | | | | | |
| Love | 166 | 72,5 | 47 | 64,4 | 213 | 70,5 | 1,750 | ,188* |
| Doesn't love | 63 | 27,5 | 26 | 35,6 | 89 | 29,5 | | |
| Views on Occupation | | | | | | | | |
| A member of the health team | 168 | 73,4 | 49 | 67,1 | 217 | 71,9 | 5,837 | ,054 |
| A person who aids and services to patients | 56 | 24,5 | 18 | 24,7 | 74 | 24,5 | | |
| Other | 5 | 2,1 | 6 | 8,2 | 11 | 3,6 | | |
| Planning on the Future Status of the Profession | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 168 | 73,4 | 47 | 64,4 | 215 | 71,2 | 2,176 | ,142* |
| No | 61 | 26,6 | 26 | 35,6 | 87 | 28,8 | | |
| Want to stay nursing profession in the future | | | | | | | | |
| Wants | 108 | 47,2 | 35 | 47,9 | 143 | 47,4 | ,014 | ,907* |
| Doen't want | 121 | 52,8 | 38 | 52,1 | 159 | 52,6 | | |
| Perspective on the Future of Nursing Profession | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 60 | 26,2 | 26 | 35,6 | 86 | 28,5 | 3,240 | ,198 |
| Nötr | 130 | 56,8 | 33 | 45,2 | 163 | 54,0 | | |
| Negative | 39 | 17,0 | 14 | 19,2 | 53 | 17,5 | | |
| The area which nursing students want to work | | | | | | | | |
| Manager | 54 | 23,6 | 31 | 42,5 | 85 | 28,1 | 14,906 | ,002 |
| Educator | 99 | 43,2 | 15 | 20,5 | 114 | 37,7 | | |
| Clinical Nurse | 48 | 21,0 | 18 | 24,7 | 66 | 21,9 | | |
| Research Assistant | 28 | 12,2 | 9 | 12,3 | 37 | 12,3 | | |
| Total | 229 | 100,0 | 73 | 100,0 | 302 | 100,0 | | |

* Fisher's exact test was used.

Whereas it was observed that 23.6% of female respondents were aiming to be at manager position after graduation, 43.2% of female students and 20.5% of male students aimed to be at the trainer position. It was determined that target positions of students afterwards of their graduation were differing according to their gender (<0.05).

4. Discussion

In our study, majority of students expressed that they like nursing occupation (n=213), some of them do not (n=89); and it was observed that sympathy towards nursing occupation differs according to the schools. Similarly, Altioek and Koruklu (2010) reported in their study that whereas majority of nursing students like their occupation (n=1077), only a portion of them stated that they do not like their profession (n=241); and it could be concluded that there are similarities with our findings. In addition, in the study of Sergek and Sertbas (2006), it was reported similarly that while 73.6% of nurse feel sympathy toward their occupation; and 26.4% not.

In our study, a relationship was determined between sympathy towards the occupation and willing to stay with the nursing occupation & making occupational plans for the future; similarly, Ozturk et al. (2005) determined a relationship between nurses' sympathy towards their occupation and their willingness to retire in their studies conducted on 125 nurses.

In the study of Aydın and Argun (2010), it was determined that some of students did not have sympathy towards the nursing occupation and there were some variables effective during nursing education and they were causing difficulties.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

In the present study, it was determined that nursing students sympathy and their adoption towards their occupation are effective on their opinion on their occupation and their plans about future of their occupation and their preferences regarding majors and positions afterwards of their graduation. It is considered that if it is ensured that students to select nursing occupation consciously and willingly, this could make significant contributions into this occupation and would enhance quality of nursing care.

References

- Adiguzel, O., Tanriverdi, H. & Sonmez, O. D. (2011). Occupational professionalism and the case of nurses as the members of the profession. *Journal of Administrative Sciences*, 9(2), 237-259.
- Andsoy, I. I., Gungor, T. & Bayburtluoglu, T. (2012). Karabuk University health school students' thoughts about the future of their profession and the causes of preferring nursing. *Balikesir Health Sciences Journal*, 1(1), 124-130.
- Aydin, M. F. & Argun, M. S. (2010). The expectations and problems of Bitlis Eren University School of Nursing Department students faced in hospital administration. *Acibadem University Journal of Health Sciences*, 1(4), 209-13.
- Biröl, L. (2004). *Nursing process*. Izmir: Impact Printing.
- Beydag, K. D., Gunduz, A. & Gok, O. F. (2008). The view of Denizli Health College students about their educations and their professional expectations. *Pamukkale Medical Journal*, 1(3), 137-142.
- Karadag, A. (2002). Nursing as a profession. *Atatürk University Nursing Journal*, 5(2), 1-8.
- Karagozolu, S. (2005). Nursing as a scientific discipline. *C.U. Nursing Journal*, 9(1), 7-14.
- Kaya, N., Kaya, H., Yalcin, A. N., Turan, N., Eskimez, Z., Pallos, A. & Aktas, A. (2012). Characteristics of anger and loneliness in nursing and midwifery students. *Nursing Education and Research Journal*, 9(2), 18-26.
- Turkish Language Society. (2016). *Current Turkish dictionary*. Access date: 3 January 2017. http://www.tdk.gov.tr/index.php?option=com_gts&arama=gts&guid=TDK.GTS.570de8ef1c8222.63533883
- Kipay, S. S. (2016). *The invisible hand maintenance: "Sensitivity"*. Access date: 3 January 2017. <https://www.academia.edu/>
- Ozturk, M., Alparslan, N. & Oztunc, G. (2005). Determination of opinion on the retirement of 15-year study period with above and nurses in various hospitals in Adana. *Atatürk University Nursing Journal*, 8(3), 1-10.