

Attitude of nursing students towards nursing profession at South Valley University

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Abstract:

Background : Professionalism is one of the basic principles of nursing and the product of environmental and other interaction. Nursing expertise affects the quality of care and is influenced by a variety of factors. **Aims;** This study was aimed to explore the perception of outgoing nursing students towards nursing profession and perceived future job orientation. **Setting;** Faculty of Nursing, South Valley University. **Subjects;** Convenient sample of nursing students (No. = 290). **Tools;** consisted of 1) Personal data sheet 2) tool used to explore attitude of nursing profession among associate nursing students 3) questions related to social rank of job, feeling about nursing as a profession, change in nursing image after joining Faculty of Nursing, and Job Prospective. **Results;** more than half of nurses' attitude towards nursing careers had negative attitudes. there was a statistically significant difference regarding negative perceptions of nursing profession relevant to male nurses' students **Conclusions;** Almost more than half of nurses had negative attitude towards nursing careers. the majority of participant students from male have negative image about nursing profession, Likewise, the highest percentage of both male and female students feel proud when talking about nursing. More than half preferred to work as a nursing administration. **Recommendations;** Develop and organize a career training system in nursing care. Providing better financial incentives for working conditions. Better financial benefits and career opportunities to encourage graduates to be working in health services.

Key words: Attitude , nursing, students, ,profession

I. Introduction

Nursing is a health care profession, which is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities; so that they can attain, maintain, or recover optimum health. Nurses care for individuals of all ages and cultural backgrounds who are healthy and ill in a holistic manner based on the individual's physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs (Anurag ,etal., 2011)

The other recognized definition of nursing is by the American Nurses Association (ANA), nursing is the protection, advancement and optimization of health and skills; prevention of

disease and injury; alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human reactions; and advocacy for people, families, groups and populations in health care (**American Nurses association, 2010**).

Choosing a career is a complicated method that is influenced by many variables that vary between countries and cultures. In addition, environmental circumstances, political, economic, legal and systematic features, luck, standards, social values, and attitudes influence one's choice of career (**Zencir & Eşer, 2016**). When selecting a profession, an individual should have a favorable view and attitude towards the profession if he / she are to adapt to the profession and keep a productive working life. Having a favorable view and attitude towards the profession plays a significant part not only in achieving employee achievement, but also in the professional development. (**Midilli & Durgun, 2017**).

The image of both nurses and nursing as a profession is essential for the effective recruitment and retention of healthcare workers (**Caroline and Ngoma, 2015**). **Waters (2010)** Believes that nurses are the cornerstone of the healthcare industry and are essential in providing quality care to all the country's residents. The public's perception of nursing plays a major role in determining young people's choice of nursing as a career. Understanding nursing students' understanding of their job will assist to identify misunderstandings (**Emmanuel, 2015**).

Public perceptions of the nursing profession have a major impact on the private and government picture of nursing. Gender's function in choosing a profession is a very significant idea, as males make up almost half of the prospective recruitment pool. Noticing a ridiculed masculine nurse would stop children from thinking about a career in nursing (**Kiwanuka, 2010**). In addition, the image of the nursing profession is influenced by other dynamics such as media, government image, social prestige, nurses themselves, other medical professions, school preparations, role models, nursing teachers, and the risk of violence and exposure to health risks (**Ibrahim, et al., 2015**).

Continuous education and advanced training were seen through nurses as critical factors in their clinic motivation, satisfaction and retention (**Lamadah & Sayed, 2014**). lamentably, the frustration, disappointment and remorse amongst nurses due to accelerated workload, low pay and shortage of financial incentives, reputation and appreciation motivated their work delight and retention because of the effects of terrible attitudes on nursing education, addressing the difficulty is important in resolving the nursing shortage (**Hathorn, et al., 2009**).despite the developing number of tutorial institutions that offer nursing programmed, there is still an insufficient deliver of nursing graduates to fulfill the increasing demand for nurses had to offer patient care. Expatriate nurses comprised a big portion of the nursing workforce healthcare centers (**Almalki, et al., 2011**) furthermore; the dearth of nurses can be associated with a shortage of nursing students in faculties.

A key aspect of the transition into a nurse with professional values is teachers who support learners in creating "skills to incorporate a sound knowledge base, know-how, clinical

reasoning, and their sense of ethical behavior within their teaching experiences." (Fisher, 2014).

Understanding the perception of learners and their evolution during the course of the research can help nurse teachers evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the instructional program. This knowledge can improve curriculum growth towards a caring and holistic nursing paradigm. It will also contribute to the knowledge base of nursing education, particularly with regard to admission procedures (Safadi, et al., 2011).

Careers need care and nurturing. They are "life expressions of how an individual in the globe wants to be." Career planning is not a one-time event, but rather a process that becomes part of the skills and experiences repertoire over time and allows the nurse to develop as a professional and achieve the goals. In addition, career planning at each point of the nurse can play a vital role (Özüim, Süheyla, 2011).

Changes in the manner health care is supplied and managed have taken place over the past two centuries; these changes consist of a distinct manner of practice and profession perception. Being a nurse is not only about taking care of patients, it also needs technology understanding, more paperwork and more stringent care norms. Over the years, nursing has changed another way (Safadi, et al., 2011).

Nowadays, nursing has changed from a mere job into a profession through the recent increase in professional independence and development of definitions for roles and performances (Shohani&Vahid, 2017).

Nowadays we can see significant changes in all jobs, including those linked to human health, owing to fast improvements in science and the development of new technologies in distinct areas. Such modifications have resulted in the introduction of new viewpoints and the expansion of knowledge limits on better care for the health of individuals. Patient care is not an exception in the sector because of its status in health care system and its professional contingencies (Chitty& Black, 2010).

Significance of the study:

It is merely observed that nursing students have negative thinking about the nursing profession, resulting in lack of interest that is an obstacle to academic performance impacting students' productivity (Darade et al., 2017). In addition, there is a constant need to foster a skilled nursing picture and to boost its position in the society and be a catalyst to draw prevalent numbers of students entering this profession and retaining nursing discipline (Ibrahim et al., 2015). The researchers therefore felt a very strong need to examine the understanding of nursing as a discipline by the south valley students.

Research Questions:

1. Is there a difference in the professional nursing image among both male and female nursing students ?

2. What are the factors that influence the choice of nursing as a career among male and female students ?
3. What is the family reaction to enrollment of their sons into nursing among both male and female students?

II. Material and Methods

Research design:

This is an exploratory descriptive study.

Setting: The study was conducted at the following settings: The classes of the second academic year at obstetrics and gynecological nursing department and nursing administration department, the Faculty of Nursing, south valley university.

Subjects: The study involved 290 associate nursing students who were from the second academic years within the academic year 2018-2019. the number of respondents was 290.

Tool of data collection: Tool for data collection Self-Administered Questionnaire was used for data collection. It comprised three parts: Part I This part included questions related to socio demographic characteristics of the study subjects such as sex, age, nationality, marital status, reasons for enrollment to the faculty of nursing, and family's reaction to students' enrollment. Part II It is used to explore attitude of nursing profession among associate nursing students. It is a Likert scale format that contains 50 statements answered on a 3 point scale of response: agree=3, , not sure=2, disagree=1. Part III: This part included questions related to social rank of job, feeling about nursing as a profession, change in nursing image after joining Faculty of Nursing, and Job Prospective. Each item was scored as (1) for acceptable response and (zero) for an unacceptable response. While the total attitude score was calculated as the following: <60% was negative and if 60% and more was positive.

Administrative Design:

An official permission to conduct this study was obtained from the dean of the faculty of nursing, south valley university. The tool used in this study developed and modified by the researchers after reviewing the relevant and current literature.

Operational Design: This design explains the steps of actual implementation of the study, including preparatory phase, the pilot, and the field work.

Preparatory phase:

This phase took about three months from October to December 2018 which included reviewing the available literature concerning to the study topic, prepares, and translates the study tool. The draft of the questionnaire was reviewed for content validity by taking experts opinion through a jury comprised from 5 experts (2 professors working at Nursing Administration Department, 2 professors working at obstetrics and gynecological nursing

department and 1 professor from Community Health Department) Faculty of Nursing and reliability was tested through a pilot study.

Pilot study:

Was conducted to detect the obstacles and problems that may be encountered during data collection phase. Also it helps to estimate time needed to fill the questionnaire form. It was carried out on 10% of nursing students (No. =29), every questionnaire took from 20 minutes to half an hour to be filed. The total period for collection of data in the pilot study takes about 5 days. The participants chosen for the pilot study were excluded from the total study sample Reliability was ensured by measuring internal consistency using Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients methods and it's result revealed that all statements of study questionnaire α were ≥ 0.8 .

Fieldwork:

After ensuring the clarity and understandability of the study tool the actual data collection was started in January and ended in March 2019. The researchers met with all participated students and explained to them the purposes of the study, and then the researchers distributed the questionnaire form. The tool of the study were completed and collected during morning shifts.

Ethical considerations

Oral agreement was obtained from all participants after informing them about their rights to participate, refuse, or withdraw at any time. Total confidentiality of any obtained information was ensured. The steps of the study could not entail any harmful effects on participants.

Statistical design:

Data preceded through process of entry; cleaning and recoding were done using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) version 18. Statistical analysis on data was done using: Descriptive statistics: frequencies and percentage for qualitative variables. Mc Nemar significant test for pair qualitative variables was used to test the difference between frequencies of qualitative data. Statistical significance was considered when $p < 0.05$. $P > 0.05$ (Not significance)

III. Results

Table 1: Distribution of studied students according to personal data

Personal data	No (290)	%
1) Gender		
• Male	169	58.3
• Female	121	41.7
2) Student's Age		
• Younger than 18	24	8.3
• 18-20	89	30.7
• More than 20	177	61.0
3) Social Status		
• Single	268	92.4
• Married	16	5.5
• Divorced	6	2.1
4) Reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing		
• Secondary School Grade	145	50.0
• Desire to help others	86	29.7
• Financial reasons/ Availability of work	23	7.9
• Advice from family members	36	12.4
5) Having a nurse friend or relative:		
• Yes	181	62.4
• No	109	37.6
6) Family's reaction to students' enrollment:		
• Positive	158	54.5
• Negative	64	22.1
• Neutral	68	23.4
Total	290	100.0

Table 2: Factors that contribute to the change for the better

Factors	No (290)	%
1) Working conditions		
• Yes	217	74.8
• No	73	25.2
2) Clinical training		
• Yes	227	78.3
• No	63	21.7
3) The effect of faculty members		
• Yes	210	72.4
• No	80	27.6

4) Relationship with the medical team		
• Yes	215	74.1
• No	75	25.9
5) Relationship with friends		
• Yes	160	55.2
• No	130	44.8
6) The opinion of family members		
• Yes	162	55.9
• No	128	44.1
7) Public opinion about nursing		
• Yes	176	60.7
• No	114	39.3
Total	290	100.0

Table 3: Factors that contribute to the change for the worse

Factors	No (290)	%
1) Working conditions		
• Yes	178	61.4
• No	112	38.6
2) Clinical training		
• Yes	133	45.9
• No	157	54.1
3) The effect of faculty members		
• Yes	141	48.6
• No	149	51.4
4) Relationship with the medical team		
• Yes	153	52.8
• No	137	47.2
5) Relationship with friends		
• Yes	118	40.7
• No	172	59.3
6) The opinion of family members		
• Yes	153	52.8
• No	137	47.2
7) Public opinion about nursing		
• Yes	190	65.5
• No	100	34.5

Figur (1):social rank of work and feeling about nursing as a career

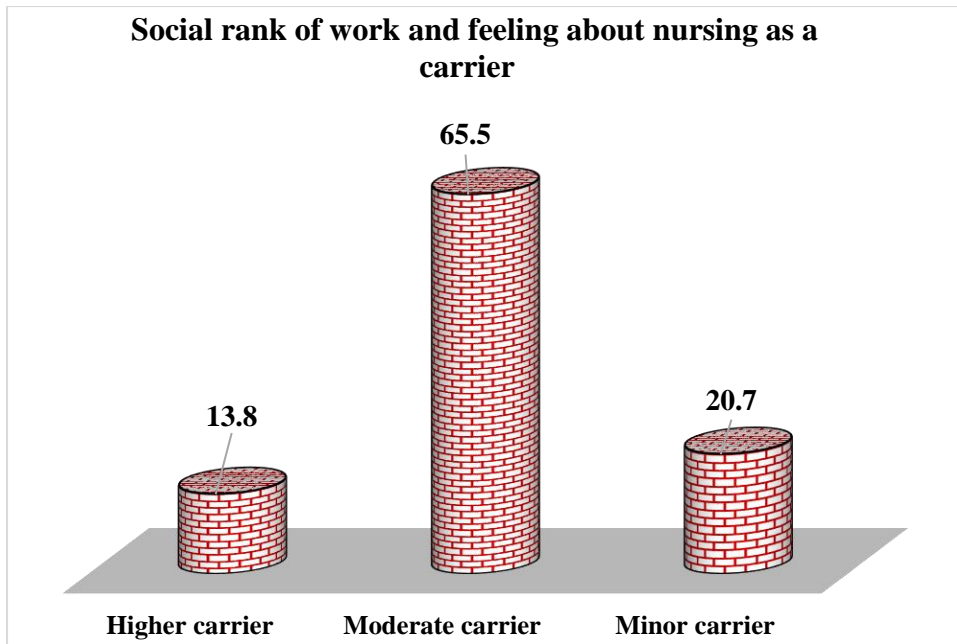


Figure (2): Feeling toward nursing career

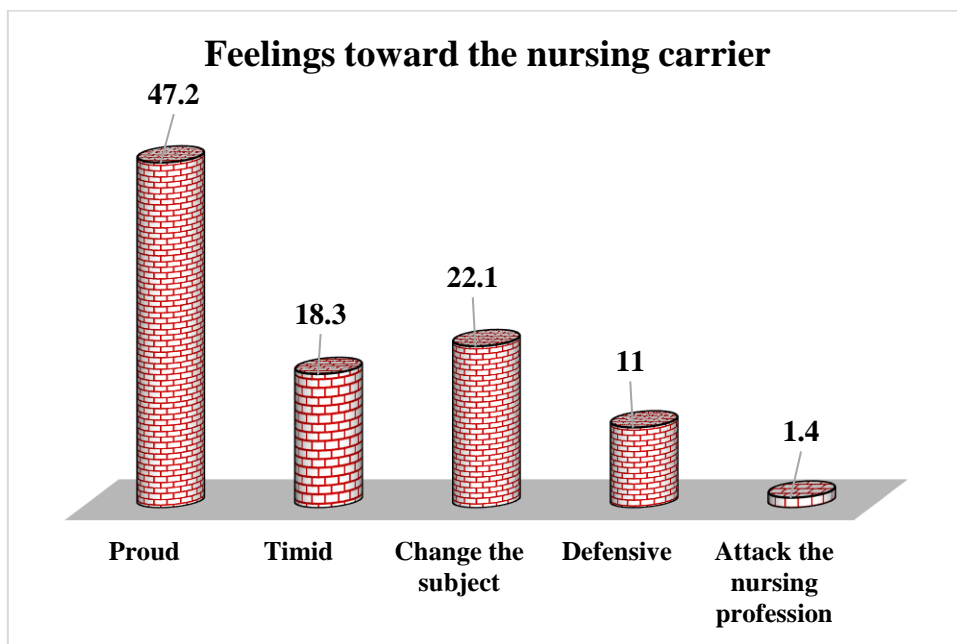


Figure (3): Total attitude of nursing students toward nursing career

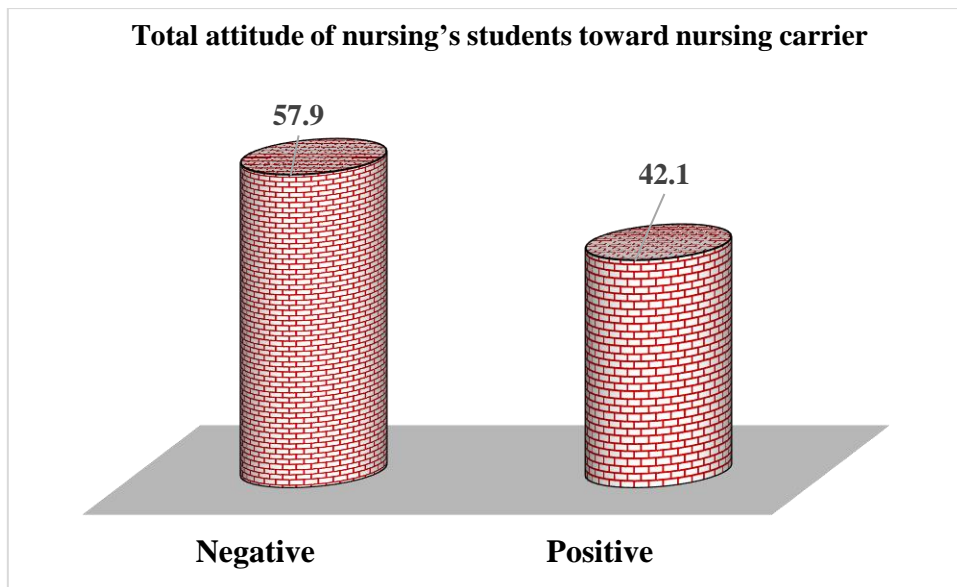


Table 4: Attitudes of studied students regarding various dimensions

Dimensions	No (290)	%
1) The culture dimensions		
• Positive	153	52.8
• Negative	137	47.2
2) Convinced toward nursing profession		
• Positive	153	52.8
• Negative	137	47.2
3) The professional dimension		
• Positive	168	57.9
• Negative	122	42.1
4) The social dimension		
• Positive	176	60.7
• Negative	114	39.3
5) The financial dimension		
• Positive	143	49.3
• Negative	147	50.7
Total	290	100.0

Table 5: Future job opportunities

Factors	No (290)	%
1) Plan to join after graduation / diploma:		
• Yes	127	43.8
• No	100	34.5
• Not sure	63	21.7
2) Educational institution		
• Yes	139	47.9
• No	89	30.7
• Not sure	62	21.4
3) Clinical Nurse		
• Yes	106	36.5
• No	129	44.5
• Not sure	55	19.0
4) Nursing Administration		
• Yes	164	56.6
• No	85	29.3
• Not sure	41	14.1
5) Higher education plan		
• Yes	152	52.4
• No	77	26.6
• Not sure	61	21.0
6) A plan to change carrier		
• Yes	105	36.2
• No	99	34.1
• Not sure	86	29.7
Total	290	100.0

Table 6: Relationship between students' gender and total attitude toward nursing carrier

Students' gender	Total attitude toward nursing carrier				Total	P-value
	Positive		Negative			
	No	%	No	%		
• Male	61	21.0	108	37.2	169	0.004**
• Female	64	22.1	57	19.7		
Total	125	43.1	165	56.9	290	

()Highly statistical significant difference p-value < 0.01**

Table 7: Relationship between having a relatives or friends in the field of nursing and total attitude toward nursing carrier

Having a relatives or friends in the field of nursing	Total attitude toward nursing carrier				Total	P-value
	Positive		Negative			
	No	%	No	%		
• Yes	80	27.6	101	34.8	181	0.627
• No	45	15.5	64	22.1	109	
Total	125	43.1	165	56.9	290	

Table 8: Relationship between reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing and total attitude toward nursing carrier

Reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing	Total attitude toward nursing carrier				Total	P-value
	Positive		Negative			
	No	%	No	%		
• Secondary School Grade	71	24.5	74	25.5	145	0.037
• Desire to help others	35	12.1	51	17.6	86	
• Financial reasons/ Availability of work	4	1.4	19	6.6	23	
• Advice from family members	15	5.1	21	7.2	36	
Total	125	43.1	165	56.9	290	

(*) Statistical significant difference p-value < 0.05

Table 9: Relationship between family’s reaction to students’ enrollment and total attitude toward nursing carrier

Family’s reaction to students’ enrollment	Total attitude toward nursing carrier				Total	P-value
	Positive		Negative			
	No	%	No	%		
• Positive	92	31.7	66	22.8	145	0.001**
• Negative	13	4.5	51	17.6	23	
• Neutral	20	6.9	48	16.5	36	
Total	125	43.1	165	56.9	290	

(**) Highly statistical significant difference p-value < 0.01

Table (1): illustrates that nurses' age more than 20 years, with the highest percentage in the age category of Younger than 18 to more than 20 years (61.0%). The great majority was males (58.3%), and single (92.4%), Reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing was Secondary School Grade (50.0%) Having a nurse friend or relative (62.4%), positive Family's reaction to students' enrollment (54.5%).

Table (2): shows that more than two third of student regarding clinical training is the factor that contribute to the change for the better (78.3%)

Table (3): Revealed that there were a highest percentage (65.5%) of students for Public opinion about nursing is the Factors that contribute to the change for the worse.

Figure (1): Displayed the nurses' students at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of the South Valley regarding social work ranking and a sense of profession as a moderate career (65.5%).

Figure (2): Illustrated that the highest percentage of nurses scored for being proud of their nursing career (47.2 %).

Figure (3): Depicts that more than half of nurses ' attitude towards nursing careers had negative attitudes (57.9 %).

Table (4): Depicts that the highest positive proportion are positive social dimensional attitudes of students (60.6%).

Table (5): Show that the highest percentage of nursing students agree to administer nursing as future employment opportunities (56.6 %).

Table (6): Revealed that there was a statistically significant difference regarding negative perceptions of nursing profession relevant to male nurses' students (0.004* *).

Table (7): Illustrated the highest negative score for the attitude of nurses to nursing careers with relatives or nursing friends (34.8%).

Table (8): show that the highest negative scores for the attitude of nurses to nursing profession with Secondary School Grade as a reason for enrolling to the Faculty of Nursing (25.5%).

Table (9): Depicts that there was a statistically significant difference in the negative perceptions of the nursing profession relevant to the positive reaction of the family to enrolling students (0.001 * *).

IV. Discussion

Whoever notion or concept best describes nursing, whatever set of activities it is described, it is clear that nursing is perceived differently. Perception alone is literally defied as a concept, perception, or picture you have as a result of seeing or knowing something. Nursing

perception can vary according to age, educational level, social and professional experience (**Berhane, 2011**). According to literature, women choose to follow the nursing profession in higher number compared to men. Most of the nursing students in the study are male (58.3%). This is inconsistent with the findings of (94.8%), (**Nilson & Lauder, 2008**) but consistent with study conducted in Jordan male are (69.1%) (**Ibrahim & Tawfiq, 2013**).

The present study show that the majority of participant were male (53.3%) this disagree with study by **Wajed A. et al, 2018**) shows that the majority of participants were female students between 18 and 20 years of age and single.

The current study showed that 57.9% of students had negative attitude toward nursing There are certain factors nurses may encounter which makes their attitudes negative toward nursing career such as the reasons for enrollment to the Faculty of Nursing was secondary school Grade, there were a highest percentage of students for Public opinion about nursing is the Factors that contribute to the change for the worse. This is inconsistent with the findings of the KSA study by **Hiremath and Wale (2017)**, which found that a large majority of participants had a high level of knowledge of nursing professionals.

The results of the current study revealed that males nursing students had more negative attitude than females. This is because of the general belief that nursing is a woman like occupation. In comparison to man qualities of control, hostility, and authority, nursing is a career developed by females that supports the typical feminine image with characteristics of care, and compassion. Males have concerns about prejudice and position pressures, particularly in relation to patient care, as patients expecting female nurses to take care of them, which create adjustment difficulties for men in nursing professions. These findings were consistent with the attitude of female students towards the nursing profession was more optimistic than that of male students (**Midilli and Durgun, 2017**). While **Kalkım et al., (2015)** claimed that female gender is a factor affecting career choice, **Mutair and Redwan (2016)** reported that attitudes towards nursing among female students are more favorable. Likewise, in **2012 the National Association** of Student Nurses reported that male student nurses still have a perception of negative nursing stereotypes.

The current study showed that there is more than two third of student regarding clinical training is the factor that contribute to the change for the better This can be due to the ability of nursing students to engage effectively in the process of clinical training , displaying observable activities in, or outside of, the classroom or clinical setting. According to the present study show that the highest negative scores for the attitude of nurses to nursing profession (25.5%) of the students are with Secondary School Grade as a reason for enrolling to the Faculty of Nursing.

In this study 27.8 % enrolled to profession to desire to help others this disagree with this study that show Almost all of them perceived nursing as an opportunity to serve humanity. Manpreet Kaur et al(2007) also reported that 97% of students felt nursing provides an opportunity to serve humanity. Findings of present study showed that more than half of them (58%) felt nursing is not equal to other profession, Poreddi V et al (2012) also found nearly

48.8% of subjects agreed that social prejudice has great influence on nursing students in choosing nursing profession as their career.

In this study the percentage of 36.2 % have a plan to change career this agree with the study of Nursing Students Perception towards Profession and Future Intentions are more than half (56%) of the outgoing students want to change the profession .This finding is contradicting with findings of Patidar (**Anurag ,etal., 2011**)where a vast majority (93.4%) of students are not interested to change the profession .only 3.8% work other than nursing (Domidus et al (13) . (Manpreet Kaur et al,2007) also reported only 15% stated that they want to change the profession . (Poreddi V et al (2012) also reported 9.3% of students wanted to change the profession. This may be due to lack of employment opportunities and financial incentives or it may due to lack of autonomy in working area or it may be due to change in the aspirations and attitudes of younger generations .

V. Conclusions& Recommendations:

Nurses are the cornerstone of the health sector and are important in delivering quality care to all a country's inhabitants. Almost more than half of nurses had negative attitude towards nursing careers. the majority of participant students from male have negative image about nursing profession, Likewise, the highest percentage of both male and female students feel proud when talking about nursing. More than half preferred to work as a nursing administration. Preparatory year grades are the major reason for students' enrollment into nursing profession. **The following suggestions are given, in the light of the findings of the study:**

1. Develop and organize a career training system in nursing care. The education campaign should be undertaken in the places that the public frequently visits.
2. Providing better financial incentives for working conditions, the student needs to be encouraged to serve as bedside nurses and nurse administrators. In addition, it could be possible to coordinate nursing education services at national day events
3. Better financial benefits and career opportunities to encourage graduates to be working in health services as the ultimate objective of the nursing profession is to provide more care for patients.

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