

Professional Values In Undergraduate Nursing Students

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Abstract

Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare sector and are fundamental in the delivery of quality care Nursing is the value based profession great emphasis is there on the evaluation of nursing professional values. Descriptive survey was done to determine professional values in graduate nursing students. Data was collected from 90 students. . The tool used in the study was modified NPVS-R scale. Findings of the study were majority (77.77%) were in the age group of 21 years, most of the nursing students (85.55%) were female, more than half of the students (56.67%). were from rural area Majority (73.34%) were residing in hostel, Justice was given most preferred value. caring was given second preferred in rating professional values. Trust was given third preferred in rating professional values professionalism was given fourth preferred in rating professional values activism was given fifth preferred in rating professional values. Percentage of respondents who answered "most important" on all items in that caring. Professionalism and Activism is most important that must be emphasized in curriculum to develop nursing as a distinct profession.

Keywords: *Profession, values, justice, Caring, Professionalism, activism, Trust*

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I. Introduction

A value is an abstract representation of what is right , worthwhile ,values are the social principles, ideals of standard held on an individual ,class ,a group that give meaning and direction to life . Professional values are reflections of personal values. They are acquired during socialization into nursing.[5] According to Weis and Schank professional values are standards for action that are accepted by professional groups and individuals. Professional values are necessary to reinforce individuals the professional identity and performance. Nursing is one of the most trusted profession which is rooted in professional ethics and values. Professional values are articulated in the code of ethics. In India every newly registered nurse is expected to adhere to code of ethics and code of professional conduct for nurses developed by Indian Nursing Council. Nurses are the largest health care group. Professional values are a source to promote nurses ethical competences.

II. Objectives:

- To identify the professional values among undergraduate nursing students
- To find out the association between professional values with gender

III. Methodology

Descriptive survey research design was used to collect data from B.sc Nursing students. Sample size consists of 90 students who have adequate clinical exposure. The tool used in the study was modified NPVS-R scale (Weis &Schank 2009) to assess the professional values. NPVS-R consists of 26 items representing five professional value dimensions, namely, justice (five statements: 1, 2, 9, 14, and 15), trust (statements: 3, 12, and 13), professionalism (four statements: 5, 6, 7, and 8), caring (nine statements: 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25), and activism (five statements: 4, 10, 11, 19, and 26). Te NPV-R scale is a 5-point Likert scale rating the importance of each individual statement rated one(1) as not important, two (2) some what important ,three(3) important, four (4) very important, and five (5) most important. A pilot study was conducted in B.Sc. nursing III year students in college of nursing , SVIMS, Tirupati and found feasible to conduct the study Data was collected by obtaining permission from the Principal I/C , College of Nursing, SVIMS and class coordinator of B.Sc. nursing IV year. The investigators made the participants to sit comfortably and introduced to each participant and explained the purpose of the study, administered the questionnaire and collected the data. Analysis of data was done by SPSS 20.0 for window 10

IV. Results And Discussion

Table :1 Socio Demographic Profile of B.Sc. Nursing Students
n=90

S.no.	Demographic variables	Frequency(f)	Percentage(%)
1.	Age		
	21 years	70	77.77%
	22years	20	22.23%
2.	Gender		
	Female	77	85.55%
	Male	13	14.45%
3.	Religion		
	Hindu	70	77.77%
	Muslim	07	7.77%
	Christian	13	14.45%
4.	Type of family		
	Nuclear	71	78.90%
	Joint	15	16.66%
	Single parent	04	4.44%
5.	Type of living area		
	Rural	51	56.67%
	Urban	39	43.33%
6.	Marital status		
	Un married	90	100%
7.	Educational status of mother		
	Illiterate	14	15.56%
	Primary education	56	62.22%
	Secondary education	15	16.67%
	High education	05	5.55%
8.	Occupation of mother		
	Daily wager	03	3.33%
	Home maker	73	81.11%
	Employee	09	10.1%
	Agriculture	05	5.55%
9	Educational status of father		
	Illiterate	04	4.44%
	Primary education	41	45.55%
	Secondary education	22	24.44%
	Higher education	23	25.57%
10.	Occupation of father		
	Daily wager	21	23.33%
	Un employment	12	13.34%
	Employee	21	23.33%
	Agriculture	36	40.0%
11.	Family income		
	5000-10000 rupees	18	20%
	10000-15000 rupees	52	57.78%
	15000-20000 rupees	11	12.22%
	20000 and above	09	10%
12	Place of domicile		
	Home	21	23.33%
	Hostel	66	73.34%
	Relative home	3	3.33%

Table 1 reveals majority (77.77%) were in the age group of 21 years , 22.23% belong to age group of 22years

Most of the Nursing students 85.55% were female students, 14.45% were male students. Majority of Nursing students 77.77% were Hindus, 14.45% were Christians ,whereas least category were Muslims 7.77%. Almost all the students are Hindus and Muslims were least joined in nursing. Most (78.90%)of the students belongs to nuclear families, 16.66% (15)were living joint families, whereas least 4.44% (04) were belongs to single parent family. It indicates that most students are from nuclear family.

Almost More than half of the students are from rural area i.e., 56.67% , 43.33% were belongs to Urban locality. Which reveals that more students are from rural areas and they were interested in pursuing in nursing. All the subjects are unmarried.

Educational qualification of mother majority 62.22% studied primary education , 16.67% were completed secondary education, 15.56% were illiterate, whereas least number of 5.55% mothers were studied up to higher education, which indicates 3/4 mothers were studied up to primary education and having minimum of knowledge and only 5% are studied up to higher education.

Occupation of the mother majority 81.11% were homemakers, 10. were employed, 5.55% were doing agriculture, whereas least number 3.33% are daily wagers. Most of the mothers are housewives and only 10% were employees. Educational qualification of father majority 45.55% had primary education, 25.57% completed higher education, 24.44% were studied up to secondary education, whereas only 4 percent are illiterates.

Occupational status of the father majority 40.0% (36) were in the category of agriculture. 23.33% were working as employees and daily wagers, whereas least percentage of 13.34%(12) were un employed. Which reveals majority are farmers and least are un employed.

Family income per month majority 57.77% were getting income of 10000-15000 rupees, 20% were gaining income of 5000-10000 rupees, 12.22%(11) were gaining income of 15000-20000 rupees, whereas lowest 10%(9) were having income of 20000 rupees and above. Which represents mostly 57% were having the 10000-15000 rupees per month.

Related to place of domicile majority (73.34%) were residing in hostel, 23.33% were day scholars, whereas least 3.33% were living in relatives home. Most of the students 3/4th of students were residing in hostel and least were from relatives home.

Table 2 : Ranking of professional values according to mean ± standard deviation, with percentage respondents stating “Most Important” on all items.

S.no	Professional values variables	Mean ± SD	Ranking	Percentage (%) of respondents stating “Most Important” (5) on all items
1.	Justice	4.63+0.59	1	18.51%
2.	Caring	4.52+0.54	2	55.06%
3.	Trust	4.35 ± 0.61	3	42%
4.	Professionalism	4.15 ± 0.63	4	28.88%
5.	Activism	3.98 ± 0.62	5	18.88%

Table 2 describes the data regarding variables of professional values as follows ranking is given based on standard deviation of the variables in the study which are associated with nursing professional values. Justice was given most preferred value (4.63 ± 0.59), caring was given second preferred in rating professional values with (4.52 ± 0.54), Trust was given third preferred in rating professional values with (4.35 ± 0.61), professionalism was given fourth preferred in rating professional values with (4.15 ± 0.63), activism was given fifth preferred in rating professional values with (3.98 ± 0.62). Table.2 also shows the percentage of respondents who answered “most important” on all items in that caring had the highest percentage of 55.06% followed by trust with 42% and justice had the least with 18.51%. The mean score of caring domain was high than the domains of professionalism ,activism in the study Poreddi vijaya lakshmi et al, and Hutagol et al

Table 3 Mean score ± SD and ranking of items in the caring dimension

Components of the professional scale {CARING}	RAN K	MEAN ± SD	Percentage (%) of respondents stating “Most Important” (5) on all items
16. safe guard moral and legal rights of patient	1	4.7 ± 0.458	71.11%
18. Act as a patient advocate.	2	4.688 ± 0.462	68.88%
23. Protect rights of participants in research.	3	4.666 ± 0.471	66.66%
20 .Provide care without prejudice to patients of varying lifestyles.	4	4.611 ± 0.509	62.22%
22. Confront practitioners with questionable or inappropriate practice.	5	4.577± 0.494	57.77%
17. Refuse to participate in care if in ethical opposition to own professional values .	6	4.511 ± 0.499	51.11%
21. Protect patient’s right to privacy.	7	4.5 ± 0.5	50%
25. Ensure confidentiality of patient.	8	4.322 ± 0.554	36.66%
24. Practice guided by principles of fidelity and respect for person.	9	4.166 ± 0.650	31.11%

Table .3 shows that the highest scoring item in the caring dimension was “safe guard moral and legal rights of patient” with 71.11% of respondents indicating “most important”, correlating with the results of Poor changizi et al while “Practice guided by principles of fidelity and respect for person” scored lower and also had the smallest proportion of students indicating “most important” (31.11%).

Table-4 Mean score (SD) and ranking of items in the activism dimension

ACTIVISM	RANK	MEAN ± SD	Percentage (%) of respondents stating "Most Important" (5) on all items
10.Advance the professional through active involvement in health related activities.	1	4.288 ±0.562	34.44%
4. Involve in public health policy decisions.	2	3.944 ± 0.602	15.55%
11. Identify role of professional nursing associations in shaping health care policy.	3	3.922 ± 0.581	13.33%
19. Aid in nursing research and /or implement research findings appropriate to practice.	4	3.911 ± 0.643	16.66%
26. Participate in activities of professional nursing associations.	5	3.84 ± 0.648	14.44%

In activism dimension as per table 4. most respondents indicated that “Advance the professional through active involvement in health related activities” was the highest scored item (34.44%) and highest mean of about 4.288 , meanwhile “Identify role of professional nursing associations in shaping health care policy” scored lowest with 13.33% whereas “Participate in activities of professional nursing associations” scored lowest when means were taken into consideration.

Table 5. Mean score (SD) and ranking of items in the trust dimension .

TRUST	RANK	MEAN ± SD	Percentage (%) of respondents stating "Most Important" (5) on all items
9.Persue additional education to update knowledge and skills.	1	4.577 ± 0.493	57.77%
14.Accept responsibility and accountability for own practice.	2	4.411 ± 0.535	43.33%
15. Maintenance of competency in area of practice.	3	4.377 ± 0.588	43.33%
1.Participate in on-going self-evaluation.	4	4.188 ± 0.664	33.33%
2.Request consultation when unable to meet patient needs.	5	4.177 ± 0.659	32.22%

The Trust dimension as per table 5. the item “Pursue additional education to update knowledge and skills” scoring highest at 57.77% with mean 4.577 and “Request consultation when unable to meet patient needs” 32.22% had the lowest score with 4.177 mean value.

Table 6. Mean score (SD) and ranking of items in the justice dimension

JUSTICE	RANK	MEAN ± SD	Percentage (%) of respondents stating "Most Important" (5) on all items
3.Protect health and safety of the public.	1	4.277 ± 0.5778	34.44%
13.Assume responsibility for meeting health needs of the culturally diverse population.	2	3.955 ± 0.619	10%
12. Improve equitable access to nursing and health care to public.	3	3.833 ± 0.492	11.11%

With only three items in the Justice dimension as per table 6. The item scoring highest with 34.44 % and with mean of about 4.277 was “Protect health and safety of the public” and “Assume responsibility for meeting health needs of the culturally diverse population” reported the lowest score of 10% but “Improve equitable access to nursing and health care to public” had lowest mean of 3.833.

Table -7Mean score (SD) and ranking of items in the professionalism dimension

PROFESSIONALISM	RANK	MEAN ± SD	Percentage (%) of respondents stating "Most Important" (5) on all items
5. Cooperate in peer review.	1	4.411 ± 0.535	43.33%
7.Improve and maintain standards where planned learning activities for student take place.	2	4.144 ± 0.692	32.22%
8.Initiate actions to improve environment of practice .	3	4.033 ± 0.585	18.88%
6.Establish standards as a guide for practice.	4	4.022 ± 0.632	21.11%

In the professionalism dimension as per table 7. most respondents indicated that “Cooperate in peer review” was the highest scored item 43.33% and with mean about 4.411 whereas “Initiate actions to improve environment of practice” scored lowest with 18.88% but as per mean the item “Establish standards as a guide for practice” scored lowest 4.022.

Association between gender and professional values

Table 8. Mean scores (SD) of dimensions by gender

DIMENSIONS	GENDER	FREQUENCY (N)	MEAN \pm SD	P-Value
CARING	MALE	13	4.6410 \pm 0.1765	0.014
	FEMALE	77	4.5079 \pm 0.1779	
JUSTICE	MALE	13	3.9743 \pm 0.3717	0.584
	FEMALE	77	4.0302 \pm 0.3341	
TRUST	MALE	13	4.3692 \pm 0.3038	0.774
	FEMALE	77	4.3425 \pm 0.3058	
ACTIVISM	MALE	13	3.9076 \pm 0.2432	0.107
	FEMALE	77	3.9948 \pm 0.2278	
PROFESSIONALISM	MALE	13	4.2884 \pm 0.2246	0.084
	FEMALE	77	4.1298 \pm 0.3131	

Table 8 Results showed no significant association was found between the gender and professional values.

V. Conclusion

Nursing students given preference to the value of justice and caring and professionalism and activism received lower priority it should be inculcated in nursing students, by incorporating the concept of professionalism activism in the curriculum.

VI. Recommendations

- The study may conducted to carry out the study among nurses also .
- Prospective study can be carry out to observe the professional values .
- The study can be conducted in large sample.
- There should be an in- service education programmes for nurses and nursing students about professional values among nursing.

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