



Research Article

PERCEPTION OF NURSING PROFESSION AMONG PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Today, the perception about the nursing profession appears uncertain, and the question asked by many students is "What is nursing?". Historically, nurses have been predominantly females who were easily recognized by a white cap and uniform making the profession more visible. Students' perceptions of nursing are based on visual images that are often limited to bedside care and drug administration instead of that of a highly skilled and well-educated nursing professional with an important role to play in healthcare. The purpose of study was to determine the pre-university students' perceptions of nursing profession in selected pre-university colleges at Tumkur, Karnataka. Objectives of the study were i) to determine the pre-university students' perceptions about the nursing profession as measured by perceptions scale instrument. 2) To find out the association between students' perceptions of the nursing profession with the selected socio-demographic variables. The data collected showed highly positive, positive, and negative perceptions regarding nursing profession among pre-university students. It was observed that 11% of subjects having highly positive perception, 83% having positive perception and 5.5% of subjects having negative perception towards nursing. There was significant association between levels of perceptions and demographic variables like religion ($\chi^2=23.305$) getting inspired by nurse in action as a role model ($\chi^2=11.474$), becoming mentor after nursing graduation ($\chi^2=32.476$), source of information about nursing ($\chi^2=31.649$), and willing to attend an introductory nursing class ($\chi^2=16.09$) at $p < 0.05$.

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INTRODUCTION

The word nursing is derived from the Latin word "nutrire" which means "to nourish." From its earliest beginnings, the nursing profession has evolved in response to human need. It is this responsiveness to the needs of others that has allowed the diversity within nursing to flourish. Among the nursing profession's greatest strengths are the tremendous breadth and variation of opportunities it offers. Levels of nursing practice range from licensed practical nurses to advanced practice nurses such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and nurse anesthetists. Registered nurses can pursue degrees at the associates, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral level. The nursing workforce seem to be at an exciting crossroads of change, both in recruiting and in curriculum. The environment of healthcare has changed and so has nursing, resulting in students asking, "What is nursing?".

Hence factors which currently contribute to students' perceptions of nursing must be identified in order to establish and provide students with the career making skills necessary in

choosing a nursing career, find job satisfaction following graduation, and remain in nursing as a career.

Need For the Study

Perceptions of the Nursing Profession

The word "perception" is defined as the "ability to perceive and the result of perceiving, to realize or become aware of something through the sense, an impression accompanied by an understanding of what it is"

Literature suggests that students' career perceptions are highly individual, and are the product of contracted images of jobs they see for themselves, derived images from media, and delegated images from parents and friends. Students often view the status of a job linked to value judgments about the visible dimensions of the job (e.g. skilled work instead of an analytical partner in patient care). Thus students' career perceptions may be less defined, resulting in a decline of students choosing a career in nursing³.

Objectives of the study

- i. Determine the pre-university students' perceptions about the nursing profession as measured by perceptions scale instrument.

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- ii. To find out the association between students' perceptions of the nursing profession with the selected socio-demographic variables.

Operational Definitions

- i. Pre-university student: It refers to an individual currently enrolled in the pre-university/10+2 courses.
- ii. Perceptions: It refers to personal ideas and beliefs about the nursing profession as elicited by perceptions scale. It is defined as the ability to perceive and the result of perceiving, to realize or become aware of something through the sense, an impression accompanied by an understanding of what it is.

Research Methodology

Research Design: Descriptive Design

Population of the study

The population for this study is pre-university students.

Target Population

The target population for the study is Pre-University students of Tumkur district.

Sample

The samples selected for the present study is pre-university students of selected pre-university colleges i.e., the samples were selected from Sarvodaya pre-university college Tumkur.

Sample Size

The sample size of the present study is 200 pre-university students.

Sampling Technique

The investigator has used simple random sampling technique by using lottery method to select the samples for the present study.

Sampling Criteria

The criteria for sample selection are mainly depicted under two headings, which includes the inclusive criteria and exclusive criteria.

Inclusive Criteria

Pre-university Students, who are

- a. Studying in pre-university colleges.
- b. Available at the time of data collection.

Exclusive Criteria

Pre-university students,

- a. Who are not willing to participate in the study
- b. Who are unable to read and write English

The tool consisted of two parts

Part –I: Socio-demographic data

It consisted of ten items for obtaining information about the selected socio-demographic data such as age, gender, residence, religion, type of family, family members in healthcare and other significant questions.

Part - II: Perception scale

It consisted of 30 items concerning about the nursing profession, which were derived from the literature and from the experiences of the researcher. Each statement asked students to indicate the level of agreement or disagreement on a scale ranging from “strongly disagree” with a value of “1” to “strongly agree” with a value of “3” for positive questions towards nursing and “strongly disagree” with a value of “3” to “strongly agree” with a value of “1” for negative questions.

Ethical Considerations

A formal written letter granting permission to conduct main study was obtained from college authority. Further the investigator was informed that he should not disturb the daily routines of the study subjects, should not harm the study subjects during the course of data collection or intervention and informed consent to be obtained from the study subjects.

RESULT

Organization of findings

The data collected from students has been organized and presented under the following headings:

Section I: Frequency and percentage distribution of the socio-demographic variables.

Section II: Assessment of perceptions of subjects regarding nursing profession.

Section III: Association between the selected demographic variable and the level of Perceptions.

SECTION-1 Distribution of the subjects according to socio-demographic

Variables

Table 1 A Frequency and Percentage distribution of Pre-University students. N=200

Demographic variables	No. of Subjects(n)	Percentage%
Age	16-17 years	93.5
	17-18 years	6.5
Gender	Male	69.0
	Female	31.0
Place of residence	Rural	47.0
	Town	25.0
	Suburban	14.0
	City /urban	14.0
Religion	Hindu	69.0
	Christian	14.5
	Muslim	8.0
	Others	8.5

Table 1A Shows: Majority of subjects i.e., 93% were 16-17years of age and 6.5% were 17-18 years (fig-3).69% were male students and 31% were female subjects (fig-4). 47% of subjects were residents of rural,25% were of town residents,14% were suburban and urban residents(fig-5).69% of subjects were Hindu,14.5% were christian,8% were muslim and 8.5% others(fig-6).

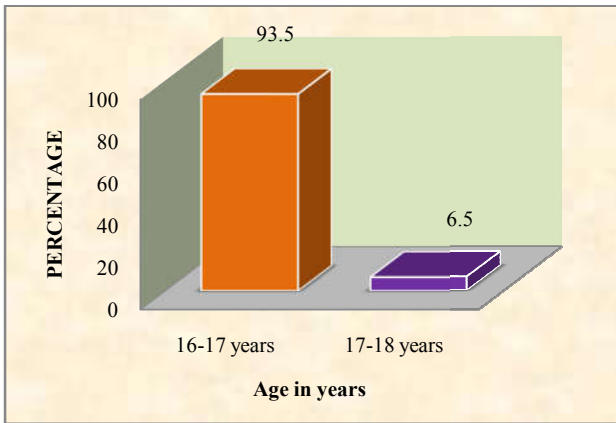


Figure 3 Distribution of the subjects according to age

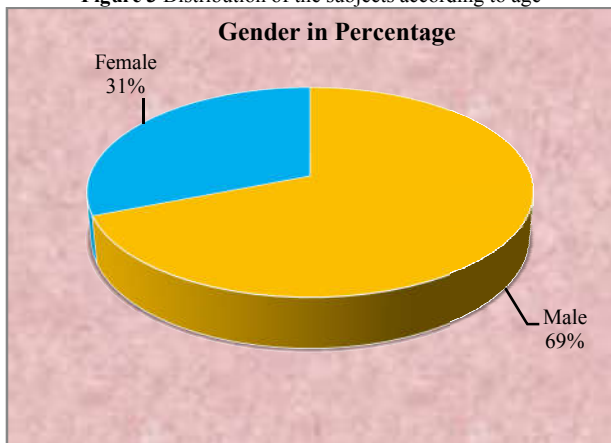


Figure 4 Distribution of the subjects according to gender

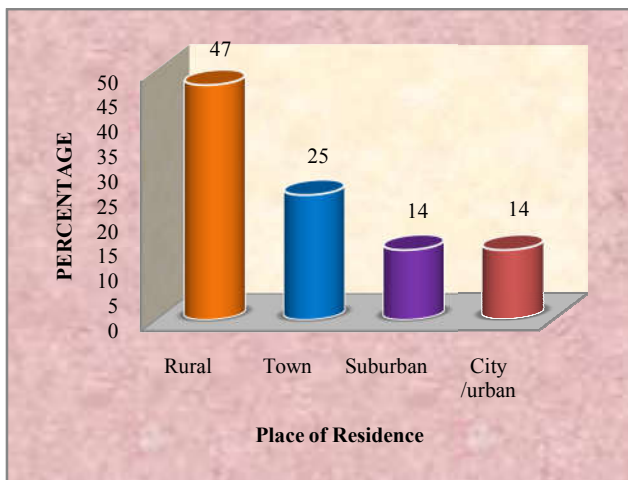


Figure 5 Distribution of the subjects according to place of residence

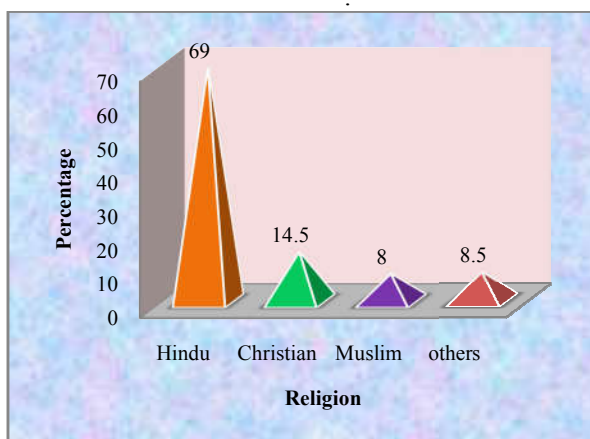


Figure 6 Distribution of the subjects according to religion.

Table 1 B Frequency and Percentage distribution of Pre-University students.

N=200

Demographic variables		No. of Subjects(N)	Percentage
Type of family	Nuclear	121	60.5
	Joint	79	39.5
Presence of health care professionals in the family.	Parents(Other than Nursing)	41	20.5
	Parents (Nursing)	27	13.5
	Relatives	27	13.5
	Nil	105	52.5
Whether "Nurse in action" acted as role models	Yes	45	22.5
	No	155	77.5

Table 1B shows: Majority of the subjects' i.e.60.5% belong to nuclear family and 39.5% to joint family(fig-7).20.5% of subjects' parents were in the health care profession other than nursing profession, 13%parents are in nursing profession, 13.5% of subjects' relatives are in health care profession and 52% of family members are not in health profession(fig-8). 22.5% of subjects get inspired by nurses' work and 77.5% doesn't get inspired (fig-9).

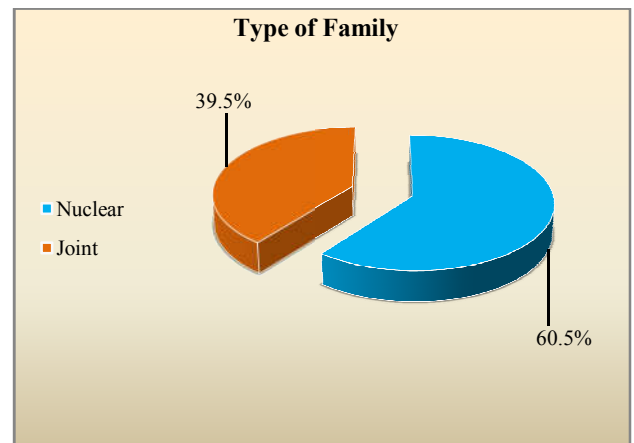


Figure 7 Distribution of the subjects according to type of family

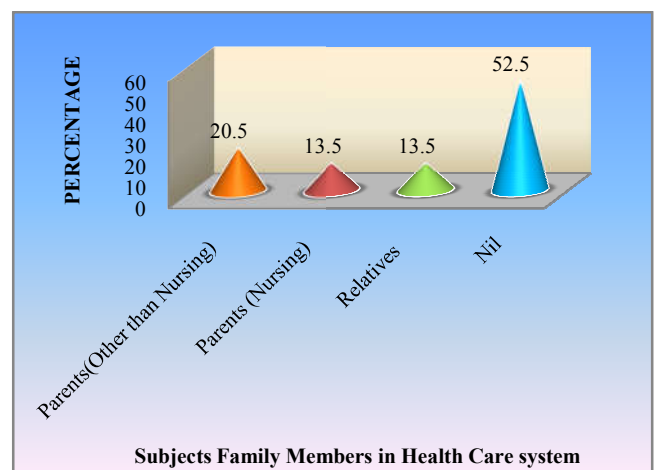


Figure 8 Distribution of the subjects according to presence of health care professionals in the family.

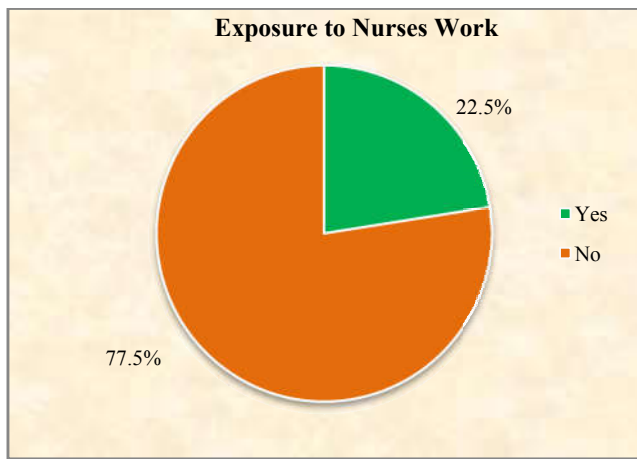


Figure 9 Distribution of the subjects according to exposure to nurses' work.

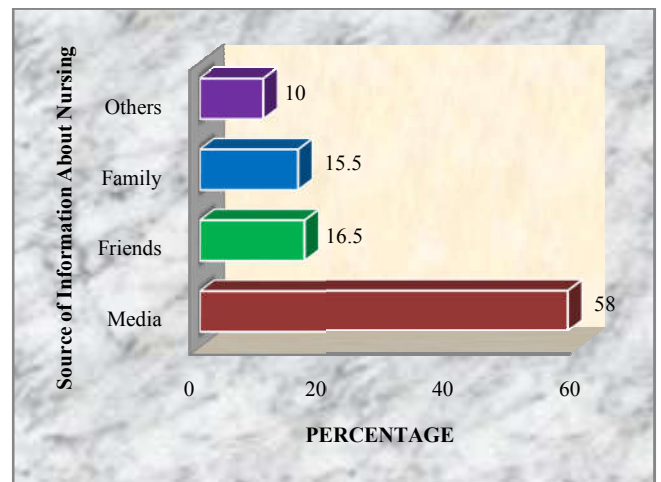


Figure 11 Distribution of the subjects according to source of information.

Table 1C Frequency and Percentage distribution of Pre-University students N=200

Demographic variables	No. of Subjects(N)	Percentage
Intention of becoming a mentor after graduation.	Yes	131
	No	69
Source of information	Media	116
	Friends	33
	Family	31
	Others	20
Preference to attend an introductory class of nursing.	Yes	87
	No	113

Table 1C shows: Majority of the subjects' i.e. 65.5% of subjects want to become mentor and 34.5% are not interested for the same (fig-10). 58% of subjects get information about nursing profession from media, 16.5% from friends, 15.5% from family and 10% of subjects get information from other different sources (fig-11). 43.5% of subjects are interested to attend nursing introduction class and 56.5% of subjects are not interested (fig-12).

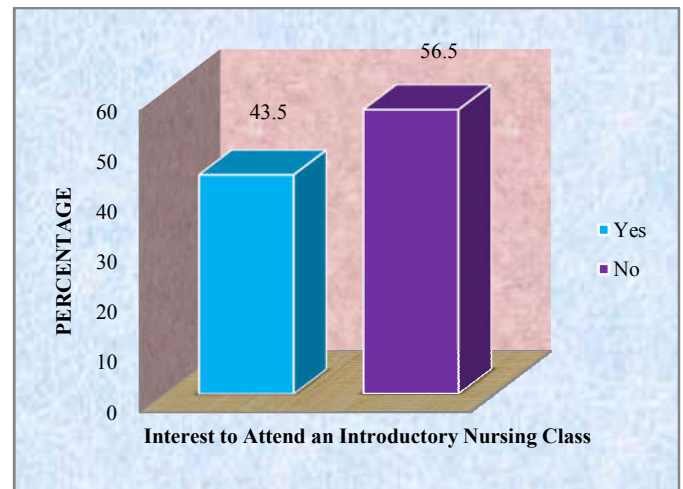


Figure 12 Distribution of the subjects according to preference to attend an introductory class of nursing.

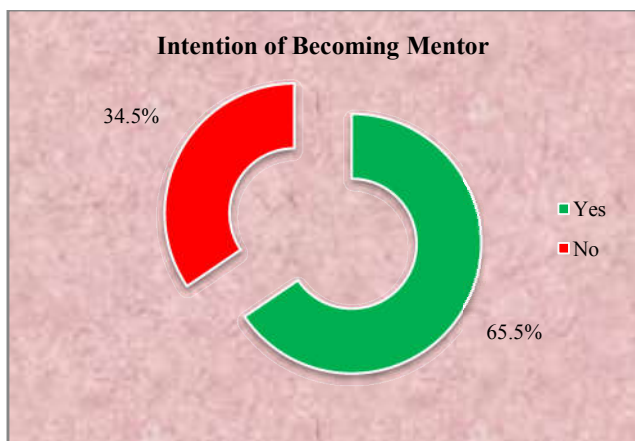


Figure 10 Distribution of the subjects according to intention of becoming a mentor after graduation.

Section- II

Assessment of Perceptions of Subjects Regarding Nursing Profession

Table 2 Overall perceptions score of subjects regarding nursing profession. N=200

Variable	No of items	Range		Perceptions score		
		Min	Max	Mean score	SD	Mean %
PERCEPTIONS	30	42	75	58.09	8.836	64.54

Table 3 Distribution of subjects according to Level of Perceptions N=200

Level of Perceptions	Frequency	Percentage
Highly positive	22	11.0
Positive	167	83.5
Negative	11	5.5
Total	200	100.0

Table 3 shows 11% of subjects have highly positive perception regarding nursing, 83% have positive perception and 5.5% of subjects have negative perception towards nursing profession (fig-13).

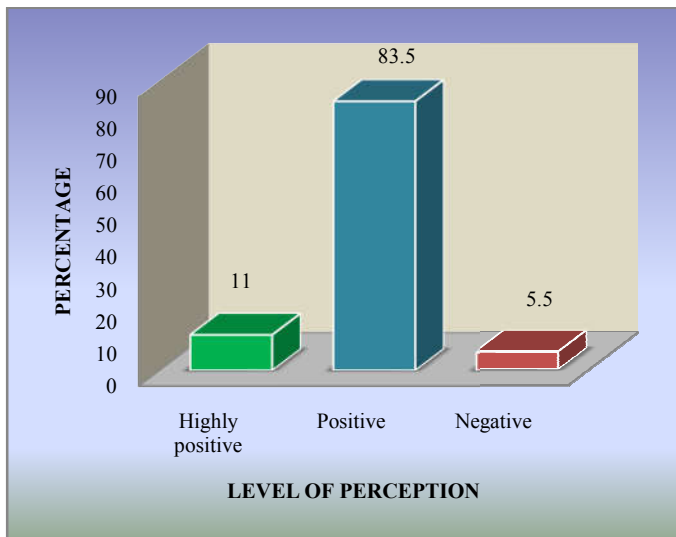


Figure 14 Distribution of subjects according to Levels of Perception.

Table 4 Demographic wise assessment of perception N=200

Demographic variables	N	Mean	SD	Mean%	Significance test	
Age	16-17 years	187	58.13	8.76	64.59	t-TEST= 0.265
	17-18 years	13	57.46	10.27	63.84	P=0.792
Gender	Male	138	57.81	8.802	64.23	t-TEST= 0.664
	Female	62	58.71	8.950	65.23	P=0.508
Place of residence	Rural	94	57.74	8.508	64.16	F-TEST= 0.219
	Town	50	58.76	8.891	65.29	
	Suburban	28	57.50	10.337	63.89	P=0.883
	City /urban	28	58.64	8.595	65.16	
Religion	Hindu	138	59.09	8.009	65.66	F-TEST= 2.953
	Christian	29	54.72	10.495	60.8	
	Muslim	16	54.62	8.906	60.69	P=0.034
	others	17	59.00	10.618	65.56	S

Table 4 shows There is significance of assessment of perception with respect to religion at $p < 0.05$ level of significance. The t-Test and f-Test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicates that there is no significance of assessment of perceptions with variables such as age (t-Test=0.265), gender (t-Test=0.664), residence (F-test=0.219).

Table 5 Demographic wise assessment of perceptions N=200

Demographic variables	N	Mean	SD	Mean %	Significance test	
Type of family	Nuclear	121	57.55	9.226	63.94	t-TEST= 1.063
	Joint	79	58.91	8.192	65.46	P=0.289
Presence of health care professionals in the family.	Parents (Other than Nursing)	41	58.68	8.395	65.2	F-TEST= 0.388
	Parents (Nursing)	27	56.74	10.02	63.04	
	Relatives	27	59.07	7.539	65.63	P=0.762
	Nil	105	57.95	9.060	64.39	
Whether "Nurse in action" acted as role models	Yes	45	57.00	6.554	63.33	t-TEST= 0.94
	No	155	58.41	9.390	64.9	P=0.348
					NS	

Table 5 shows: The Independent T-test and F-test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicate that there is no significance of assessment of perceptions with variables such as type of family (t-test=1.063), health care professionals

in family (f-test=0.388), get inspired by nurses as role models (t-test=0.94).

Table 6 Demographic wise assessment of perceptions N=200

Demographic variables	N	Mean	SD	Mean%	Significance test	
Intention of becoming a mentor after graduation.	Yes	131	59.83	8.372	66.48	t-test= 3.983
	No	69	54.78	8.805	60.87	
Source of information	Media	116	55.61	10.05	61.79	F-TEST= 12.497
	Friends	33	65.33	4.255	72.59	
	Family	31	59.29	5.159	65.88	
Preference to attend an introductory class of nursing.	Others	20	58.65	1.531	65.17	P=0.000
	Yes	87	54.43	10.162	60.48	
No	113	60.91	6.400	67.68	t-TEST= 5.514	
					P=0.000	
					VHS	

Table 6 shows: The Independent T-test and F-test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicate that there is very high significance of assessment of perceptions with variables such as Intention of becoming mentor after graduation (T-test=3.983), source of information (F-test=12.497), attend nursing introductory class (t-test= 5.514) at $p < 0.05$ level of significance.

Section III

Association Between the Selected Demographic variable and the level of Perceptions

Table 7 Association between level of perceptions and their demographic variables N=200

Demographic variables	N	Levels of Perceptions			Chi Square Test
		Highly positive	Positive	Negative	
Age	16-17 years	10	157	20	Chi Square value=0.437
		5.3%	84.0%	10.7%	
Age	17-18 years	1	10	2	P=0.804
		7.7%	76.9%	15.4%	
Gender	Male	8	116	14	Chi Square value=0.384
		5.8%	84.1%	10.1%	
Gender	Female	3	51	8	P=0.825
		4.8%	82.3%	12.9%	
Place of residence	Rural	6	80	8	Chi Square value=4.004
		6.4%	85.1%	8.5%	
	Town	3	41	6	
		6.0%	82.0%	12.0%	
Place of residence	Suburban	2	21	5	P=0.676
		7.1%	75.0%	17.9%	
City /urban		0	25	3	df=6
		.0%	89.3%	10.7%	
	Hindu	2	121	15	
		1.4%	87.7%	10.9%	
Religion	Christian	6	20	3	Chi Square value=23.305
		20.7%	69.0%	10.3%	
	Muslim	2	14	0	
Religion	Others	1	12	4	P=0.001
		12.5%	87.5%	.0%	
		1	12	4	df=6
		5.9%	70.6%	23.5%	

Table 7 shows: To find out the association, Chi-square test has been used. The obtained values show highly significant association between religion and the levels of perceptions ($\chi^2=23.305, df=6; p < 0.05$ level of significance). And there was no significant association between the level of perceptions and selected socio-demographic variables like age ($\chi^2=0.437, df=2$), gender ($\chi^2=0.384, df=2$), residence ($\chi^2=4.004, df=6$) at $p > 0.05$ level of significance.

Table 8 Association between Level of Perceptions and their Demographic Variables N=200

Demographic variables	N	Levels of Perceptions			Chi Square Test
		Highly positive	Positive	Negative	

		8	99	14		
Type of family	Nuclear	121	6.6%	81.8%	11.6%	Chi Square value=0.883 P=0.643 df=2 NS
	Joint	79	3.8%	86.1%	10.1%	
	Parents (Other than Nursing)	41	2.4%	85.4%	12.2%	
Presence of health care professionals in the family.	Parents (Nursing)	27	7.4%	77.8%	14.8%	Chi Square value=2.271 P=0.893 df=6 NS
	Relatives	27	3.7%	88.9%	7.4%	
	Nil	105	6.7%	82.9%	10.5%	
Whether "Nurse in action" acted as role models	Yes	45	.0%	100.0%	.0%	Chi Square value=11.474 P=0.003 df=2 HS
	No	155	7.1%	78.7%	14.2%	

Table 8 shows: The computed Chi-square test revealing is highly significant association with the variable; getting inspired by nurse as role model ($\chi^2=11.474, df=2$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance and there is no significant association between the level of perceptions and selected socio-demographic variables like type of family ($\chi^2=0.883, df=2$), health care professionals in family ($\chi^2=2.271, df=6$) at $p>0.05$ level of significance.

Table 9 Association between Level of Perceptions and their Demographic Variables N=200

Demographic variables	N	Levels of Perceptions			Chi Square Test
		Highly positive	Positive	Negative	
Intention of becoming a mentor after graduation.	Yes	131	0.0%	83.2%	Chi Square value=32.476 P=0.000 df=4 VHS
	No	69	15.9%	84.1%	
Source of information	Media	116	9.5%	81.0%	Chi Square value=31.649 P=0.000 df=6 VHS
	Friends	33	0.0%	66.7%	
	Family	31	0.0%	100.0%	
	Others	20	0.0%	100.0%	
	Preference to attend an introductory class of nursing	Yes	87	12.6%	
No	113	0.0%	90.3%		

Table 9 shows: The Chi square test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicate that there is very high significant association between the level of perception and variables like Intention of becoming mentor after graduation ($\chi^2=32.476$), source of information ($\chi^2=31.649$), attend nursing introductory class ($\chi^2=16.09$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance.

Summary

This chapter has dealt with the analysis and interpretation of results of the study. The data analysis was carried out on the basis of the objectives and hypothesis of the study.

The data analysis and interpretation has been organized and presented. Frequency and percentage were used to analyze the socio-demographic variables, overall perceptions score of subjects regarding nursing profession was calculated using mean, standard deviation, and mean % .Demographic wise assessment of perceptions was analyzed using Independent T-test and F-test. Association between the selected demographic

variables and the levels of perceptions was calculated using Chi square test.

DISCUSSION

Findings of the study

The data Collected From Students Has Been ORGANIZED And Presented Under the Following Headings

Section I: Frequency and percentage distribution of the socio-demographic variables.

Section II: Assessment of perceptions of subjects regarding nursing profession.

Section III: Association between the selected demographic variable and the level of Perceptions.

Section I: Frequency and percentage distribution of the socio-demographic variables.

- ✓ It was found that 93% of subjects were 16-17 years of age and 6.5% are 17-18 years. 69% were male students and 31% female subjects. 47% of subjects were residents of rural, 25% were of town residents, 14% were suburban and urban residents. 69% of subjects were Hindu, 14.5% christian, 8% muslim and 8.5% others.
- ✓ Majority of the subjects i.e. 60.5% of subjects belong to nuclear family and 39.5% to joint family. 20.5% of subjects' parents were in the health care profession other than nursing profession, 13% parents were in nursing profession, 13.5% of subjects' relatives were in health care profession and 52% of family members were not in health profession. 22.5% of subjects get inspired by nurses' work and 77.5% doesn't get inspired
- ✓ It was found that 65.5% of subjects want to become mentor and 34.5% were not interested for the same. 58% of subjects get information about nursing profession from media, 16.5% from friends, 15.5% from family and 10% of subjects get information from other different sources. 43.5% of subjects were interested to attend nursing introduction class and 56.5% of subjects were not interested.

Section II: Assessment of perceptions of subjects regarding nursing profession.

Overall perceptions score of subjects regarding nursing profession.

The levels of perception shows 11% of subjects had highly positive perception regarding nursing, 83% had positive perception and 5.5% of subjects had negative perception towards nursing profession.

Demographic wise Assessment of Perception

The Independent T-test and F-test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicates that there is significance of assessment of perceptions with religion (F-test=2.953) at $p<0.05$ level of significance. But there is no significance of assessment of perceptions with the variables like age (t-Test=0.265), gender (t-Test=0.664), residence (F-test=0.219). The Independent T-test and F-test computed for the selected socio-demographic variable indicate that there is no significance of assessment of perceptions with variables like type of family (t-test=1.063), health care professionals in family (f-test=0.388), get inspired by nurses as role models (t-test=0.94).

T-test and F-test computed for the selected socio-demographic variable indicate that there is very high significant association between the perception and variables like Intention of becoming mentor after graduation($T\text{-test}=3.983$), source of information($F\text{-test}=12.497$), attend nursing introductory class ($t\text{-test}=5.514$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance.

Section III: Association between the selected demographic variable and the level of Perceptions.

The computed Chi-square test reveals there is highly significant association with religion($\chi^2=23.305$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance. But no significant association between the level of perceptions and selected socio-demographic variables like age($\chi^2=0.437, df=2$), gender($\chi^2=0.384, df=2$), residence($\chi^2=4.004, df=6$) at $p>0.05$ level of significance.

The computed Chi-square test reveals that there is highly significant association between the level of perception with the variable like getting inspired by nurse as role model($\chi^2=11.474, df=2$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance and there is no significant association between the level of perceptions and selected socio-demographic variables like type of family($\chi^2=0.883, df=2$), health care professionals in family($\chi^2=2.271, df=6$) at $p>0.05$ level of significance.

Chi square test computed for the selected socio-demographic variables indicate that there is very high significant association between the level of perception and variables like Intention of becoming mentor after graduation($\chi^2=32.476$), source of information($\chi^2=31.649$), attend nursing introductory class($\chi^2=16.09$) at $p<0.05$ level of significance.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were drawn on the basis of the findings of the study.

1. The study brought out the fact that most of the subjects (5.5%) have negative perception regarding nursing profession.
2. Present study did find significant association between levels of perception of the students and the demographic variables.
3. Thus it can be concluded that the perception is dependent on selected demographic variables.

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