

A Mixed Research Study to Explore the Change in Image of Nurses during COVID-19 Pandemic as Perceived by Nurses

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Abstract: A mixed research approach was adopted to assess the change in image of nurses during covid-19 pandemic as perceived by nurses among 60 nurses who were selected using non probability sampling technique for the quantitative study and by purposive sampling till the point of saturation for qualitative analysis. Quantitative findings suggest a moderate perceived change in image of nurses during covid-19 pandemic. Total mean score for response of perceived change in image of nurses 43.47 ± 2.0925 . χ^2 analysis proved that religion is ($t_{cal} 17.1798 > t_{cal} 12.59$) significantly associated with perceived change in image. Hence H1 that is there is association between change in image with religion is accepted. No association was identified between perceived change in image of nurses and age ($t=1.85$, $p<0.05$), gender ($t=4.104$, $p<0.05$), marital status ($t=2.25$, $p<0.05$), financial background ($t=6.2437$, $p<0.05$), nursing education ($t=3.21$, $p<0.05$), area of duty ($t= 1.19$, $p<0.05$) is found to be statically not significant. Theme wise analysis of verbatim, found that most participants expressed feel proud of our profession, feeling of autonomy in decision making, Felt challenged in Saving lives by sacrificing one's own safety and Challenges in facing stigma and fear from society. Integration of quantitative and qualitative information provides deep and rich data about the perceived change in image.

Keywords: perceived change in image, valued, pandemic, feel proud, decision making, stigma.

1. Introduction

On 21 December 2019, the first cluster of patients with "pneumonia of an unknown cause", which was subsequently identified as a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was first reported in Wuhan, China. It spread rapidly across China, Europe, North America and all over the globe. COVID-19 was declared a public health emergency of international concern on 30 January 2020 and is now a pandemic.^[1] The contribution of nurses to the COVID-19 was heroic and public outpoured of appreciation, gratitude and even love for nurses and nursing around the world. Whilst being sensitive to the significant distress caused by COVID-19, the pandemic has also brought into sharp focus some of the realities and challenges facing the modern-day nursing workforce. It has highlighted the status and power that we can draw upon as a profession to address health challenges, promote public health and to directly save people's

lives. It has also, however, highlighted some enduring problems about how the profession is perceived.

2. Need for the Study

Image is the face of a profession, the way that profession appears to other disciplines and to the general public— The consumers of health care.

Nursing which literally means 'caring the needy' has its origin from the very existence of mankind. At that time, this role required less formal education and nurses had just a "rudimentary" understanding of scientific medical care. Even still fifty years ago, doctors treated nurses as assistants and the role was seen as an extension of women's caregiving instead of as a career.

Compared to other health disciplines, nursing is viewed as having a lower status. Thupayagale, Dithole [2] in their analysis identified that nursing is seen as an inferior and inadequate undertaking to be regarded as a 'profession' drawing attention to its stagnation or lack of adequate recognition as a profession. They argued that for many years nursing struggled 'with an inner hunger a deep need for professional congruency and effectiveness'.

Modern nursing professionals actually have a dynamic role in all aspects of healthcare delivery system. Nurses play a pivotal part in achieving the healthcare goals by being the most important link in the process of health care delivery. Their work ranges from providing not only highly specific technical care, but also coordinating the work of other health care professionals to meet patient care goals.

A worldwide health emergency has raised with the emergence of the most contagious and deadly COVID-19 which results in substantial deaths and socio-economic disruption. Nurses play a key role in the public health response to such crises, delivering direct patient care and reducing the risk of spread of the infectious disease. The treatment and Infection prevention and control in primary, community, and acute care settings present nursing professionals with huge challenges. Life experience of nurse revealed an intended psychological distress and social burden. The way nursing

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professionals dealt with this situation of saving the client's lives by sacrificing their own life render a heroic figure to them.

There for in this scenario the researcher would like to analysis the change in image of nurses perceived by them.

3. Objectives

- To assess the change in image of nurses during covid-19 pandemic as perceived by nurses.
- To assess the association between perceived change in image of nurses with selected sociodemographic variables.
- To identify the perceived change in image of nurses through qualitative theme analysis.

4. Hypothesis

H1: There is significant association between perceived change in image of nurses and their selected sociodemographic variables.

5. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study adopted from Health belief model was one of the first model that adapted theory of behaviour sciences to health problem. The health belief model was developed in 1950s by social psychologists Irwin M working in the U.S. Public health service [3].

6. Methodology

A mixed research approach was adopted where 60 nurses were selected using non probability sampling technique for the quantitative study and from that sample till the point of saturation for qualitative analysis was taken by using purposive sampling. A self-structured tool to assess socio demographic variables and self-structured questionnaire was used to assess responses (quantitative) regarding perceived change in image of nurses during COVID-19. Qualitative data was collected using face-to-face semi structured interviews (qualitative) with 22 nurses and the responses were recorded. Collected data was analyzed using inferential and descriptive analysis. Quantitative findings suggest a moderate perceived change in image of nurses during covid-19 pandemic.

7. Result

In the present study, analysis of sociodemographic data depicts that out of 60 nurses participated in the present study, n=27 (45%) belonged to the age group 21-25 years, n=20(33.33%) in 26-35 years, n=08(13.33%) in age group 36-42 years whereas only 8.33% had age between 43-50. n=43 (71.66%) were females and n=17(28.33%) were males. nurses were unmarried 33(55%) whereas 27(45%) were married. that majority of the nurses 22 (36.66%) were Christian, 20(33.33%) were Hindu, 10(16.66%) were Muslim and 08(13.33%) were Sikh. near half of the nurses that is 54% (n=34) who had participated in the study were graduated, 38% (n=24) were diploma in nursing and only five had post-graduation. nurses 38 (63.33%) belong to middle class family, 10(16.66%) belong to lower class, and 12 (20%) from higher financial background. n=32 (53.33%) of the respondents were working with covid patients and n=28 (46.66) in normal wards.

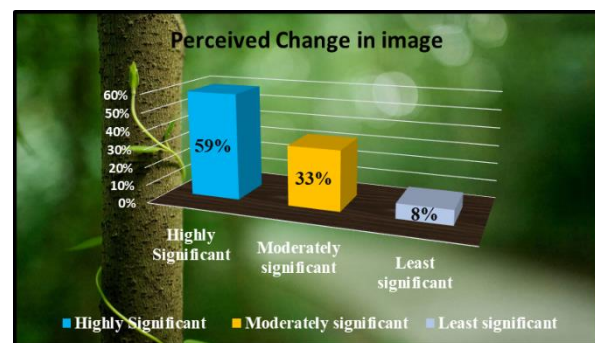


Fig. 1. Column diagram showing distribution of subjects based on perceived change in image

The above figure depicts that 59% (n=35) experienced significant change in image with a mean score of 50.74 ± 2.39 ; where as 33% (n=20) participants perceived moderately significant change in image with mean score of 37.1 ± 3.79 , and where as 8% (n=5) of participants perceived a least significant change in image with mean score of 18 ± 1.89 .

The table 1, depicts change in image as perceived by nurses during the deadly infectious pandemic in terms of dignity, financial status, status, personal satisfaction and social status. Statistical evaluation indicates that with regard to status/dignity

Table 1

Area analysis on perceived change in image of nurses				
Areas of change in image	Range score	Mean \pm SD	Mean Percentage (%)	CV
Status / dignity	0-21	16.06 \pm 0.5345	76.47	3.32
Financial status	0-12	7.55 \pm 0.4330	62.91	5.73
Personal satisfaction	0-18	13.35 \pm 0.5477	74.16	4.1027
Social status	0-9	6.51 \pm 0.5773	72.33	8.86
Total score	60	43.47 \pm 2.0925	72.45	4.813

Table 2

Association between perceived change in image of nurses and their selected sociodemographic variables				
Socio demographic variables	Chi-square value	Df	Critical Value at p= 0.05	Inference
Age	2.34	6	12.59	Not significant
Gender	3.23	2	5.99	Not Significant
Religion	16.58	6	12.59	Significant
Marital status	3.89	2	5.99	Not significant
Financial background	6.95	4	9.49	Not significant
Nursing education	4.12	4	9.49	Not significant
Area of duty	0.76	2	5.99	Not significant

Table 3
Frequency distribution of the responses under the identified themes

S.No.	Themes	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Rank
1	Theme 1: Feel proud of the profession.	8	34.78	1 st
2	Theme 2: Feeling of autonomy in decision making.	6	26.08	2 nd
3	Theme 3: Felt challenged in Saving lives by sacrificing one's own safety.	5	21.73	3 rd
4	Theme 4: Challenges in facing stigma and fear from society.	4	17.39	4 th

a noticeable improvement was identified by (mean score of 16.06 ± 0.5345 , 76%, cv 3.32). It means that nursing professionals felt a great improvement in their status during the pandemic period. Other changes are as follows financial status (mean score of 7.55 ± 0.4330 , 63%, cv 5.73) personal satisfaction (mean score of 13.35 ± 0.5477 , 74%, cv 4.1027) and social status (mean score of 6.51 ± 0.5773 , 72%, cv 8.86).

With regard to religion as tab 16.58 is more than tab=12.59, religion is concerned to be significantly associated with perceived change in image. Hence H1 there is association between change in image with religion is accepted. No association was proved with age, gender, marital status, financial background, nursing education and area of duty.

The theme which gained first rank was feeling of proudness as majority (34.7%) expressed proud feeling about carrier. Second theme is feeling of autonomy in decision making from hospital (n=6). The third theme was concern regarding felt challenged in saved lives by sacrificing one's own safety (n=5). And last theme was concern regarding challenges in facing stigma and fear from society participant of nurses (n=4).

8. Integration of Supplementary Component

In qualitative part of study, analysis of responses renewed from structured tool showed that 70% all nurses felt that they are valued. 56.6% of nurses experienced more professional relationship and team spirit during this crisis time and almost same percentage of nurses recognized a healthy relationship among team members. 63% nurses never felt that they are extracted by the management in open discussion, participant expressed a never felt that extracted by the management.

9. Discussion

In the present study 60 nurses evaluated, 59% (n=35) experienced significant change in image with a mean score of 50.74 ± 2.39 ; where as 8% (n=5) of participants perceived a least significant change in image with mean score of 18 ± 1.89 .

Above finding is supported by the study of Aljedaani M in Saudi Arabia in which. 59.1% felt proud, 11.8% felt happy, 11.1% expressed frustration about nursing, 11.1% considered themselves satisfied, and only 6.9% felt shy.

Cohen who conducted a survey of emergency room nurses found that Items with regard to the way nurses are presented to patients, their dress, skill, misinformation of nurses in media, self-reliance in introducing oneself as nurses and way they get along with coworkers were 75–98% important to the image of nursing

10. Conclusion

On the basis of the finding of the present study it is concluded that COVID 19 created a significant improvement in perceived image of majority of nurses.

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