



RESEARCH PASSION VERSES PRESSURE: ATTITUDE OF NURSING STUDENTS TOWARDS NURSING RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

Research facilitates knowledge generation, increases cost savings by assuring a healthier workforce, supports better decision making, and contributes to the development of research skills among nurses. This study aimed at assessing the attitude of Nursing Students towards Nursing Research. **Methods:** This study was conducted using the descriptive correlational research design at selected nursing college, among 50 Students (25 Undergraduate & 25 Postgraduate students) who were selected using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected using rating scale on Attitudes towards the Nursing Research through self administration method. Data was analyzed using SPSS- 20. **Results:** There was significant difference in the mean attitude scores of nursing students towards nursing research between Undergraduate (49 ± 5.7) and Postgraduate (56 ± 4.2) students at ($p < 0.001$). Postgraduate students had favorable (Passion) attitude towards research than the Undergraduate students (Pressure). **Conclusion:** It is important to foster positive attitudes towards nursing research among nursing students who will assume the role of the registered nurses after graduation or post graduation. Incorporating research courses in to the curriculum at the level of higher secondary education would yield more positive experience experiences for students.

Keywords : Nursing Research, Attitude, Nursing Students.

INTRODUCTION

Research is briefly defined as a systematic inquiry that uses disciplined methods to answer questions or solve problems (Polit & Beck, 2012). Nursing research is emerging and growing fields in which individuals can apply their nursing education to discover new advancements that promote evidence-based care. Attitudes towards research are significant indicators that connect practice to research and enhance nursing evidence-based practice. Passion or pressure towards research determines the success of conduct and utilization of research in nursing. Research improves nursing care, the credibility of the profession, accountability for practice, and documentation of the cost-effectiveness of care (Nieswiadomy 2011).

Research improves nursing care, the credibility of the profession, accountability for practice, and documentation of the cost effectiveness of care. The role of research is supported by faculty, researchers and professional organizations as an essential standard of practice and professional accountability.

It is important to empower students with a strong research foundation to facilitate judging applicability of findings to clinical settings, and conducting research and eventually improving the quality of health-care. Increasing attention is directed to students' attitudes and involvement in research.

Interest in research can be enhanced through love for learning, chances of collaboration support, confidence, coping with research related challenges, research visibility and awareness of the impact of research.(Erkin 2017).

It is expected that with more positive attitudes, nursing research can grow and the quality of nursing care be improved. The results of this study would be used to propose some suggestions and strategies to promote the students' interest in research as early as possible during their study at the college. Therefore, this study was conducted to assess the attitude of nursing students towards research.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Statement of the Problem

A Comparative Study to Assess the Attitude of Nursing Students towards Nursing Research between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students Studying at Selected Nursing College, Chennai.

Objectives

To explore and compare the attitude of nursing students towards Nursing Research between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

To find out the difference in attitude towards nursing research between UG and PG Students.

Null Hypothesis

H₀1 There will be no significant difference in attitude scores towards Nursing Research between Undergraduate and Postgraduate students.

Methods

This study was conducted using the descriptive correlational research design at selected nursing college, among 50 Students (25 Undergraduate students studying in P.B.B.Sc (N) I& II year, 25 Postgraduate students studying in M.Sc (N) I& II Year)who were selected using purposive sampling technique.Data was collected using tools such as Proforma to collect the baseline characteristics of the students (This is to measure the baseline characteristics such as age, monthly family income, religion, type of family, area of residence, medium of instruction of the students in their previous education, academic performance of the students in their Diploma or Degree and educational status of the parents, research involvement of the students apart from their current academic research projects) and rating scale on Attitudes towards the Nursing Research Scale (Halabi,2010) through self administration method. The scale consisted of 18 items with the 4 responses, ranged from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree) under 4 domains such as on Research abilities, usefulness of research, personal interest in research and using research in clinical practice. Total obtainable score was 18-72.The higher score indicates positive attitude of the students towards research. Collected data was entered and analyzed using appropriate descriptive (f, %, Mean and SD) and Inferential Statistics (t test) through SPSS- 20.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION**Table:1** Distribution of Baseline Characteristics of Under Graduate and Postgraduate Students (N=50)

Baseline characteristics	Undergraduate Students (n=25)		Postgraduate Students (n=25)	
	f	%	f	%
Age in years				
≤ 25 years	12	48	20	80
> 25 years	13	52	5	20
Monthly Family Income				
Rs. 10001 -Rs.20000	12	48	8	32
> Rs.20,001	13	52	17	68
Medium of Instruction (up to 12th standard)				
English	18	72	18	72
Tamil	5	20	6	24
Malayalam	1	4	-	-
Others (specify)	1	4	1	4
Father's Educational status				
Uneducated	1	4	3	12
Primary & Secondary Education	10	40	6	24
Under graduate degree	13	52	11	44
Post graduate degree & above	1	4	5	20
No of projects conducted				
1-3	25	100	25	100
4-6	-	-	-	-
7-10	-	-	-	-
Research involvement of students apart from their current academic research project				
Yes	-	-	2	8
No	25	100	23	92

Fig:1 Percentage of marks obtained by the students in their previous educational qualification in Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. (N=50)

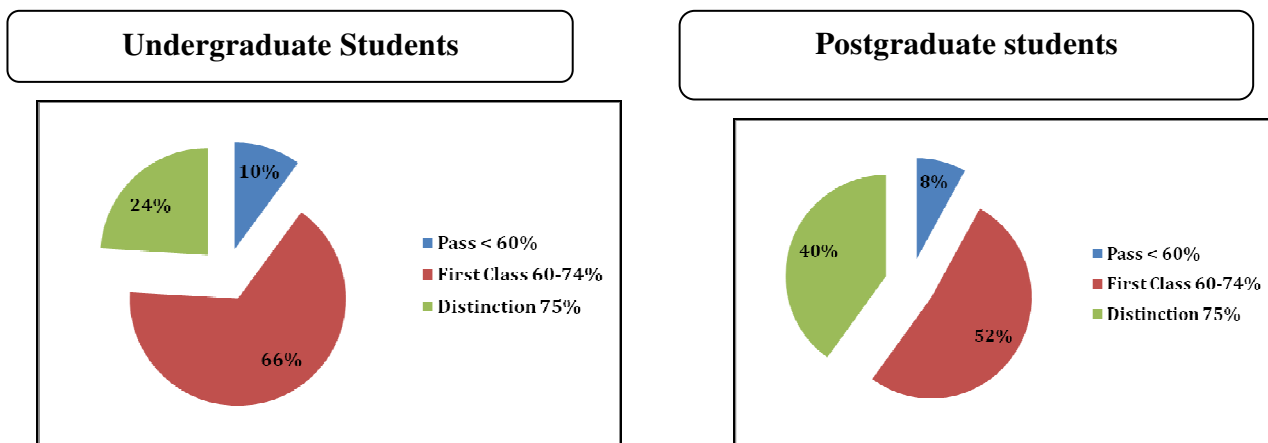


FIG 2 indicates that majority of the Post graduate students passed with distinction(40%) and Under graduate students passed with first class(66%).

Table 2: Comparison of Attitude Scores of Students towards Nursing Research between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students (N=50)

Group	Mean	S.D	Independent t Value
Postgraduate Students	56	4.2	4.62***
Undergraduate Students	49	5.7	

*** P < 0.001

Table 2 shows that there was significant difference in the mean attitude scores of nursing students towards nursing research between Undergraduate and Postgraduate students at (p<0.001).Hence the null hypothesis **H₀1** There will not be any significant difference in attitude scores between Undergraduate and Postgraduate students was rejected. Postgraduate students had favorable (Passion) attitude towards research than the Undergraduate students.

Similar results were obtained in the study conducted by Halabi(2012) Student’s level of study (junior vs. senior students) The independent samples t test shows that the mean score on the overall scale of senior students was higher than junior students with a significant difference (P < 0.001) indicating that senior students had more positive attitudes toward research than junior students. There were also significant differences among the two groups in relation to attitudes subscales in favor of senior students, in the three subscales (usefulness of research, personal interest, and research ability), and no significant differences among students in the subscale using research in practice. There was a weak significant correlation (r = 0.242, P < 0.000) between students study level and the overall attitude score in favor of students in higher the level of study who reported higher mean score on the attitude scale.

Fig 2 Percentage distribution of total Mean percentage attitude scores between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

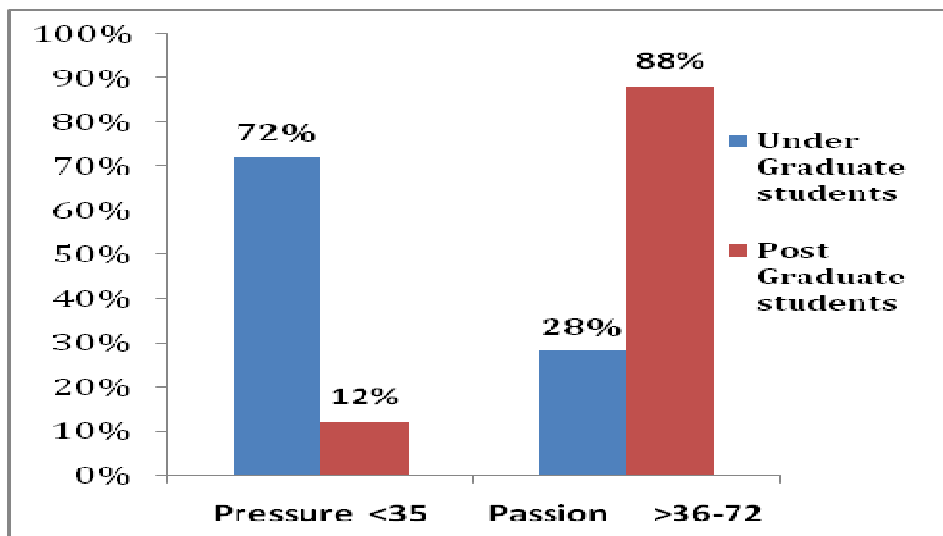


Fig 2 shows that majority of the Post graduate Students had positive attitude towards research (88%) when compared to Undergraduate Students (72%). However, a large proportion of UG students (72%) Perceived research as a difficult, complicated and stressful subject. Having positive attitudes motivates students to participate in research involving patients and provide evidence based health care. Possessing positive attitudes toward research increases effective utilization and application of research findings and improving patient’s outcomes. However, the lack of exposure to research courses was a barrier to using research in practice.

Fig 3 Comparison of Mean Attitude scores by Domain wise between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

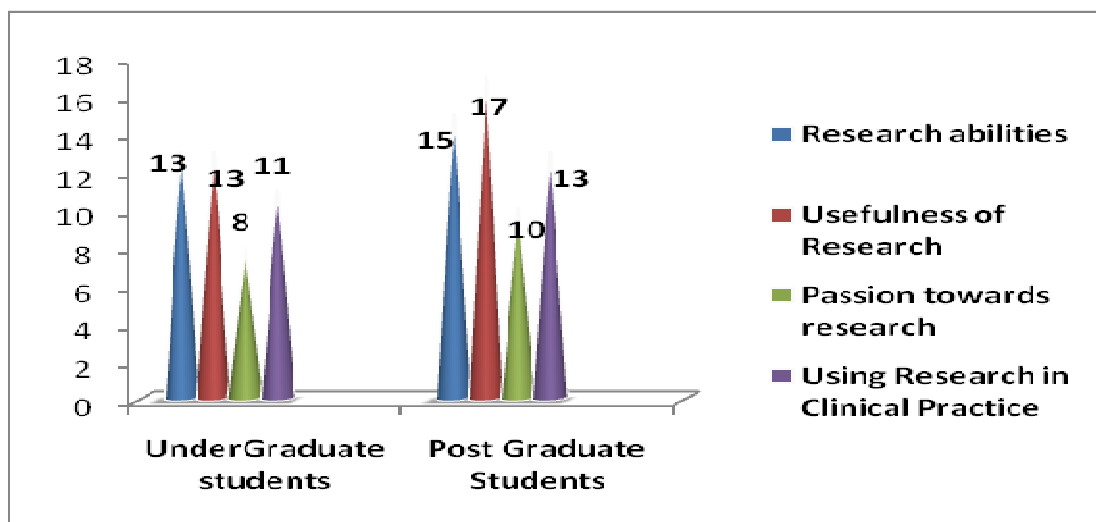


fig 3 shows the domain wise Mean attitude scores of the undergraduate and postgraduate students, research abilities(13,15),usefulness of research(13,17),passion towards research(8,10),using research in clinical abilities(11,13).Nursing research is vital to the practice of professional nursing,

and the importance of its inclusion during undergraduate instruction cannot be overemphasized. Nursing students are enabled to acquire basic research skills and inquiry skills necessary for nursing practices during their baccalaureate education (Halabi & Hamdan- Mansour, 2010).

CONCLUSION

Assessing the Student's attitude towards research is an important aspect to be studied to support and enhance the implementation of the research findings when caring for patients. It is important to foster positive attitudes towards nursing research among nursing students who will assume the role of the registered nurses after graduation or post graduation. Faculty members need to engage the students in learning and using research results, especially when working with patients in clinical situations. Nursing students must be prepared to face the challenges in the profession by strengthening and conducting more number of researches.

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Conflict of Interest: None

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