

Reasons for Choosing Nursing Profession and Nursing Image Perceptions of Nursing Students: A Survey Study

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Abstract : Individuals' reasons to choose a profession, profession image perceptions and future plans related to that profession affect their success in their future work lives. For nursing profession, this situation at the same time is important in terms of the health and safety of patients. The purpose of this study is to determine why medical vocational high school students in İstanbul choose nursing profession, their nursing image perceptions and future plans related to the profession. Descriptive and cross-sectional design are used. The study was carried out in four medical vocational high school in İstanbul. All third and fourth grade students who are attending to nursing programs and voluntary for participation were included in the study. In collecting data, two questionnaires that aim to learn about socio-demographic characteristics, profession choice reasons and future plans of nursing students and 'Nursing Image Scale' were used. Scale consisted of 28 items including individuals' opinions on nursing profession image and three sub-categories 'General View,' 'Communication,' and 'Vocational-Educational Qualities.' Analyzing profession choice reasons and future plans of participants, it is determined that majority chose nursing for easily finding a job (46.9%) and that majority had a dream profession other than nursing (65.8%). Analyzing nursing image perception of participants, it is determined that average of general view sub-category total scores was 9.75 ± 2.27 , average of communication sub-category total scores was 8.68 ± 2.86 , and average of vocational-educational qualities sub-category total score was 21.18 ± 3.96 . In the perception score averages, meaningful differences were found according to independent variables. In conclusion, it was determined that majority of the participant students chose nursing for easily finding a job, perceived profession image negatively, and had a dream profession other than nursing.

Keywords : nursing image, medical vocational health school, perception, profession, student nurse

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