



**A Study to Assess the Barriers Perceived by Nursing Students during their Course of Study at Selected College, Thrissur**

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## ABSTRACT

Nursing students across the world experience stress and anxiety throughout their education and training. In view to this, a descriptive study was under taken to assess the barriers perceived by the nursing students. The objective of the study was to assess the barriers perceived by nursing students during their course of study, To identify skill most important for the nursing students and To find out the association between barriers perceived by nursing students with their selected demographic variable. Descriptive design was used and the samples were 53 final year B.sc nursing students who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Purposive sampling technique was used. The data were collected through demographic variables, structured questionnaire and list of Skills. The data analysis revealed that out of 53 samples 40 students (75.47%) perceived moderate level of barrier, 3 students (5.66%) have felt mild level of barriers and 10 students (18.86%) had perceived severe barriers during their nursing course. Regarding the most identified skill, the students have rated in the order of communication skill (49.05%), language skill (18.8%), time management skill (9.4%), study skill (9.4%), Nurse mentoring skill (9.4%) and lastly professional writing skill (3.77%).

## KEYWORDS

*Barriers, Perceived, Nursing students, Course of study*

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## INTRODUCTION

Nursing today is far diverse, as it was practiced earlier and it takes a vivid imagination to envision how the nursing profession will change in the near coming years in an ever-changing world. Not only the nurses, but also nursing students, face greater stress in the course<sup>1</sup>.

It has been well documented that Nursing students across the world experiences stress and anxiety throughout their education and training. Generally in Nursing, students experiences increased tension prior to their clinical rotation and written examination especially their findings. Clinical sources of stress include working with dying patient, interpersonal conflict with other nurses, insecurity about clinical competence and fear of failure and

interpersonal relationship with patient. Work overload as well as the concern about nursing care given to the patient. Other potential sources of stress are assignment submission, excessive homework, assessment deadlines, unclear assignment, uncomfortable classroom, and relation with faculty members<sup>2</sup>.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

“ A study to assess the barriers perceived by the Nursing students during their course of the study at selected college, Thrissur”

### Objectives

- To assess the barriers perceived by nursing students during their course of study.



- To identify the skill most important for the nursing students.
- To find out the association between barriers perceived by nursing students with their selected demographic variables.

### Hypothesis

$H_0$ . There will not be a significant association between level of barriers perceived by final year B.sc nursing students with their selected demographic variables.

$H_1$ . There will be a significant association between level of barriers perceived by final year B.sc nursing students with their selected demographic variables.

## MATERIALS & METHODS

**Research approach:** Qualitative approach

**Research design:** Descriptive design

**Setting of the study:** Aswini College of nursing, Thrissur

**Sample and sample size:** 53 final year B.Sc nursing students

**Sampling technique:** Purposive sampling technique

**Description of the tool:** Tool contains three parts:

*Section A: Demographic variables :* This includes age, gender, marital status, type of family, occupational

status of father, occupational status of mother, monthly income of family, area of residence of the students, place of living, who influenced the decision to choose nursing as your profession, reason for choosing nursing profession, supplementary subject in previous year, any family members already working in nursing profession, an area of nursing practice most interested.

*Section B: Structured questionnaire:* related to barriers perceived by nursing students during their course of time. A five item ratio scale was constructed and the questionnaire were categorized under four headings. The scoring key is mild level of barriers (0-24), Moderate perception of barriers (25-48), Severe perception of barriers (49-72).

*Section C: Skills in the order of priority, which students felt important:* for studying B.SC nursing. Which includes communication skill, time management skill, language skill and study skill, professional writing skills, and nurse mentoring skill.

*Main study:* The investigator established a good support and purpose of the study was explained to them. The willingness from the student were asked orally for taking part in the study. Semi structured questions were prepared in English and was distributed to the



participants along with the instructions. After completing, questionnaire was collected back. The total time duration given for completing the questionnaire was 20 minutes.

**Objective 1:** To assess the barriers perceived by nursing students during their course of study.  
N=53

Sl.no	Level of barriers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Mild perception of barriers.(0-24)	3	5.66%
2	Moderate perception of barriers. (25-48)	40	75.47%
3	Severe perception of barriers.(49-72)	10	18.86%

*Table 1:* Frequency and percentage distribution of Final year B.sc Nursing students based on the level of barriers perceived.

The study findings reveals that out of 53 samples 40 students (75.47%) have perceived moderate level of barrier during the course of study. Whereas only 3 students (5.66%) have felt mild level of barriers during their entire course of study, but 10 students (18.86%) had perceived severe barrier during their course.

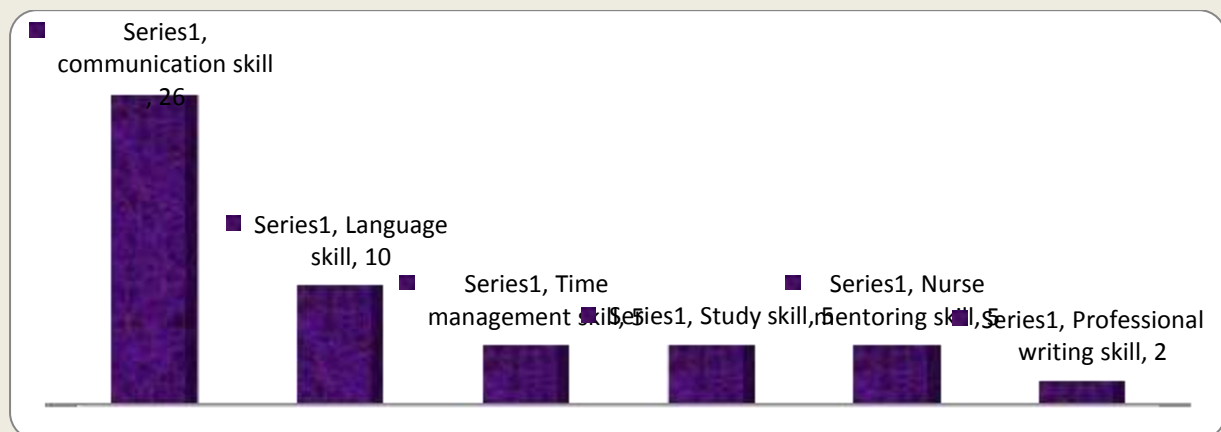
Our study findings are congruent with the study conducted by Collette loftin, Susan

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The study’s findings are discussed with reference to the objectives stated

D. Newman et al. The purpose of the study was to identify barriers to successful programme completion faced by nursing students. The study findings revealed that minority nursing students face multiple barriers to success including lack of financial support, inadequate emotional; and moral support, as well as insufficient academic advising, programme mentoring, technical support and professional socialization. The finding highlights the need to create and maintain nursing programmes capable of aggressively supporting nursing student’s needs<sup>3</sup>.

**Objective 2:** To identify skill most important for the nursing students



**Fig 1** Frequency and percentage distribution of final year B.sc nursing students according to the most identified skill



Regarding the most identified skill suggested by final year B.sc nursing students, the study findings indicate that most of the students identified communication skill (49.05) as the most important and needed skill for the nursing students. The remaining skills, which students have rated according to their priority are, language skill (18.8%), time management skill (9.4%), study skill (9.4%), Nurse mentoring skill (9.4%) and lastly professional writing skill (3.77%).

Surprisingly, our study findings are similar to descriptive studies done at MIOT college of nursing, Mugalivakkam, Chennai, in the year 2009. The objective of the study was to find out the barriers perceived by nursing students in nursing education to complete the course successfully and to rule out which type of study skill is most important according to students. The samples of the study were 100 nursing students from diploma and degree courses who participated in the survey. A descriptive survey questionnaire was administered to 50 diploma and 50 degree nursing students. Study findings are 54% of students responded and felt prepared overall at entry of the nursing school & college. Students rated themselves as most prepared in study skill (mean score 0.86) at the time of entry into the nursing college. Students were least prepared for

communication skills (mean score of 0.7). 74% of the students reported communication skill as the most important thing to succeed in the nursing college. 76% of the students reported time management skill as the most important to succeed in nursing college. 63% of the students reported that they have chosen nursing because of the availability of & only 16% of them stated they joined nursing because they want to help others. 61% of students are not intended to stay in India. The most important barrier stated by students is lack of adequate experienced teachers and personal problems<sup>4</sup>.

**Objective 3:** To find out the association between barriers perceived by nursing students with their selected demographic variable.

The findings revealed that there is a significant association between the level of barriers perceived by final year B.sc nursing students with their related demographic variables such as occupation of father ( $\lambda^2=67.6$ ), occupation of mother ( $\lambda^2=50.86$ ), place of living ( $\lambda^2=12.58$ ), monthly income ( $\lambda^2=17.20$ ) and who influenced in choosing nursing profession ( $\lambda^2=15.36$ ).

\* No supportive study was found. Further findings revealed that there is no significant association between the level of barriers perceived by final year B.sc



nursing students with their related demographic variable such as age , gender, marital status, type of family, area of residence, supplementary in previous year, family member in nursing profession, reason for choosing nursing as a profession and area of nursing practice

\*No supportive study was found.

## **CONCLUSION**

The study concluded with findings that 75.45% of the samples i.e, 40 students experienced moderate level of barriers during the course of study. Whereas only 3 students (5.66%) felt mild level of barriers during their entire course of study, but 10 students(18.86%) had perceived severe barrier during their course. Hence it is evident that nursing students are experiencing some sort of stress during their study period.

**Ethical Clearance:** Taken from institutional ethical committee

**Conflict of interest:** Nil

**Source of Fund:** Self



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