



# Perception Toward Nursing Profession Among Nursing Students In a Selected University In Edo State Nigeria

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## Abstract

**Background:** Perception is the way in which something is viewed, regarded interpreted. Or understood, nursing student's perception towards the image of the nursing profession has an apparent impact on their self-concept, self-esteem, recruitment, retention, and performance. Thus, nurses who have positive professional images will have more and stronger relations with their patients, peers and community. Most Students have a wide range of pre-existing perceptions about nursing. Understanding the perception of nursing students toward nursing profession will help in identifying misconceptions and information that could be helpful in planning public enlightenment regarding the profession. It is paramount to ascertain how students perceive nursing and the decision to choose nursing as their career. . Despite the great advances in the nursing career, nurses still face considerable challenges related to its image that impact on status, power and the ability to affect changes in health care hence the researcher choose to assess the perception toward nursing profession among nursing students in selected university in Edo state Nigeria.

**Materials and Methods:** in this study a descriptive design was used to assess the Perception toward Nursing Profession among Nursing in selected university in Edo State Nigeria. Data was collected through administration of questionnaire to 200 – 500L nursing students. It was done within the month of May –June 2022 sample size 180

**Results:** Majority 85 (47.2%) students agreed that Nursing is a noble profession, majority 109 (60.5%) students agreed that Nursing is admired by many people in the society, 125 (69.4%) students strongly agreed that nursing profession is very stressful, 121 (67.2%) students agreed 32 that it is an opportunity to serve humanity, 116(64.4%) students strongly agreed that nursing is an extremely hard profession, 98(54.4%) students strongly disagreed that nursing is a respectful profession, 132(54.4%) students strongly agreed that is a way to have access to travel abroad , 96(53.3%) students agreed 52 (28.8%) who strongly agreed that nursing is appreciated profession in our society 23(12.7%) disagreed and 9(5%) strongly disagreed, 82(45.5%) students strongly disagreed financially rewarding profession, 97(53.8%) students strongly agreed a high ethical standard

**Key Word:** perception, nursing profession, nursing students

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a health care profession, which is focused on the care of individuals, families, and communities at large, so that they can attain, maintain, or recover optimum health. the image of both nurses and nursing as a profession is vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the healthcare. Nursing is widely regarded as a noble

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profession in the society because of the core value it promotes in its practice-which is the care of life (Royal College of Nursing, 2015). Professional perception has a great influence on the development of nursing students, and the future quality care. Students have a wide range of pre- existing perceptions about nursing. Many students adopt nursing as a profession for several reasons,. Hence, the researchers choose to assess the perception toward nursing profession among nursing students in selected university edo state Nigeria.

## II. Material And Methods

A descriptive study was carried out on nursing student in a selected university in Edo State Nigeria. Within the month of June 2021 –July 2022 a total 180 nursing student (both male and female) from 200 – 500L nursing students were used for this study

**Study Design:** a descriptive research design was used for this study

**Study Location:** The study was carried out in Edo State University Uzairue, an environment located in Iyamho, local government area of Etsako west, Edo State. The university is located at Km7, Auchu-Abuja Road, Iyamho-Uzairue Edo State, Nigeria

**Study Duration:** June 2021 –July 2022

**Sample size:** 180 nursing student

**Sample size calculation:** Taro Yamane's formula was used to determine the sample size from the population. Taro Yamane's formula is given as;

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where N = Population of study (279)

n = Sample size (?)

e = Level of significance at 5% (0.05)

1 = Constant

$$n = \frac{279}{1+279(0.05*0.05)}$$

$$n = \frac{279}{1+0.7}$$

$$n = \frac{279}{1.7}$$

n= 164

10% attrition rate was added making the sample size 180

**Subjects & selection method:** Data was collected through administration of questionnaire the instrument is designed in English language and administered in the same language. Only population who completely answered the questionnaire was included in the definitive sample. Data collection took a period of one year. The demographic information collected was related to age, marital status, reasons for enrolment in nursing, family reaction to student enrolment, and deciding factors for job preference. The student perception about nursing profession was assessed using checklist (four-point Likert scale). The checklist consisted of 21 items. It helps to assess how individual students look at the roles and tasks, values, social stereotypes, professionalism, and performance of nurses.

### Inclusion criteria:

1. 200 – 500L nursing students
2. 200 – 500L nursing students will are willing to participate

### Exclusion criteria:

1. 100L nursing students
2. 200 – 500L nursing students will not willing to participate

**Procedure methodology.**

Approval to conduct research was obtained from the Head of department of nursing to proceed with the research. The questionnaire presented to the respondents was clear and devoid of ambiguity. Emphasis was laid on confidentiality of information that was provided by the respondents. Data was collected through administration of questionnaire to 200 – 500L nursing students of selected university in Edo State University Nigeria. It was done within the month of June 2021 – July 2022. The instrument was designed in English language and administered in the same language. Data collection took a period of one year.

**Statistical analysis**

Analysis is a systematic organization and synthesis of the research data. It was decided to analysis data collected using descriptive and statistical analysis on the basis of the study analysis. Hence, the collected data was carefully recorded, analyzed, summarized and tabulated using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Frequency and percentage analysis was used for this study

**III. Result**

While considering the demographic variable, among 180 105 (58.3%) were between the age of 21-25, 60 [33.3%] were between the age of 15-20, 10[5.5%] were between the age of 26-30 and 5 (2.7%) were above than 30 years of age.

Table 1: Perception of students regarding different aspects of nursing (n=180)

By looking into Nursing is a noble profession, most of the students agreed 85 (47.2%) followed by 40 (22.2%) who strongly agreed followed by 35(19.4%) who agreed and only 24 (13.3%) disagreed

By looking into Nursing is admired by many people in the society, most of the students agreed 109 (60.5%) followed by 32 (17.7%) who disagreed followed by 28(15.5%) who strongly disagreed and (0%) disagreed

By looking into nursing profession is very stressful majority of the students strongly agreed 125 (69.4%) followed by 40 (22.2%) who agreed followed by 15(8.3%) who disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed

By looking into an opportunity to serve humanity majority of the students agreed 121 (67.2%) followed by 32 (17.7%) who strongly agreed followed by 18(10%) who disagreed and only 9(5%) strongly disagreed

By looking into an extremely hard profession majority of the students strongly agreed 116(64.4%) followed by 45 (25%) who agreed followed by 14(7.7%) who strongly disagreed and only 5(2.7%) agreed

By looking into a respectful profession majority of the students strongly disagreed 98(54.4%) followed by 39 (21.6%) who agreed followed by 24 (13.3%) who strongly agreed and only 19(10.5%) disagreed

By looking into a way to have access to travel abroad majority of the students strongly agreed 132(54.4%) followed by 27 (15%) who agreed followed by 20 (11.1%) who disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed

By looking into an appreciated profession in our society majority of the students agreed 96(53.3%) followed by 52 (28.8%) who strongly agreed followed by 23(12.7%) who disagreed and only 9(5%) strongly disagreed

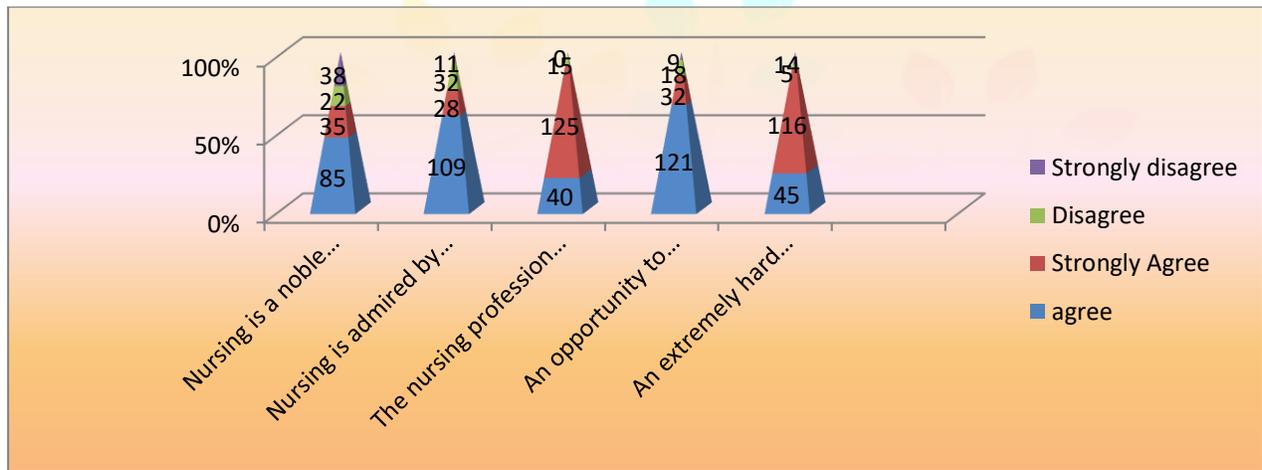
By looking into financially rewarding profession majority of the students strongly disagreed 82(45.5%) followed by 41 (22.7%) who agreed followed by 37 (20.5%) who disagreed and only 20(11.1%) strongly agreed

By looking into a Caring profession with a high ethical standard majority of the students strongly agreed 97(53.8%) followed by 64 (35.5%) who agreed followed by 19(10.5%) who disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed

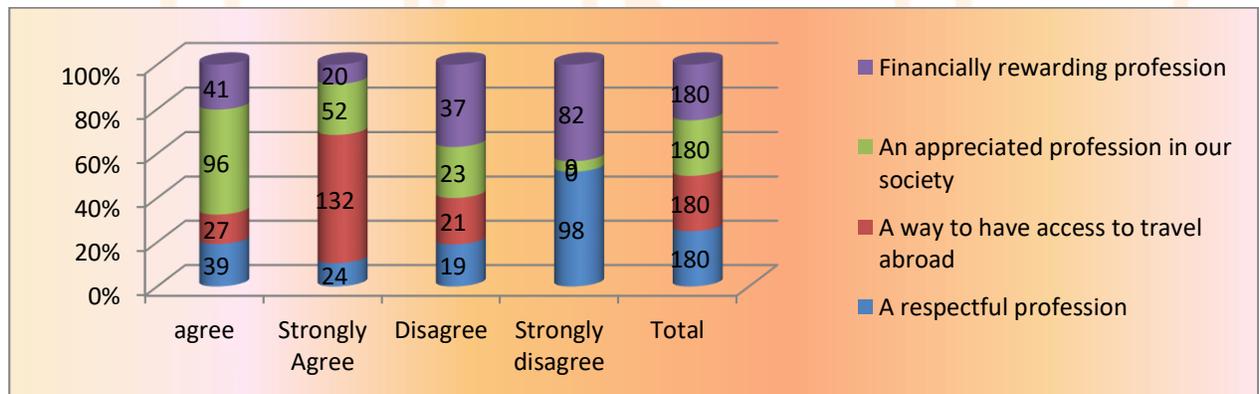
**Table.1:** showing perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

	STATEMENTS	agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1.	Nursing is a noble profession?	85	35	22	38	180
2.	Nursing is admired by many people in the society?	109	28	32	11	180
3.	The nursing profession is very stressful?	40	125	15	0	180
4.	An opportunity to serve humanity?	121	32	18	9	180

5.	An extremely hard profession?	45	116	5	14	180
6.	A respectful profession?	39	24	19	98	180
7.	A way to have access to travel abroad?	27	132	21	0	180
8.	An appreciated profession in our society?	96	52	23	9	180
9.	Financially rewarding profession?	41	20	37	82	180
10.	Caring profession with a high ethical standard ?	64	97	19	0	180



**FIGURE 1:** A column diagram showing perception of nursing as a profession among nursing students



**FIGURE 2:** A column diagram showing frequency distribution of perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

Factors influencing the perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

By looking into Working conditions, most of the students strongly agreed 71 (39.4%) followed by 53 (29.4%) who agreed followed by 47(26.1%) who disagreed and only 9 (5%) strongly disagreed

By looking into Clinical training, most of the students agreed 93 (51.6%) followed by 48 (26.6%) who strongly agreed followed by 21(11.6%) who disagreed and only 18 (10%) strongly disagreed

By looking into Effect of faculty members majority of the students disagreed 84 (46.6%) followed by 61 (33.88%) who strongly disagreed followed by 20(11.11%) who agreed and only 15(8.33%) strongly agreed

By looking into Mass media majority of the students disagreed 102(56.66%) followed by 46 (25.55%) who strongly agreed followed by 19(10.55%) who agreed and only 13(7.22%) strongly disagreed

By looking into Intrinsic attraction to nursing majority of the students agreed 124(68.8%) followed by 25 (13.8%) who strongly disagreed followed by 16 (8.8%) who strongly agreed and only 15(8.3%) disagreed

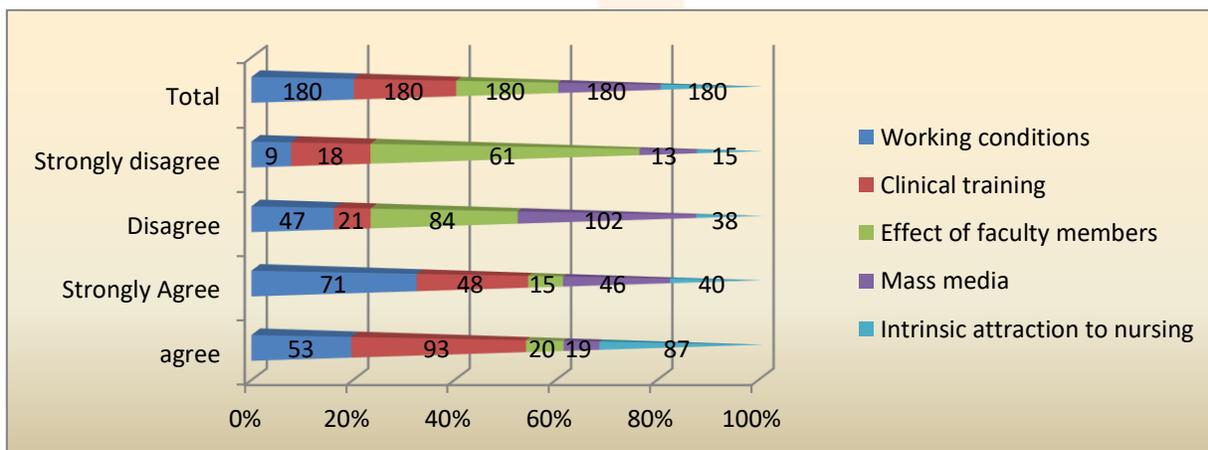
By looking into Employment security over life of nursing majority of the students strongly agreed 61(33.88%) followed by 49 (27.22%) who agreed followed by 47 (26.11%) who disagreed and only 23(12.77%) strongly disagreed

By looking into Family members' opinion majority of the students strongly agreed 127(70.55%) followed by 51 (28.33%) who agreed followed by 22 (12.22%) who disagreed and only 0(0%) strongly disagreed

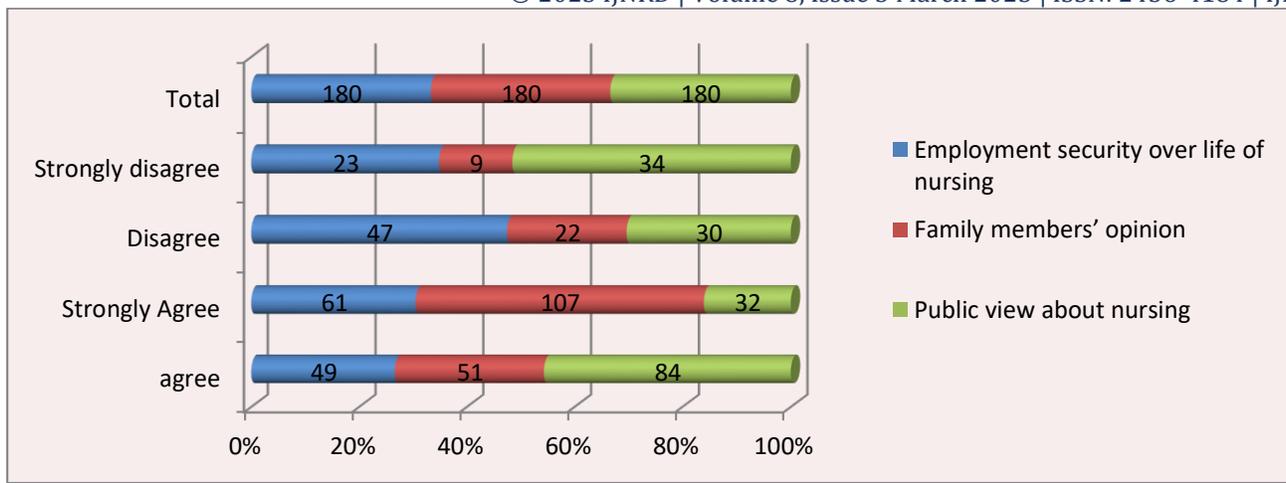
By looking into Public view about nursing majority of the students strongly agreed 84(46.66%) followed by 34 (18.88%) who strongly agreed followed by 32 (17.77%) who strongly disagreed and only 30(16.66%) disagreed

**Table.2:** showing frequency distribution of factors influencing the perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

	Statements	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	Working conditions?	53	71	47	9
2.	Clinical training?	93	48	21	18
3.	Effect of faculty members?	20	15	84	61
4.	Mass media?	19	46	102	13
5.	Intrinsic attraction to nursing?	87	40	38	15
6.	Employment security over life of nursing?	49	61	47	23
7.	Family members' opinion?	51	107	22	0
8.	Public view about nursing?	84	32	30	34



**FIGURE 3:** A bar diagram showing frequency distribution of factors influencing the perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students



**FIGURE 4:** A bar diagram showing frequency distribution of factors influencing the perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

#### IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

While considering the demographic variable, among 180 105 (58.3%) were between the age of 21-25, 60 [33.3%] were between the age of 15-20, 10[5.5%] were between the age of 26-30 and 5 (2.7%) were above than 30 years of age.

##### showing perception of nursing as a profession amongst nursing students

85 (47.2%) students agreed 35 (19.4%) strongly agreed 22(12.22%) Disagreed and 38(21.1%) strongly disagreed that Nursing is a noble profession. 109 (60.5%) students agreed 32 (17.7%) disagreed 28(15.5%) strongly agreed and 11 (6.1%) disagreed that Nursing is admired by many people in the society. 125 (69.4%) students strongly agreed 40 (22.2%) who agreed 15(8.3%) disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed that nursing profession is very stressful. 121 (67.2%) students agreed 32 (17.7%) who strongly agreed followed by 18(10%) disagreed and 9(5%) strongly disagreed that nursing is an opportunity to serve humanity. 116(64.4%) strongly agreed followed by 45 (25%) who agreed followed by 14(7.7%) strongly disagreed and 5(2.7%) disagreed that nursing is an extremely hard profession. 98(54.4%) students strongly disagreed 39 (21.6%) agreed 24 (13.3%) strongly agreed and 19(10.5%) disagreed that nursing is a respectful profession. 132(54.4%) students strongly agreed 27 (15%) agreed 20 (11.1%) disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed that nursing is a way to have access to travel abroad. 96(53.3%) students agreed 52 (28.8%) who strongly agreed 23(12.7%) disagreed and 9(5%) strongly disagreed that nursing is an appreciated profession in our society. 82(45.5%) students strongly disagreed 41 (22.7%) agreed 37 (20.5%) disagreed and 20(11.1%) strongly agreed that nursing is financially rewarding profession. 97(53.8%) students strongly agreed 64 (35.5%) agreed 19(10.5%) disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed that nursing is a Caring profession with a high ethical standard

##### Showing Factors influencing the perception toward nursing profession amongst nursing students

71 (39.4%) students strongly agreed 53 (29.4%) agreed followed by 47(26.1%) disagreed and 9 (5%) strongly disagreed that is Working conditions. 93 (51.6%) students agreed 48 (26.6%) strongly agreed 21(11.6%) disagreed and 18 (10%) strongly disagreed that is Clinical training. 84 (46.6%) students disagreed 61 (33.88%) strongly disagreed 20(11.11%) agreed and 15(8.33%) strongly agreed that is Effect of faculty members. 102(56.66%)

students disagreed 46 (25.55%) strongly agreed 19(10.55%) agreed and 13(7.22%) strongly disagreed that is Mass media. 124(68.8%) students agreed (13.8%) who strongly disagreed 16 (8.8%) strongly agreed and 15(8.3%) disagreed that is Intrinsic attraction to nursing. 61(33.88%) students strongly agreed 49 (27.22%) agreed 47 (26.11%) disagreed and 23(12.77%) strongly disagreed that is Employment security over life of nursing. 127(70.55%) students strongly agreed 51 (28.33%) agreed 22 (12.22%) disagreed and 0(0%) strongly disagreed that is Family members' opinion. 84(46.66%) students strongly agreed 34 (18.88%) strongly agreed 32 (17.77%) strongly disagreed and 30(16.66%) disagreed that is Public view about nursing

#### V. Conclusion

Majority 85 (47.2%) students agreed that Nursing is a noble profession, majority 109 (60.5%) students agreed that Nursing is admired by many people in the society, 125 (69.4%) students strongly agreed that nursing profession is very stressful, 121 (67.2%) students agreed 32 that it is an opportunity to serve humanity, 116(64.4%) students strongly agreed that nursing is an extremely hard profession, 98(54.4%) students strongly disagreed that nursing is a respectful profession, 132(54.4%) students strongly agreed that is a way to have access to travel abroad , 96(53.3%) students agreed 52 (28.8%) who strongly agreed that nursing is appreciated profession in our society 23(12.7%) disagreed and 9(5%) strongly disagreed, 82(45.5%) students strongly disagreed financially rewarding profession, 97(53.8%) students strongly agreed a high ethical standard

From this study, it is concluded that Nursing students have better perception towards nursing profession; student's perception about the nursing profession has been more to the positive side than the negative side.

What are the factors influencing the perception toward nursing profession among Nursing students in selected university in Edo State University, Uzuaire, 71 (39.4%) students strongly agreed that is Working conditions, majority 93 (51.6%) students agreed Clinical training, majority 84 (46.6%) students disagreed that Effect of faculty members, 102(56.66%) students disagreed that Mass media, 124(68.8%) students agreed Intrinsic attraction to nursing majority 61(33.88%) students strongly agreed Employment security over life of nursing, 127(70.55%) students strongly agreed Family members' opinion, 84(46.66%) students strongly agreed Public view about nursing

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