



PERCEPTION REGARDING SEMESTER BASED CURRICULUM AMONG B.SC NURSING STUDENTS

Prof. Dr. Cicy Joseph (Principal), Prof. Sindhu Abraham (Vice Principal), Anitha Saji, Anuja Boban, Delna Els Abraham, Gishnu Gireesh, Jimisha K, Linda Biju, Malavika Manoj, Neethu T George, Riya Siby, Sajitha Sanjeev (7th Semester B.Sc Nursing)

MGM Muthoot College Of Nursing, Kozhencherry, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala, India

Abstract : A nursing curriculum is a structured plan that outlines the knowledge, skills, and competencies. Nursing curriculum underwent a structural shift from traditional annual system to semester based system in India to enhance continuous learning and timely evaluation. The semester system provides nursing students with a clear and organized framework, allowing them to track their academic progress and focus on one set of learning objectives at a time. A descriptive study was done to assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum among B.Sc nursing students. The objectives were to assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum and to find an association between level of perception regarding semester based curriculum with selected sociodemographic variables of nursing students. The sample size was 30 nursing students of the selected nursing college selected by using convenience sampling technique. The tool used for the study was socio demographic variables and perception rating scale to assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum. The study revealed 76.67% of nursing students were having moderate level of perception and 23.33% of nursing students were having positive level of perception. The study reported significant association with level of perception and motivation to choose B.Sc nursing program. There is no association found with level of perception and other selected sociodemographic variables like age, gender of students, syllabus undergone in higher secondary education and percentage of marks scored in higher secondary. Study concludes that majority of the sample population has moderate perception about semester based curriculum.

Key Words: Assess; Perception; Semester based curriculum; Nursing students

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

In India, the Indian Nursing Council (INC) has revised the B.Sc Nursing curriculum to align with contemporary educational standards and healthcare needs. The new curriculum is structured into eight semesters over four years, incorporating a competency-based approach that emphasizes both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. According to Jadoon et al. (2012), the effective implementation of a semester system depends upon a well-designed curriculum, course coverage within the prescribed time, regularity of semester classes, accessibility of teachers to students, timely and constructive feedback, availability of library and computer facilities, the level of confidentiality in the internal and end examination, transparency in the overall evaluation, timely announcement of results, etc.⁵ The Semester system introduces several advantages, including reduced stress level due to more frequent assessment, better time management, and the opportunity for timely feedback.

Additionally, it allows for the integration of elective modules in later years, enabling students to specialize in areas of interest. Nursing students' perception of a semester- based curriculum are varied, with some finding it beneficial for knowledge retention and others expressing concerns about the curriculum's comprehensiveness and the course delivery system. The shift to semester system also presents challenges. Students may face difficulties adapting to the continuous assessment model, managing the increased workload, and adjusting to the new teaching methodologies. Therefore, assessing their perceptions is essential to identify areas that require support and improvement.

Need and significance

Universities have different systems to educate the youth. Mainly there are two systems, adopted in universities - semester system and annual system. In annual system, exams are conducted after one academic year, while in semester system exams are conducted after five or six months. Annual system is defined as a full term of studies without any break. It is the traditional system that covers more syllabus compare to semester system. At the end of the year exam is conducted. In this system when the students enter the college they feel free and think about studies during the year. University exams are conducted once in a year. So, number of examiners and examinations can be reduced.

Iwasiw and Goldenberg, 2020 says that effectiveness of nursing courses is significantly associated with student's engagement. The effectiveness of nursing courses are determined by adequately explaining the objectives at the beginning of semester and in every lecture, content organized from simple to complex, appropriate learning environment, core competencies of the teacher and instructor, different and multiple method of teaching, student teacher communication and interaction, and evaluation process and exams grading and assignment. All this can lead to improved participation in learning related activities by involvement in classroom discussion, engage in assignment project, enhancing active and collaborative learning and students faculty interaction. A well designed and effectively implemented semester based curriculum can significantly contribute to student success in their studies and future career as nurses. By conducting a study on this topic, it helps to gain valuable insights into student's experiences and perceptions, facilitating the optimization of the curriculum to better meet educational objectives and students needs.

Statement of the problem

A descriptive study to assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum among B.Sc nursing students in selected College of Nursing, Pathanamthitta district.

Objectives

- To assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum among B.Sc nursing students.
- To find out the association between perception regarding semester based curriculum with selected sociodemographic variables of nursing students

Operational Definitions

1. Perception- Perception refers to the way in which something is regarded, understood or interpreted. In the present study perception is the belief or opinion of B.Sc nursing students regarding semester based curriculum.

2. B.Sc Nursing Students- Students belong to the 4th Semester B.Sc Nursing programme, of the selected College of Nursing, Pathanamthitta district.

3. Semester Based Curriculum- Semester refers to the two divisions or terms of an academic year lasting around 14-16 weeks.³⁸ In the present study it is the academic division of four year B.Sc nursing programme, comprising total of 1-8 semesters divided as 2 semesters in a year and the set of syllabus the students undergone during each semester.

Assumptions

- a. The perception of nursing students can be shaped by their past and present experiences and they may have different interpretations regarding semester based curriculum.
- b. Perception of nursing students may vary according to their sociodemographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research approach: Quantitative research approach was adopted in the present study.

Research design: Descriptive design was adopted in the present study.

Population : Population is the nursing students of MGM Muthoot College of Nursing, Kozhencherry

Sample : Sample consisted of the 4th semester B.Sc nursing students of MGM Muthoot College of Nursing, Kozhencherry and the sample size is 30.

Sampling technique : Convenience sampling technique was adopted for the present study.

Tools/ Instruments :

Section A ----- Sociodemographic variables

It consists of 6 items which includes age, gender, semester of study, syllabus undergone in higher secondary education, percentage of mark scored in higher secondary and motivation to choose B.Sc Nursing program.

Section B -----Rating scale to assess the perception regarding semester based curriculum.

A four point Likert scale ranging 4-1. The response options include Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree. The reponse options for positive statements are Strongly Agree-4, Agree-3, Disagree-2, Strongly Disagree-1. Negative statements is scored reversely.

Score Interpretation:

- Negative perception: 24-48
- Moderate perception: 49-73
- Positive perception: 74-98

Data collection process : Formal permission was obtained from the head of the institution before data collection. The study was conducted in MGM Muthoot College of Nursing, Kozhencherry. The data collection period was 08/05/25- 10/05/25. The sample size was 30 nursing students from fourth semester B.Sc nursing. The samples were selected according to inclusion and exclusion criteria and convenience sampling technique was used. The purpose of the study was explained and written informed consent was obtained from the participants after ensuring confidentiality. The participants were informed to complete the sociodemographic data and the rating scale.

Data Analysis : Data analysis is planned based on the objectives of the study. After data collection the data were organized, tabulated and summarized by using descriptive and inferential statistics manually in MS Excel 2007 version.

- Frequency and percentage were used to define the sociodemographic data and level of perception.
- Chi-square test was computed to assess the association between perception regarding semester based curriculum with selected sociodemographic variables

RESULTS AND DISSCUSSION

Distribution of samples according to socio demographic data:

- The distribution of nursing students according to age revealed that 70% of nursing students were in the age group of 20-21 years, 27% of nursing students were in the age group of 18 -19 years and 3% nursing students were in the age group of 22-23 years.

- Distribution of nursing students according to gender revealed that 80% of nursing students were females and 20% of nursing students were males.
- Distribution of nursing students according to their syllabus undergone showed that 77% of nursing students were in DHSE syllabus, 20% of nursing students were in CBSE syllabus and 3% of nursing students were in ICSE syllabus.
- Distribution of nursing students according to the percentage of mark scored in higher secondary examination revealed that 66.6% of nursing students scored between 90-99%, 16.6% of nursing students scored between 70-79% and 16.6% of nursing students scored between 80-89%.
- Distribution of nursing students according to the motivation to choose B.Sc nursing course revealed that 53.33% of nursing students were motivated by self, 26.66% of nursing students were motivated by other factors such as relatives, neighbors, mass media and 20% of nursing students were motivated by parents.

Motivation	Perception		χ^2	df	Table value
	Moderate	Positive			
Self	15	1	6.135	2	5.99
Parents	4	2			
Friends	0	0			
Others	4	4			

Assessment of level of perception regarding semester based curriculum among nursing students of selected college:

The assessment of level of perception of nursing students regarding semester based curriculum revealed that 76.67% were having moderate level of perception and 23.33% were having positive level of perception.

Association of knowledge of nursing students with demographic variables

The chi - square value showed significant association between level of perception with motivation to choose B.Sc Nursing program and no association were found between level of perception with selected sociodemographic variables like age, gender, semester of study, syllabus undergone in higher secondary education and percentage of mark scored in higher secondary.

Student's satisfaction in any of the educational programme, contributes to intellectual, social, affective, growth, classroom and college retention, academic performance, motivation and persistence. Satisfied students are more successful and dedicated to accomplish their goals than unsatisfied students. The study was aim to assess the level of perception of semester based curriculum among nursing students and find out the association between the level of perception on semester based curriculum with the selected sociodemographic variables.

Nursing Implications

The findings of the present study generate some implications to the educational system. It has implication in nursing practice, nursing administration, nursing education and nursing research.

Nursing Practice

- Semester based curriculum focus on integration of continuity between theory and practice.
- Semester system distributes adequate time for hands-on practice to build clinical confidence.

- Semester system facilitates students to be 'practice-ready'.
- Semester system emphasizes experimental learning to improve clinical competence.
- Semester based structure brings on students ability to handle multiple task and create vital clinical skills.

Nursing Education

- This study sensitizes the nurse educators about the importance of creating a more effective and engaging learning environment.
- This study reveals how the learners interpret and experience the curriculum and identifies the areas of improvement.
- This study emphasizes the need for creating a more supportive learning atmosphere and helping to implement more meaningful learning experiences.
- This study highlights the importance of good social interactions between teachers and students and to develop a teaching environment which leads to students' satisfaction.

Nursing Administration

- This study brings the need of conducting regular evaluation on nursing programs to have a safe clinical learning environment and infrastructure facilities.
- Nurse administrators can use findings to plan semester schedules that reduce academic overload.
- This study highlights the importance of collaboration with teaching and healthcare delivering institutions.
- This study helps to ensure student grievance redressal systems are responsive to semester related issues.
- This study facilitates the need of faculty development program based on students' feedback.

Nursing Research

- This study helps to guide future research topics.
- Nurse researchers recognize that semester based teaching improves students' interest in doing research project.
- This study guides researchers to study students well being, stress management and coping mechanism in nursing education.
- This study offers research based foundation for improving learning outcomes.
- This study highlights students' actual experience and concerns with the semester system.

Limitations

1. Sample size was small, this limits the generalization of the study
2. The study included only 4th semester of B.Sc nursing students.
3. The study was limited only to a particular college.
4. Data collection period is limited to a short duration.
5. Descriptive design was used for the present study.

Recommendations

1. Similar study can be conducted among large sample to generalize the findings.
2. Similar study can be conducted among different settings.
3. Similar study can be carried out by different research methods like mixed methods.
4. Similar study can be conducted among various nursing groups.
5. Similar study can be conducted among nurse educators'

CONCLUSION

1. 70% of nursing students were in the age group of 20-21 years, 27% of nursing students were in the age group of 18 -19 years and 3% nursing students were in the age group of 22-23 years.
2. 80% of nursing students were females and 20% of nursing students were males.
3. 77% of nursing students were in DHSE syllabus, 20% of nursing students were in CBSE syllabus and 3% of nursing students were in ICSE syllabus .
4. 66.6% of nursing students scored between 90-99%, 16.6% of nursing students scored between 70-79% and 16.6% of nursing students scored between 80-89% with regard to the percentage of mark.
5. 53.33% of nursing students were motivated by self, 26.66% of nursing students were motivated by other factors such as relatives, neighbors, mass media and 20% of nursing students were motivated by parents.
6. 76.67% were having moderate level of perception and 23.33% were having positive level of perception towards semester based curriculum and no students reported negative perception.
7. The chi-square value showed that there is a significant association between level of perception with motivation to choose B.Sc Nursing program and no association were found between level of perception with selected sociodemographic variables like age, gender, semester of study, syllabus undergone in higher secondary education and percentage of mark scored in higher secondary.

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