

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE PERCEPTION REGARDING GENDER-RELATED CHALLENGES FACED BY MALE BSc NURSING STUDENTS

Prof. Dr. Cicy Joseph (Principal), Ms. Divya Vijai (Associate Professor), Ms. Abiya Mary Varghese, Ms. Aswathy Nair B, Ms. Keren B Joby, Ms. Kripa Vincent, Ms. Lekshmi Byju, Mr. Muhammed Riswin, Ms. Revathi T S, Ms. Rita Jibu Thomas, Ms. Salu F, Mr. Vijay Krishna R (VIII Semester BSc Nursing)

MGM Muthoot College of Nursing, Kozhencherry, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala

ABSTRACT

Male nursing students are an underrepresented group in nursing and often face challenges due to gender stereotypes, social perceptions, limited peer support, and discomfort during clinical care. These challenges may affect their academic performance, clinical learning, and professional identity. The study aimed to assess the challenges faced by male nursing students and determine their association with selected socio-demographic variables. A descriptive research design with purposive sampling was used to select 30 male nursing students. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings showed that 40% had low challenges, 60% had moderate challenges, and no significant association was found with socio-demographic variables.

Keywords: Male nursing students, challenges, gender issues, assessment.

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a vital profession that plays a significant role in health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. Despite the increasing demand for nurses, the profession remains predominantly female, with men comprising only about 10% of the global nursing workforce. The number of male nursing students has increased in recent years, but they continue to face gender-related challenges during their education and clinical training. Societal stereotypes, gender bias, and limited acceptance often affect their professional identity, confidence, and learning experiences. Male students may also encounter restricted clinical exposure in areas such as obstetrics and gynaecology due to cultural beliefs, patient preferences, and privacy concerns. In India, traditional gender norms further influence the experiences of male nursing students. Limited research has examined these challenges among B.Sc. Nursing students, particularly in Pathanamthitta district. Therefore, this study was undertaken to assess the challenges faced by male nursing students and their association with selected socio-demographic variables.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Male nursing students constitute a minority within the nursing profession and often experience challenges related to gender stereotypes, social acceptance, clinical learning opportunities, and professional identity. These challenges may affect their academic performance, confidence, and overall educational experience. Understanding such challenges is essential for developing effective strategies to support male nursing students throughout their training.

The findings of the study will help nurse educators adopt gender-sensitive teaching approaches and ensure equal learning opportunities in both classroom and clinical settings. The study may also assist nursing administrators in developing mentorship programs, counselling services, and supportive policies that promote gender equality. Furthermore, the findings will contribute to the existing body of nursing knowledge and provide baseline data for future research on gender-related issues in nursing education. By addressing these challenges, the study may help reduce gender stereotypes and encourage greater male participation in the nursing profession.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A descriptive study to assess the perception of gender- related challenges among male students in selected nursing colleges of Pathanamthitta district.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the gender related challenges faced by male BSc nursing students.
2. To find out the association between gender related challenges with selected socio-demographic variables.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

1. Assess: refers to the act of identifying and measuring the gender-related challenges faced by male BSc nursing students.
2. Gender-related challenges: refer to the difficulties experienced by male BSc nursing students due to their gender in academic, clinical, social, and psychological areas.
3. Male B.Sc. Nursing students: refer to male students who are studying in the bachelor of science in nursing program.
4. Selected colleges of nursing: refer to the nursing institutions chosen by the investigator for conducting the study.
5. Academic challenges: refer to difficulties related to classroom learning, evaluation, and interaction with teachers faced by male BSc nursing students.
6. Clinical challenges: refer to problems faced by male BSc nursing students during clinical postings and practical training.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. Male BSc nursing students may experience gender-related challenges during their academic and clinical training.
2. Gender-related challenges may influence the academic performance, clinical learning, and psychological wellbeing of male BSc nursing students.
3. Socio-cultural attitudes and gender stereotypes may affect the experiences of male students in the nursing profession.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the science of studying how research is done scientifically. it is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It includes the steps, procedures, and strategies for gathering and analyzing the data in a research investigation. it deals with defining the problem, formulation of hypothesis, methods adopted for data collection and statistical techniques used for analyzing the data, this chapter deals with the methodology adopted by the researcher for the present study, to evaluate the perception of gender related challenges among male students in selected nursing college, Pathanamthitta

RESEARCH APPROACH

Research approach involves the description of the plan to investigate the phenomena under study. Research approach is a frequently used term in research, which is an important element of the research design. It is used to identify, explore and describe the existing phenomenon and its factors. The research approach used in the study was **Quantitative Research Approach**.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The term research design refers to researcher's overall plan for obtaining answers for the research questions and it spells out strategies that the researcher adopted to develop the information that is accurate, objective and interpretable.

Research design used in this study was **Descriptive Research Design**

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The physical location and condition in which data collection takes place in a study is called setting. Based on feasibility and familiarity, present study conducted among male BSc nursing students of selected nursing colleges in Pathanamthitta district. The present study was conducted at MGM Muthoot College of Nursing, Kozhencherry, Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. The criteria for selection of study setting were availability of subjects and feasibility of conducting the study. Population refers to the entire set of individuals or objects that possess specific characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying. The population under the present study involves 30 male BSc nursing students. Sample refers to the population that is selected to participate in a particular study.

In this study, the sample were male BSc nursing students of age group 18-23.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Sampling methods or sampling techniques in research are statistical methods for selecting a sample representative of the whole population to study the population's characteristics. Different sampling strategies can be used based on the characteristics of the population, the study purpose, and the available resource.

In this study, Purposive sampling technique is used.

CONTENT VALIDITY

Content validity evaluates how well an instrument covers all relevant parts of the construct it aims to measure. It was ensured through judgment of experts about the content. The prepared instrument along with the statement of problems, objectives, operational definition, assumptions and criteria were submitted for validation. Suggestions and recommendations given by experts were accepted and necessary modifications were done.

DATA AND SOURCES OF DATA

The data was obtained from 30 male BSc nursing students who met the inclusion criteria. Data collection extended over a period of two weeks from 13-02-2026 to 28-02-2026. The sample were given the questionnaire which includes baseline proforma to collect the demographic data and self-structured questionnaire to assess the knowledge regarding the perception regarding gender-related challenges faced by male b.sc nursing students. It took 15-20 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Daily samples were obtained.

PLAN FOR DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. Data analysis is planned based on the objectives of the study. After collection of data, data were organized and tabulated using descriptive and inferential statistics manually using MS Excel, 2007 version. Frequency and percentage distribution were used to analyze the selected demographic variables. Chi-square test was used to find out the association between virtual engagement and selected socio-demographic variables.

STATISTICAL TOOL

The statistical tool are those tools by which statistical methods are applied. Statistical tools help with data sorting, to identify and remedy issues with the quality of data through various data sorting methods. The most well-known statistical tool are mean, median, mode, range, dispersion standard deviation, coefficient of variation etc.

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Data analysis is a process of organizing and synthesizing data so as to answer research questions and test the Hypothesis. Data analysis is planned based on the objectives of the study. After collection of data, data were organized and tabulated using descriptive and inferential

statistics manually using MS Excel, 2007 version. Frequency and percentage distribution were used to analyze the selected socio demographic variables. Chi-square test was used to find out the association between the knowledge of stem cell banking with the socio demographic variables. A chi-squared test (also chi-square or χ^2 test) is a statistical hypothesis test used in the analysis of contingency tables when the sample sizes are large. In simpler terms, this test is primarily used to examine whether two categorical variables (two dimensions of the contingency table) are independent in influencing the test statistic (values within the table). The test is valid when the test statistic is chi-squared distributed under the null hypothesis, specifically Pearson's chi-squared test and variants thereof. Pearson's chi-squared test is used to determine whether there is a statistically significant difference between the expected frequencies and the observed frequencies in one or more categories of a contingency table.¹⁴ The chi-square statistic compares the size of any discrepancies between the expected results and the actual results, given the size of the sample and the number of variables in the relationship. For these tests, degrees of freedom are used to determine if a certain null hypothesis can be rejected based on the total number of variables and samples within the experiment. As with any statistic, the larger the sample size, the more reliable the results.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study have been discussed with reference to the objective, assumptions, and findings of the other related study under the following sections

SECTION I: DISCUSSION RELAED TO SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF THE STUDENTS

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	FREQUENCY (F)	PERCENTAGE (%)
A. AGE (IN YEARS)		
1. 18 – 19	12	40%
2. 20 – 21	17	56.7%
3. 22 – 23	1	3.3%
B. RELIGION		
1. Christian	19	63%
2. Hindu	8	27%
3. Muslim	3	10%
C. YEAR OF STUDY		
1. 1 st year	8	27%
2. 2 nd year	13	43%
3. 3 rd year	9	30%
D. AREA OF RESIDENCE		
1. Rural	10	40%
2. Semi urban	8	33.3%
3. Urban	12	26.7%
E. TYPE OF FAMILY		
1. Joint	4	13.3%
2. Nuclear	26	86.7%

SECTION II: DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE PERCEPTION OF GENDER RELATED CHALLENGES AMONG MALE STUDENTS

The perception of gender related challenges among male students was assessed among 30 male B.Sc. nursing students, 18 (60%) students had moderate perceived challenges. 40% of students has low perceived challenges, and 0% has high perceived challenges.

SECTION III: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GENDER RELATED CHALLENGES WITH SELECTED SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

The chi- square value showed that the socio- demographic variables such as: value for the age (1.241) was less than table value (5.99), value for religion (2.368) was less than the table value (5.99), value for year of study (0.512) was less than the table value (5.99), value for area of residence (0.034) was less than the table value (5.99), value for type of family (2.68) was less than the table value (3.84). Hence, there is no significances between socio demographic variables.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

The findings of the present study have implications for nursing practice, nursing administration, nursing education, and nursing research.

Nursing practice

1. Nurses can identify the gender-related challenges faced by male BSc Nursing students.
2. Equal learning opportunities should be provided to male students during academic and clinical training.
3. Nurses can promote a supportive and gender-inclusive environment in nursing education and practice.

Nursing administration

1. Nurse administrators can use the findings to develop policies promoting gender equality in nursing institutions.
2. Awareness programmes on gender sensitivity can be organized for faculty and clinical staff.
3. Counselling and mentorship programmes can be arranged for male nursing students.

Nursing education

1. Nurse educators can create awareness regarding gender-related challenges among nursing students.
2. Workshops, seminars, and orientation programmes can promote gender inclusiveness in nursing education.
3. Educators can provide guidance and support to improve the learning experiences of male students.

Nursing research

1. The study findings can serve as a basis for further research on gender-related challenges in nursing.
2. Similar studies can be conducted in different settings and populations.
3. Qualitative studies can explore the experiences of male nursing students in greater depth.

LIMITATIONS

1. The study was limited to selected colleges of nursing.
2. The sample size was limited, restricting generalization of the findings.
3. The study assessed only the perception of gender-related challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Similar studies can be conducted with larger samples.
2. Comparative studies can be conducted among male and female nursing students.
3. Qualitative studies can be undertaken to explore experiences and coping strategies of male nursing students.
4. Studies can be conducted in different educational settings to improve generalizability.

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The study was aimed at assessing the perception of gender related challenges among male nursing students and the association with selected socio- demographic variables. After obtaining permission from the concerned authority, the study was conducted among 30 male

nursing students and structured Likert scale was used. The results revealed that 12(40%) of students demonstrated low perceived challenges, 18(60%) of students exhibited moderate perceived challenges and 0(0%) showed high perceived challenges in gender related challenges.

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