

**A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS
NURSING PROFESSION AMONG B.Sc NURSING STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA.**

**A thesis submitted to
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For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**In Sociology Subject
Under The Board of Social and Moral Sciences**

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DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “A study of the perceptions towards nursing profession among B.Sc. nursing students enrolled in western Maharashtra.” Completed and written by me has not previously been formed as the basis for the award of any degree or other similar title up to me of this or any other vidyapeeth or examining body.

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This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**A study of the perceptions towards nursing profession among B.Sc. nursing students enrolled in western Maharashtra.**” Which is being submitted herewith for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) of Tilak Maharashtra vidyapeeth, Pune in sociology, is the result of original research work completed by **Mrs.Meharunnisa Iqbalso Momin under my supervision and guidance. To the best of my knowledge and belief the work incorporated in this thesis has not formed the basis for the award If any Degree or similar title of this or any other University or examining body upon him**

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The history of nursing starts from the history of human kind. It was necessary to look after to those who are suffering from many illnesses, diseases or injuries and those who were dependent . It was essential to help them to carry out their daily activities, to take care of them and to care and provide comfort to them. The need of nursing profession is never ending till the human life is existing on this earth. Nursing is nurturing therefore From the dawn of civilization, evidence prevails to support the premise that nurturing has been essential to the preservation of life. For survival of the human race, therefore, is in inextricably interlinked and helped for the development of nursing. Nursing is an art as well it is a science. Nursing is an art and science of head, heart and hands. Head is a knowledge, which helps you to answer why any procedure, treatment to be done for which a nurse need to have knowledge of scientific principles, formal training for all illnesses and diseases. For nursing care you need a heart. Each nurse has a heart but it should be filled with sympathy and empathy for their patients/clients. It is necessary to know patients psychological and, sociological and spiritual problems then only possible to give holistic care. For each nursing procedure it needs delicate handling as well as skill to perform in easy and well manner. It is an art of hands. Nursing has been the oldest of the arts and the youngest of the profession. As mother is a first nurse for her new born child Therefore it is called the oldest of the art. To get the status of profession to nursing as this movement was recent; therefore it is youngest as profession.

Nurse 'this word has come from the Latin word nutritious, it means nourishing. Nursing is defined by various authors at various times in various manners. Henderson says "nursing is primarily assisting the individuals (sick or well) in the performances of those activities, contributing or its recovery (or to a peaceful death) that he would perform unaided, if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge. The unique contribution of nursing is

to help the individual to be independent or such assistance as soon as possible”.

As per this definition nursing helps a patient or client to gain independency for self care and if he/she is well to gain optimum health. Through health education nurses will give the knowledge to their patient/clients. Nutrition and good diet as well as psychological support system will bring strength and will power to survive and fast recovery from the sickness. If at all the condition of the patient is unrecoverable or towards death, spiritual care to be provided as per patient’s will, wish and unnecessary the procedures which may cause him uncomfot or hurt him to be avoided so that it helps for peaceful death.

Nursing works for community health. Through home nursing and working in large community it diagnoses community problems ike communicable diseases and preventive, primitive care is given. Nursing assists in family health care and community health care also in all settings either at home, school or hospital They never differ race or religion, rich or poor., literate or illiterate, young or old. Nursing is one of the greatest of humanitarian services for all people

The International Council of Nurses has accepted this definition. Nursing, besides being a honorable profession Nursing has its own body of knowledge scientifically based and humanitarianism that promises expanded benefits to people and society. It assists the individual or family to achieve their potential for self-direction for health.

Nursing provides skillful care for the sick in appropriate relationship with the patient, family, physician and with others who have related responsibilities. Nursing is concerned with the prevention of illness and the restoration of health. It is not concerned only with sick or de=isease oriented but it has holistic approach, which involves physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual aspect. Skillful nursing care embraces total well being as the whole person,

Nursing is defined by the Royal College of Nursing² in 2003, as the use of clinical judgment in the provision of care to enable people to improve,

maintain, or recover health, to cope with health problems, and to achieve the best possible quality of life, whatever their disease or disability, until death. In this definition coping ability of a person is mentioned. Person is able to come out of his health problems by resisting power, by increasing his immunity, through healthy life styles.

ANA (2012)³ defines nursing as the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations as per this definition health continuum to be balanced as illnesses are prevented through preventive measures and promotion of health activities to gain optimum of health.

1.1. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF NURSING

History of nursing provides an understanding of the heritage behind Nursing as career and highlights the contributions of eminent and inspirational nurses towards development of the nursing profession. This history is divided in further phases.

1.1.1 Ancient civilization

Nursing is nourishing or nurturing Therefore it was as old as human beings are existed. In human being there is basic natural instinct of nurturing and caring. Parents specially mother and father instinct are the main source of the nursing impulse, and is found in the hearts of people of all ages. A mother's care for her sick child always found expression in such acts to alleviate pain and help the child to get better. If child is sick, parents will be sitting with the child till he gets cure. They will take care of his comfort, do all the measures to alleviate his pain or discomfort whatever it may be. In society also we found this noblest forms of humanitarianism are found in people of all ages to help each other by showing mercy, love and kindness, concerns or any kind of help to those who are in physical , mental, social distress,

1.1.2 Pre-Historic Nursing

Myths, songs and other findings of the archaeologists throw some light on pre-historic man's care for this sick. In the pre-historic era, illness earlier was seen as “magic”, “sin” or “punishment”. It was also believed that illness and diseases were appeared to be associated or caused by by evil spirits within the body. To get rid of these evil spirit, the body had to be ill treated or the body has to face unpleasant things. For example, the ill person was kept on he/she was beaten badly and administering nauseous medicines, beating of drums, magic rites and ceremonies and by causing sudden fright. Sometimes cruel methods were used such as holes were made in the affected parts of the body to allow the evil spirit to escape. Besides this, there were also many other ways of treating illness. Loud noises, magic by mantic were used for sudden frightening to evil spirit. Yet we find such treatments in Adiwasi or remote areas. Even on a day of full moon or No moon we find such treatments in some part of the country.

Primitive man's skill in fighting disease has given us many medical and surgical treatments such as massage fomentations, repining, bone setting, hot and cold baths, etc. The doctor cum nurse in such cases was the medicine man or the witch doctor or as influence was increased priest became the medicine man or priest physician.

1.1.3. Nursing in India in Early Civilizations

In India, about 3000 B.C. we had the Ayurvedic system of medicine, which can be traced back to Ayurveda stressed on hygiene, prevention of sickness, inoculation against small pox, sanitation, lavatories, good ventilation, kitchen, construction of hospitals, cultivation of medicinal plants and suitable building for housing animals.

Atreya was the first great physician and teacher of Ayurveda. He lived about 800 B.C. During 700-600 B.C Sushruta and Charaka started practice of surgery and medicine. Sushruta Samhita is written by the great surgeon Sushruta,⁴ who says "the physician, the patient, the drugs and the nurse are four feet of `Padas' of the medicine, upon which the cure depends". He then explains how each may be a true `Pada' (Foot). The nurse is a pada

when he is kind hearted practiced dissection. Sushruta was a great surgeon and was known as a „father of surgery“ they also practiced vaccination and physiotherapy strong, trustworthy and mindful of the physician's orders. The nurse is one who attends the patient; is cool headed and pleasant in his demeanor; does not speak ill of anybody; is strong and attentive to the requirements of the sick and strictly follows the instructions of the physicians.

The great physician Charaka has written the Charak Samhita in which he explains details of the manner in which drugs should be prepared or compounded for administration. According to him, resourcefulness, devotedness to the patient waited upon, and purity of mind and body are the qualification of the attending nurse. The Charaka Samhita states that attendants on the sick should have good behaviour and should be distinguish for purity and cleanliness of habits. Nursing treatments as it is named now is Panchkarma were prescribed are baths, now shuhirbhut and steam bath, enema to evacuate the bowels, now in ayurveda it is called as Basti, emetics to produce vomiting, which is Vaman vaginal and urethral infusion, now named as uttar basti,Nasya treatment and gargles, massages, rubbing or pressing the limbs etc. were the part of treatment but in many parts of the India this is used as alternative and complementary therapies.

A nurse was expected to assist the patient to walk or move about and to make clean beds. She was supposed to prepare the different drugs from different herbs as prescribed by a physicians, not only that but she was expected to be skilled in compounding drugs and ever willing to do any work as demanded.

During this period, King Emperor Ashoka was the first person to make hospitals for men ,women and for travelers in India. The old women and men were working as nurses. At that time ne made rules of hygiene like compulsory baths,cutting the short nails and wearing clean clothes .Even delivered lady should be kept in clean and well ventilated area and she should not come out if that room. He emphasized on prevention of diseses through clean environment.

Hippocrates yet known by „Hippocate Oath“, he brought the concept of diseases that are caused by man’s behavior against the laws of nature and not by evil spirit. He is the first person to apply cold sponging for fever and hot applications or fomentations for pain relief which we practice now.

1.1.4. Early Christian era (1ADto 500 AD)

Nursing in Pre-Christian times, religious beliefs had great bearing on the attitude towards the sick and the mode of caring for the sick and the suffering. Christianity believed that one should render services of love to humanity without any reward. It was equal to one’s sincere love of God. This principle was absorbed in nursing and helped to improve the status of a nurse. When this impulse or motive is re-enforced by religious philosophies and beliefs, it inspires people to live a life of service and of self-sacrifice for the sake of others. Along with this spirit, special training and experience has made nursing an ideal and useful profession. Women began nursing as an expression of Christianity (acts of mercy) Women were recognized as important members of community Some of examples of such women areas:

Phoebe -considered the first Deaconess and visiting nurse Fabiola-was a wealthy Christian in Rome and founded the first public hospital in Rome.Paula -was a friend of Fabiola. She devoted herself for the services of the sick. She built a hospital for strangers, pilgrims, and travelers and for the sick. She constructed a monastery in Bethlehem. They gave good nursing care for the sick.

1.1.5. Middle Ages (500-1000A.D)

The early middle age was a dark age in the history of nursing. Throughout the middle ages, care was provided primarily by religious orders to sick and poor. During the middle ages, early hospitals were operated by nurses who were affiliated with religious organizations⁵ Roman authorities shifted their capital. People were turned to the monasteries which became the places of education, medical care and nursing. Knight Hospitalizes of St. John’sof Jerusalem cared for the injured on the battle field -their symbol: a bright, Red Cross. Knights organized nursing care ,some of nurses were nuns and deaconess.

The Late Middle Ages (1000 to 1500 AD)-was the period of military order .many religious wars were lasted for many years

1.1.6. Renaissance (1500AD –1850AD) - The dark period of nursing.

Rise of Protestantism meant that many Catholic monasteries offering nursing care and medicine was closed down. Nursing was not valued as an intellectual endeavor. it lost much of its economic support and social status The nuses were poorly fed, over worked and poor salary was given. Their work was cleaning, laundry and scrubbing. The Protestants viewed the woman's place as being in the home raising children. Hence nurses of this period consists of Wayward” women of low status Women of ill reputed, poor, single women with no family or hope of marriage, became nurses” instead of going to jail. It is called as „dark period for the nursing field. At present also some private doctors have the same concept Trained nurses refuses to work besides their nursing duties and demand good salary then they prefer to appoint untrained ladies whom they only teach through practice in their own hospital and no formal training.

1.1.7. Apprentice Period

Pastor Theodur Fliedner and his wife Frederika opened the Kaiserwerth Deaconess Institute-the first formal nursing school and Its most famous tudent was Florence Nightingale. She went to Kaiserwerth in the year i1854 for 3months for training.

1.1.8. Nightingale Era {1820-1910)- Dawn of modern nursing.

The history of professional nursing traditionally began with Florence Nightingale. She was born on 12 th May 1860 in England in a very rich and wealthy British family. She was a well-educated daughter of wealthy parents, where she declared the social conventions to become a nurse; her parents resisted her for her decision. They tried to convince her that Nursing was not a respectable career for a well educated and bred lady. But Florence believed that nursing provided an independent calling which was full on intellectual and social freedom for women who had less career options at the time. In 18th and 19th centuries, nursing profession expanded into care of soldiers

during prominent wars. There was a call from British Government during Crimean war. There was nobody to take care of the wounded soldiers. They were just dying of “septicaemia” She responded to the calls of the Government and on Oct. 21, 1854, she left with 38 female and Christian nurses for the Crimean War. Where Florence Nightingale served as a nurse, with her 38 colleagues. She took a review and found that British casualties were high; Personal and environmental conditions were worst. She made the British rulers to establish cleanliness and sanitation rules Patients were received clean clothes, special diets and plenty of well nourished food, improved water supply. Patients were received proper nursing care, dressings of the wounds and scientific nursing care and her accomplishments at Crimean in two years brought death rate decreased drastically to half. She used to take rounds in the night time with a lantern in her hand and go to patient by patient, enquire to each of them regarding their health and mental support given to each patient. She was reorganized by the barracks of military hospital, Soldiers named her as the “Lady with the Lamp”. Till today, this lamp remained as the symbol of nursing profession. She wrote a theory on environment and cleanliness. Nightingale established a reputation which allowed her to improve nursing. She was philosopher, statistician and historian. Today Nightingale is considered as the “founder of modern nursing”.⁶ She laid the foundation of professional nursing in 1860 with the establishment of her first secular nursing school, which started on 9th July 1860, in the world as St. Thomas Hospital in London. It was the first school of Nursing provided theory based knowledge and clinical skill building. Her birthday is celebrated as International Nurses Day on 12th May of each year. In India a lane in Delhi where TNAI office is situated is known as „Florence lane“. National Presidential award is given to the „Best Nurses“ in India in her memories for each year.

1.1.9. Modern nursing in india

Progress in scientific technology and advance knowledge in medical science brought tremendous changes in nursing field. Instruments like Stethoscope, ventilators, appliances like air bed, pulse meter and different

type of researches like invention of organisms etc. has changed the nursing field also. However if we look history, Military nursing was the earliest type of nursing. Florence Nightingale had a great influence over nursing in India especially in the army. Historically, nursing in India had evolved under British rule. The British Medical Services, later known as the Indian Medical Services, were the first to develop nursing as a profession in India. The formal education of nurses started in India under various hospital-based training schools. It was mostly the women from among Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Indian Christians communities who formed the nursing workforce during British rule, and was considered a Christian profession. The participation of Indians in nursing services was considered important by the British for arranging a workforce of Indian nurses who could provide care to the patients and take up necessary administrative and teaching responsibilities. However, the British found out that it was difficult to train Indian nurses because they considered nursing work as menial. A Florence was a Christian lady and her 38 friends were also Christian, as well as her first batch of students were also Christians. It all turned in a belief that it is a profession of Christians. The caste and religious norms restricted Hindu and Muslim women from joining the nursing profession.

St Stephens Hospital at Delhi was the first one to begin training the Indian girls as nurses in 1867. In 1871, the first School of Nursing was started in Government General Hospital, Madras., .B.C.Roy did great work in raising the standards of nursing and that of male and female nurses. At the end of the 19th century, more nurses started working towards leadership and education policy in nursing schools, therefore recognizing their roles as more than bedside caregivers. In the 20th century nursing continued to evolve to having professional organizations and new programs designed to specifically address nursing profession challenges. Nursing skills developed more during this time and nurses gained greater roles with more critical functions and not being a doctor's assistant only but expanded into many specialties"

The Trained Nurses Association of India,(TNAI)the first professional organization was formed In1908, , Madras State formed the first registration council In 1926 .The first four year basic Bachelor Degree program were

established in 1946 at the college of nursing in Delhi and Vellore. The Indian Nursing Council was passed ordinance on December 31st 1947. The council was constituted in 1949, Miss Adrenwala was appointed as the Nursing Advisor to Government of India In 1956. First master's degree course, a two-year postgraduate program was begun at the College of Nursing, Delhi. In 1960., the School of Nursing in Trivandrum, instituted the first two years post certificate Bachelor Degree program in 1963. Maharashtra Nursing council act came in existence in 1966. This council is a autonomous and the licensure body as well as examination body. The first school of nursing stated in Maharashtra at J.J. Hospital, Bombay (Mumbai). Bai Kashibai Ganpat is a first Indian and Maharashtrian lady from Thane. (1891) Diplom course was started in Maharashtra and first degree and post graduate course was started at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

The increasing emphasis on national and international work in developing countries and the advocacy of healthy and safe environments has strengthened the nursing profession. The associations such as International Council of Nurses, the nurses auxiliary of the CMA of India, T.N.A.I. Indian Nursing council and State level Registration Council are closely connected with promotion and the upliftment of the nursing profession. World Health Organisation (WHO) supports and recognizes nursing as the backbone of most health care systems around the world.

1.2 NURSING AS THE PROFESSION

Nursing is not only a profession but "Noble Profession", Nursing is widely regarded as a noble profession in the society because of the core value it promotes in its practice-which is the care of life.⁷. A profession is an occupation with ethical components that is devoted to the promotion of human welfare. Nursing fulfills criteria of a profession.

- 1 The services provided are vital to humanity and the welfare of the society.- Nursing is the service that is essential to the wellbeing of the people and to the society. Nursing promotes, maintains and restores the health of individuals, groups and communities. Assisting others to attain the highest

level of wellness is the goal of nursing. Caring, meaning nurturing and helping others are the basic components of professional nursing.

2. There is a special body of knowledge that is continually enlarged through research.-Yet we do not have independent body of knowledge. We borrow knowledge from all the different sciences. Like physical science, social science, nursing theory, and technology, in the care of others as research is lacking. However our leaders and educationist and post graduate students are trying for researches in India but none of the theories have come other than old theories formed in westerns .For research authority and standing orders and legal issues are main restraining factors.
3. The services involve intellectual activities.- Individual responsibilities (accountability) are a strong feature. Nursing process is a cognitive activity that requires both critical and creative thinking and serves as the basis of providing nursing care “Individual accountability” in nursing has become the hallmark of practice. Accountability is being answerable to someone for something one has done.⁸ Through legal opinion and court cases, society has demonstrated that nurses are individually responsible for their actions as well as for those of personnel under their supervision. It is the experience of the researcher is that „Ego” of the doctors is a big hindrance to use the intellectual ability of a nurse. They think that nurses should obey without questioning though they are capable in knowledge.
4. Practitioners are educated in institution of higher learning.- There are basic nursing program, Diploma, baccalaureate program, master’s and Doctoral program in nursing. Nursing programmes are brought in stream of basic education as 10+2+3 for diploma programme,10+2+4 for degree program me and +2 for P.G.Programme and Ph.D. also. Even “Nurse Practioner programme in Primary Health Care”would be a landmark .
- 5 . Practitioners are relatively independent and control their own policies and activities. (Autonomy). -Autonomy or control over one’s practice is another controversial area for nursing. Autonomy is written in books but not found in practice. Responsibility and accountability is existing but authority and autonomy is a big question. The literature suggests that lack of autonomy in

the profession is related to a tendency toward lack of autonomy in the characteristics of the type of individual who is attracted to nursing¹⁰ Others say that rather than talk of a static traditional concept of "profession", (because in reality there is no "ideal" profession that meets all criteria) it would be more useful to think in terms of the process of "professionalization". They see nursing as being on a continuum of professionalization¹¹.The above discussion dealt with the collective characteristics of nursing as a profession.

Recently one ANM had a FIR for conducting a delivery. Though many nursing actions are independent, most nurses are employed in hospitals where authority resides in one's position.

6. Practitioners are motivated by service (altruism) and considered their work an important component of their lives. Nurses are dedicated to the ideal of service to others, which is known as altruism. In modern society of nurses these words as „devotion, dedication“ are lacking. In formal period many nurses were either single or widow but now many married men and women are in nursing profession. All nursing unions are demanding for facilities and salaries, working hours as other professions and occupation demands.
7. There is a Code of Ethics which illustrates the profession's regard for high ideals of conduct to guide the decisions of practitioners. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has established Code of Nursing Ethics through which standards of practice are established, promoted and refined. Having our own code of ethics fulfills the fifth criterion in the classification of an occupational group as a profession. Nursing as an occupational group has its own distinct culture consisting of certain values, norms and symbols. We, as nursing educators, strive to instill in our students attitudes and values that relate to believing in the worth and dignity of an individual.

Inherent in nursing is respect for life, dignity of an individual and rights of human beings. It is unrestricted to consideration of nationality, religion ,caste ,creed, age, sex or social status.

8. There is an organization (Association) that encourages and supports high standards of practice. Nursing has a number of professional associations that

were formed to promote the improvement of the profession. Foremost among these, is the TNAI. The purposes of TNAI (The Trained Nurses Association of India) are to foster high standards of nursing practice, promote professional and educational advancement of nurses and promote the welfare of the nurses.

We in nursing, from the time of Florence Nightingale, have been concerned with improving our image as bona fide professionals. For many years we have been striving to have nursing classified as a profession on equal footing, for example, with medicine and law.

The goal of nurses to be classified as "professionals" does not stem from a seemingly shallow wish for status and increased remuneration but, instead, from the more altruistic motive to provide a specialized service to society. The nurse's professional goals are concerned with the promotion of health and the prevention of disease as well as the treatment of illness.

To provide a needed service to the society, needed advance knowledge in its field. To protect its members and make it possible to practice effectively¹²A Professional Nurse therefore, is a person who has completed a basic nursing education programme from a recognized school/college of nursing and licensed in her/his country/State to practice

Nursing is a calling that requires special, advanced, knowledge, skill and preparation. An occupation that it grows out of society's needs for special services The most extensive sociological examination of nursing is found in the literature on professions, which has sought to answer the question of whether nursing is a profession by locating it in an occupational hierarchy based on education, self-regulation and autonomy. Here, nurses have been primarily compared to physicians as the model for a classic professional. Researchers have found that nursing has historically sought to achieve an occupational identity by upgrading skills, increasing educational credentials, recruiting from the middle class, and establishing licensing requirements to regulate practice, thus leading many to grant it a professional status. As the most common strategy to advance their professional standing, nursing education and training has moved from apprenticeships in the

hospital to university programs. . . . The establishment of academic programs emphasizing science, theory, and research has served to validate a core body of knowledge by which nursing claims institutional recognition. (Adapted from Apesoa-Varano, 2007,p. 250)¹³

Many consider altruism the hallmark of a profession. Nursing has a tradition of service to others. This service, however, must be guided by certain rules, policies, or code of ethics. Part of the process whereby nursing students learn these professional behaviors are through socialization.

1.3. SOCIOLOGY IN NURSING

Sociology can be defined most simply as the study of „human social life“ .A sociological approach to nursing locates the work of individual nurses squarely within a social context rather than considering it in isolation. In general terms, when a sociological analysis is applied to the essence of individual health care experience, whether it is that of patients or health care workers, this is termed „sociology in nursing“. „The sociology of nursing“ usually refers to issues affecting the profession as a whole, such as its occupational status, or recruitment and attrition problems. The role of sociology in relation to nursing is continuously debated within the literature. However, as Pinikahana (2003) has argued, the most important thing to remember is that sociology is only relevant to nurses if it is *applied* to nursing .There are two main types of sociological knowledge relevant to nurses: one is identified as sociology in nursing and the other as the sociology of nursing. Each type of knowledge has the scope to enable the „ordinary“ day-to-day work of nurses to be seen in a different light; it is this alternative perspective which is characteristic of sociology. Sociology encourages us to view everyday phenomena in a different way. It is like being given a new pair of glasses. This is sometimes referred to as problematizing; that is, what at first sight might seem unremarkable becomes problematic. More will be said about this later, but first let us turn to the distinction between sociology in and of nursing. It is must to know social background of a person or a family before advising the treatment. Health

problems are different . For example-small house and many people staying together can cause a disease like tuberculosis.

1.4. SOCIALIZATION

Simpson (1979)¹⁴ provided one definition of "socialization" that is acceptable for the purposes of this study. Socialization is seen as involving: the acquisition of attitudes along with skills and behavior patterns that constitute the professional role. Socialization processes include direct learning through didactic teaching and indirect learning through example and sustained involvement with others in the professional subsystemⁱ Students gradually acquire the professional culture through cumulative learning that develops them into "full" professionals". Greenwood¹⁵ (1984) said that in order to succeed in a chosen profession the student must make an effective adjustment to the professional culture. He said that: Mastery of the underlying body of theory and acquisition of the technical skills are in themselves insufficient guarantees of professional success. The recruit must also become familiar with and learn to weave his [sic] way through the labyrinth of the professional culture. Therefore the transformation of the neophyte into a professional is essentially an acculturation process wherein he internalizes the social values.¹⁶

Process of direct socialization starts after birth. The child learns from different agencies .Parents, Family, his friends or playmates, spiritual beliefs from temple, mosque, or church environments. Relationship with each other, neighbors", and through society he learns many things. He develops attitudes, morals and values through socialization. P.Bordeu has mentioned that ideas, beliefs and development of perceptions towards a profession, person or situation are also developed through process of socialization

1.5. PERCEPTION

Perception is the set of processes by which an individual becomes aware of and interprets information about the environment. Perception may be defined as the process by which an individual selects, organizes and interpret stimuli into a meaningful and coherent picture of the environment

in which he lives. The process by which people notice and make sense of information from the environment”¹⁷

Perception refers to the way we try to understand the world around us. We gather information through our five sense organs, but perception adds meaning to these sensory inputs. The process of perception is essentially subjective in nature, as it is never an exact recording of the event or the situation. As pointed out, a situation may be the same but the interpretation of that situation by two individuals may be immensely different.

- Perception is the process by which we organize and interpret our sensory impressions in order to give meaning to the environment.

Perception is affected by our past experiences. Perception involves memory images. For example-a child who was admitted in hospital ,he observes a nurse who is taking care of him wears a white dress is called as „sister“. He develops that image in his memory. Second time on a road also when he sees a girl with white dress calls her as a „sister. Our past experiences, mind sets, personal or acquired interest, motives affect our perception. Besides this our beliefs, ideas, attitudes and cultures also affect our perception. Our way of thinking towards a person , objects, situation or some professions are also developed through perception.

1.5.1. PERCEPTIONS OF THE NURSING PROFESSION:

Perception is the way you think about or understand someone or something, it is the ability to understand or notice something easily, the way that you notice or understand and interpret by using one of our senses. It develops a concept about

Today, the conceptualization by students of the nursing profession appears uncertain, and the question asked by many students is “What is nursing?”¹⁸ Students’ perceptions of nursing are based on visual images that are often limited to bedside care and drug administration instead of that of a highly skilled and well-educated nursing professional with an important role to play in health care. Each one of us visit an hospital for self treatment or relatives, friend, or for neighbours are admitted or for OPD care. A nurse coming

with a tray in her hand or giving medicines or injection. Such images are formed through visual perception. Other image is nurses have been predominantly females who were easily recognized by a white cap and white British style uniforms making the professional and the profession more visible. Today, white uniforms and caps have been replaced by vivid colored scrub suits worn by both male and female nurses. Though there are male nurses are not viewed as nurses. Image for male nurses is formed as doctors. Even male nurses are prohibited in maternity wards though they learn midwifery but male doctors would be permissible. Such perceptions are developed in a society.

In ancient time, nursing care was provided by men and women who were associated from widows, poor family women and other female or men criminals. Because of involvement of such type of people the reputation of nursing was low in society and the attitude of people towards it was negative. Nursing in Pre-Christian times, religious beliefs had great bearing on the attitude towards the sick and the mode of caring for the sick and the suffering. Christianity believed that one should render services of love to humanity without any reward. It was equal to one's sincere love of God. They develop a concept that "Service to human beings who are in need is service to God." This principle was absorbed in nursing and helped to improve the status of a nurse.

There are number of factors that the most nursing students develop the negative attitude towards the nursing profession in India. Which may include low reputation of the profession in society, no definite job description for nurses, no criteria for various administrative posts in nursing, no use of higher degrees for higher post, dominance of doctors everywhere in all job settings, no autonomy to the profession and lower salary for nurses. In Government sector they have positive attitude as stability of jobs, Good salary, definite working hours and other facilities but in private settings condition is worst.

Ms Florence Nightingale the lady with a lamp a well-educated woman from an affluent class family became a nurse and improved the profession drastically in nineteenth century that people gradually began to accept nursing as a respectable profession in the society. At that time, nursing was seen as

employment that needed neither study nor intelligence. In India, nursing hindered due to various reasons like low state of women, caste system among Hindus, illiteracy, poverty, and political unrest¹. After the establishment of Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) and Indian Nursing Council (INC) in the year 1908 and 1947 respectively. Nursing profession continued to grow and over the past 100 years the attitude of the society towards it has been changed to some extent.

Meritorious as well as other high school students do not opt for nursing profession as good carrier option. It is not attractive for them. On the contrary, they have a wide range of pre-existing negative perceptions about nursing.

A study of 1000 American nursing students reported that students believed nursing to be physically challenging and that there is inadequate respect and recognition of nursing¹⁹

Whereas other studies reported that students perceive opportunity to help people to gain a better health.ⁱⁱ

But many nursing students viewed nursing as a noble and well-regarded career path. They expressed that nursing profession equires strength, patience and compassion.²⁰

Nursing students who had already taken admission. Studies investigating students' perception of nursing at the beginning of the nursing programme showed that the students had very high and idealistic views of the profession with concepts of caring, helping others, great service to the sick in need and so on but as they were progressing year to year and after the exposure to clinical experiences their concept of compassion and nurturing shifted it to negative side. Student's perceptions of nursing showed that students considered nursing as being more of technical, documentation and procedural skills²¹

Apart from the traditional perception of nursing as caring, a longitudinal study regarding perception towards nursing profession showed that students considered nursing as a profession based on scientific knowledge and requires expertise in.

Perceptions held by the public about the nursing profession greatly influence the personal and public image of the nursing profession. A man is a social animal. To be a member of the society, a person does think about the social image and prestige of that profession. When male students choose nursing as a profession, it is thought that whether he is joining a famous profession. How he would be viewed by others? If a girl wants to choose this profession, she also is worried about her future. As public image with low social status may hurdle to her marriage. It means public image make differences in choice of nursing profession. However now most of the nurses getting married, mostly both of them are in same profession, though not always. Guarantee of employment is also a factor to improve the prestige, may be image of the perception of nurses being not as professional as the other professions should be highly fought by all members of the profession with the aim of establishing professional uniqueness. However perceptions are different according to place, social background, educational background and family profession. If parents are in a same profession, children also try to opt for the same profession as „theory of capital culture.”

1.5.2. PERCEPTION OF NURSING PROFESSION AS A CAREER

Career development is the lifelong process that incorporates education, occupational training, and work as well as one's social and leisure life.ⁱⁱⁱ Students need to be aware of and to understand career options if they are to make a career decision.²² There was a time when professional nurses had very little choice of service because nursing was centered in the hospital and bedside nursing. Now time is changed. Career opportunities are more varied now for a number of reasons.

Students often view the status of a job linked to value judgments about the visible dimensions of the job. Thus students' career perceptions may be less defined, resulting in a decline of students. The Study conducted by Sibongil M,²³ revealed that school leavers perception about the positive aspects of nursing career as; 87.6 percent opportunity to care for others, 43.3 percent other aspects, In other study, 15.7 percent stable career, 14.7 percent

possibility of getting paid while studying, 8.3 percent different avenues to follow within nursing, 7.4 percent good career progression, 6.5 percent good prospects for travel, 6.5 m percent any job opportunities, 3.7 percent interesting career, 0.9 percent don't know about nursing profession The study concluded that high percentage of parents are unknown regarding nursing profession.^{iv}

One's previous ideas about the career is highly influenced the decision to choose nursing to be their career or any other career. These pre-ideas are conceived through the media and society. It is important to ascertain how students perceive nursing and The society and play a major role in influencing the image and ideas the student has of nursing career.²⁴

Another perception about nursing is that it is regarded as a career more suitable for females than male and this was found out from a research made in the University of Ontario Canada²⁵ The research was made from female and male nurses and non-nursing university students. It was found out that it is generally perceived by the society and stereotypes that male nurses are for example, gay, effeminate, less compassionate and caring than female nurses and it contributes negatively to the recruitment and retention of the nursing students in the program and adds to the shortage of nurses.. Due to the fact that the career in nursing has been associated with feminine characteristics, it is frequently perceived as a woman's job .

Nursing was considered to be a female profession. Females has natural instinct of caring as well as in a patriotic society responsibilities which are unwritten but given by the society. Males are head and important in a family for earning and females for caring and secondary household work. Devotion, dedication and patience are more with females which is less found in males. However it is the experience of the researcher is that females are more sincere in their work than males though it is necessary to prove by the research. However studies found that patients also prefer a „female nurse.“

Vanhanen and Janhonen^{26s} say that majority of nursing students perceive nursing as a career which offers opportunities in caring for people and the students also emphasized on employment opportunities while nursing promotes their own personal growth. However, Mendez and Louis²⁷ say that

“nursing student”s do not always regards nursing as an ideal career. Therefore the students choose nursing or other reasons, like recruitment opportunities”

Opportunities of jobs in many sectors like public or private are plenty. None nurse is unemployed unless she does not wish to work.If Government job they are satisfied compared to private sector.They need to work in odd hours,lot of physical and mental strain may lead to perceive the nursing profession is not ideal.

A research done of highly academic students in the United Kingdom revealed a different perception of how some people perceive nursing. These students wouldn’t consider taking a nursing career because of the perception that doctors cure patients whilst nurses only care for patients. The students also believed that nursing shouldn’t be a university programme because they didn’t believe that nursing required a university education. In short the students believed that nursing wasn’t for high achievers but for low achievers and dim students, therefore, this hindered the students from choosing nursing as their career and therefore chose to undertake other courses which were believed to be in line with their grades and nursing was viewed as the last resort career choice.²⁸.

It is the experience of the researcher that when patients are admitted in the wards, the relatives and patient will give lot of respect to the nurses. Nurses give service for 24 hours and doctors will take round and see a patient, hardly for 10 minutes. But when patient is discharged, they will praise doctors like anything and forget the services given by nurses. After going out they may give adverse comments. Of course, nurses also do not expect their appreciation as this the routine for them.

1.6. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN NURSING

Many perusing students are uncertain about what career opportunities nursing will offer them and some have misconceptions about what a nurse actually does. Some students have just never considered nursing. Neither they have spent enough time with a nursing professional or volunteered in a healthcare setting to acquire a background on which to establish perceptions about nursing, and thus have limited their opportunities for more informed career decision-making skills.

Literature suggests that students career perceptions are highly individual, and are the product of contracted images of jobs they see for themselves, derived images from media, and delegated images from parents and friends.

It was already discussed that parents and school leavers had no knowledge or poor knowledge about the scope of nursing profession, which is proved by the research. Even many students or educated people and surprisingly many private doctors working in OPD base do not know about the diploma, degree, P.G. and doctorate in nursing. Neither knew about duration of the course or university degree course, their visual perception is just an auxiliary to the physician, obeying orders from the doctors as media, T.V. perceives such images. If these basics are not known how can we expect about career opportunities.?

Nursing is a noble career. It's a career that allows you to help save people's lives, bring cheer, and comfort to those in need. The nursing career is very gratifying and rewarding in terms of the joys it brings. People with strong values, respect for human life, compassion for suffering and empathy will be attracted to the nursing career

Nurse is present at the time of birth, she experiences joyful, smiling faces and she witnesses death of a patient, Both the time she respects an individual. Life and death are observed by her. In between this she strives for comfort of the patient though her own child may not be comfortable at her home. Therefore it is a noble profession.

There is a large demand for nurses nationwide, many job opportunities, various nursing career choices, good benefits, many choices both in terms of specialty areas and opportunity for advancement. Nurses are as important and as responsible in the hospital, as doctors and other staff members. Since there has been an increased consciousness about health in India, the status of health care industries has improved and with this career in nursing is growing. Specialized nurses are in high demand, by health organizations. There are many organizations, hospitals, clinics, industries and schools where nurses are needed.

Till human lives are existed, there would be a need of nurses. Never ending it is." Population of India has crossed Arabs, increase in Health care delivery system, would need more hospitals, rural centers and sub centers as well as many medical college hospitals and super specialty hospitals. As per population ratio of nurse-patient all types of nurses are needed. There are lot of opportunities for recruitment as well as promotion avenues.

A career in nursing is the most preferred one these days, exciting career option for both men and women in the medical field. This field has a lot of career options offer a large area of branches and services. With the discovery of new diseases and the awareness about health, their status is growing globally. Newer technologies brightening up the medical field, health care careers are booming.

A growing demand in nursing has placed this profession in a very marketable position. Students can enroll into a nursing course and be qualified as a registered nurse; then can consider going further in a career with a Masters degree. To climb up the ladder of success in your nursing career, carry on with a post-masters certification as a Registered Nurse. (RN).These are demanding nursing courses, just as the profession itself. With the increasing figures of declining health providers worldwide, the nurse can be kept quite fully occupied at work. Nurses can enjoy diverse job opportunities with job security alongwith that their personal and professional growth opportunities..

Non clinical nursing jobs involve careers without the practical side of bedside nursing in a more hectic environment such as a hospital or major health unit. Many entering the non clinical area of nursing begin to teach, manage, consult, do health type financing, assist in processing improvements and/or enter into the information technology side of health care. Other non clinical options include nursing informatics, science teaching, nursing training, medical certificating, and medical writing, doing advocacy for patients, giving legal nursing advice, working for insurance health companies or becoming an independent nursing expert. Many Pharmacology companies are appointing nurse-researcher who is inventors for preparing comfort and therapeutic appliances and equipments.

One more field is coming up as „Alternative and Complementary therapies .Other health systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Body mind therapies, Energy based therapies are utilized by the 38% of the population in the world (WHOreport-2015) due to change in life styles, which is full of stress and strain due to advance technologies and also side effects of Allopathies.These specialize avenues will be open for nursing career also.

Better avenues are open for experienced nurses in administration like Nursing Superintendent, Director of Nursing, State Nursing Superintendent and Nursing Advisor to the Govt. of India, the highest administrative position on a national level.

Those interested to work in community, or in industry either in governmental, private or with NGO's can work. to their full extent and have better job satisfaction

.Positions in nursing education are.-- Sister Tutor / clinical instructor, tutor, senior tutor, lecturer, and associate professor, Reader in nursing and Professor in nursing so also principal and dean of colleges, plus they may be elected on various honorary posts in universities and in various associations. Nursing service abroad -attractive salaries and promising professional opportunities, which causes a major increase for nursing service in abroad.

1.7. INFLUENCING FACTORS TO CHOOSE NURSING PROFESSION.

The reasons students choose to study nursing are firstly, the education and career aspirations which include the student's belief that nursing is their choice of career and that there is advancement in the nursing career or nursing education

The second reason is the personal ability, self-confidence, interest, motivation, and perseverance s. or experience of the parents. Parental and peer encouragement which includes their perceptions and support.

Third reason is the socio- economic status which includes job security, images, the expectations of employment. This boils down to job security, knowing that after studying it is easy to acquire a job and that as a healthcare professional, one cannot go without a job.²⁹

Vanhanen and Janhonen³⁰ refer to prior research results by Vanhanen et al. where nursing students' orientation to the profession is defined in terms of orientation to caring, students' own experiences and nursing expertise. These orientations differ with regard to the student's pre-educational experiences of nursing and caring, the meaning of nursing as work to them, and the students' expectations of nursing education and a future career in nursing. A study done in Honkong³² indicated that the students decision to choose or not to choose nursing was significantly influenced by factors like Gender, biology subject pursued, previous academic achievement and mother's occupation and the students' perception. The parents, the school teachers, friends, past experiences with career activities and working in hospital were some of the influences that made the students have the intent to study nursing. In addition, personal contact with the healthcare with someone in the healthcare system would influence the decision to choose nursing career. If one experiences a death of intimate person in hospital, if this phenomena is

observed by her closely that situation also would influence one in choosing nursing as a career, with the intention of helping the others with similar conditions.

Knowledge about the career can be the main factor to influence one's decision to study nursing and this could come through family members and exposure to work experience.

Society's impression of nursing as a career. Family, friends and society play important roles in influencing the choice of nursing career and the recruitment of nursing students into the profession.

The media played a major role in the career choice of students in the United Kingdom, to the high academic achieving students whose main source regarding nursing appeared to be through television programmes and were reliant in the small amount of television programmes for their image of nursing and nurses and nurse educators.

Even working hours and facilities, salary and safety of the profession also influence the choice of nursing career. For example, after getting degree, if a person is getting job as a teacher, she need not have night shift, naturally this factor will influence for choice of this career whereas a staff nurse in Govt.hospital though she has done graduation or even post graduation, but duty hours in hospital is hardly 3-4 days in a week and hardly there is any difference in salary, then she opt to be a staff nurse only because she is able to get plenty of time for her family. Such apparently minor things also influence the choice of a career in nursing profession.

1.8. CURRENT NURSING SHORTAGE

The shortage of nurses is not a recent phenomenon, nor one restricted to a specific geographical location. Although there have been nursing shortages in the past, the current shortage is different Locke, J. (1959).³³ An Essay Concerning Human Understanding. Dover Publications, June 1959. It is driven by the demand for growing healthcare needs and the aging of the "baby boomer" nursing work force According to the World Health Organisation³⁴ It is estimated that 10.43 lakh nurses would be required by 2012 in the country. Taking into account 3.72 lakh nurses available and 3.13

lakh nurse likely to be trained with the existing capacity, there would be shortfall of 3.50 lakh nurses. India will need 2.4 million nurses by 2012 to achieve the government's aim of a nurse-patient ratio of one nurse per 500 populations. On the eve of International Nursing Day on Tuesday, WHO said, "In most countries, there is a shortage of nurses but nowhere is it so acute as in the developing world. The developed world fills its vacancies by enticing nurses from other countries, while developing countries are unable to compete with better pay and better professional development." In India, nurse shortages occur at every level of the healthcare system. "The states with the worst healthcare human resource shortages are also the ones with the worst health indicators and highest infant and child mortality," Nidhi Chaudhary from the WHO' New Delhi office said. One thing the public does know about nurses is that inadequate nurse staffing in hospitals may be jeopardizing the quality of patient care. According to the Nursing Council of India, there are around 10.35 lakh nurses registered with them, but only 40% are in active service. This is what the government could classify as a „health crisis..According to the Union health ministry, India is currently facing a shortage of over 60% nurses. In fact, in few public hospitals in the city, the nurse-patient ratio is about 1:60 in the evening and night shifts. "The nurse-patient ratio is extremely strained and possibly the worst when compared to other developed countries," said Thresiamma Sugathan,³⁵ president, Trained Nurse Association of India, Mumbai branch homes appointing under qualified and untrained nurses.

Indian Nursing council, New Delhi is an apex regulatory body to maintain the quality of education, Uniformity all over India and quality standardized practice for patient/client care either in hospital or community settings To maintain these standards“ Indian Nursing council, h as prepared norms regarding student-teacher ratio, Nurse-patient ratio etc. for all the nursing cadres which is verified at the time of inspection in school/college setting as well as in clinical area. As we already discussed, population is increasing, new hospitals, school/colleges are started but as per economical theory, there is big gap in production –demand and supply, which is leading to shortage of nurses in all cadres. Those nurses working in job are getting

retired ,some of them died and some do not opt a job or even some are changing the job. This leads to shortage of nurses.

1.8.1. PROFESSIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL REASONS LEADING TO THE NURSING SHORTAGE

There are different reasons for shortage of nurses.Data demonstrate that most health systems across the globe face nursing shortages, varying across regions and rural-urban distribution. Although nursing services are an integral part of both preventive and curative aspects of India's health system, the nursing estimates of the country shows that India has been facing shortage of nurses since independence. Studies show that professional, social and economic reasons are considered to be behind the nursing shortage in India

It was already discussed about economical theory of demand-production and supply leading to deficiency of nurses. Whatever the production we had ,but we are not able to retain them in the profession for various reasons.

Health care cutbacks and inadequate funding for quality patient care. As a result, nurses have become frustrated with these restrictions placed on their ability to provide quality patient care, therefore they are finding it more difficult to encourage students to enter the nursing profession,³⁶ and many have left the profession or retired.

The nursing profession in India lacks high professional status, has low and unattractive salaries, gets inadequate recognition from the community for the services provided by them and has little incentives for quality performance³⁷

The institutions responsible for nursing training lack the required physical and human resources. Most of these training institutes work as appendages to hospitals. Many institutions do not have their own building, No pre clinical labs for demonstrations, No clinical area for hospital and rural training, No qualified teachers as per ratio even no principal, no equipments, A.V.Aids or teaching facilities and on a day of inspection, authorities of the

institutions try to borrow from somebody and all unethical practices are adopted..Now INC has prepared many affidavits“, scanning of the teachers and penalty, if no own building and various other measures are taken. Even students documents are collected and physical presence of the students are not found. However many rules and measures are taken by the regulatory bodies to control these malpratces.Such malpractices are again leading to shortage of nurses.

The rural job preference amongst nurses is shaped by factors such as living conditions, Lack of basic amenities in rural areas, shortage of accommodation, low professional and educational opportunities, poor working conditions, no gazette status for nurses, lack of equipment and supplies in work places, low salary, staffing norms, extra workload, time spent on non-nursing duties, chances of sexual harassment at the workplace, personal and professional growth opportunities, intellectual stimulation, transportation, availability of jobs for the spouse and educational facilities for their children

The nursing profession is given low social status because of the prevalent religious and societal traditions. Security, safety, incentives for promotion, nursing work involves rendering services on a personal level to the patient ,for example to complete the target of tubectomy patient , nurse accompany patiend in health centers and make all the expenses. Poor supply of universal precaution appliances therefore there are chances of being exposed to communicable diseases through the exposure to body fluids. The work undertaken by nurses still has social stigma attached to it. This can be cited as one of the main reasons behind the low perception held by the Indian society towards the nursing profession. The nurses are considered to be secondary in position as compared to other health professionals in India. There is a vast difference in the prestige and recognition accorded to doctors as compared to nurses, the nursing profession continues to be neglected in India. Some of the causes behind this neglect are more emphasis on medical education, political influence by the medical community and less allocation of financial resources on health by the Indian government³⁸. The professional and financial incentives to The scarcity of nurses in the country is leading the private health sector to fill its demand by employing untrained nurses or

undertaking nurse poaching from other health institutions. Only 40 per cent of the total nursing workforce in the country is said to be active because of low recruitment, migration, attrition and drop-outs due to poor working conditions. The public health institutions are facing the dual challenge of dealing with the existing shortage of nurses and the loss of trained nursing personnel to private health organizations and other countries.

International migration of nurses from India

Similar reasons induce Indian nurses to look for migration opportunities in other countries. Most nurses want to go abroad as the salaries are attractive and the working conditions are better.” India has been discovered as a new source country for recruiting well trained, English speaking nurses by the high-income countries to overcome shortage of nurses faced by them. The migration of nurses from India can be traced from the decade of 1970’s⁴⁰. Most of the private hospitals in India offer an initial pay of Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 per month, whereas an Indian nurse can earn as much as Rs. 40,000 per month as a starting salary after migrating to the Gulf countries. A nurse, who goes abroad, mainly saves for three purposes, i.e. for sending remittances back home, for dowry and for future savings. It is difficult for a nurse to have sufficient savings from her earnings in India. Thus, she realistically chooses a suitable option, i.e., migrating to other countries earlier, a few Indian nurses used to migrate because earning prospects were high. This helped them to send remittances back home, which were used for various purposes, e.g. building a new house, financing children’s education and for a small business that the husband might start. But, in the post-1980’s there was a shift to mass migration of nurses from India, most of them belonging to the state of Kerala. The recruitment of nurses from India is mainly targeted from a few geographical locations. There are three recruitment hubs in the country, i.e. Kochi, Bangalore and Delhi. These centers facilitate migration of nurses to other countries like the US, the UK, Ireland, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and the Gulf nations. The majority of the nursing workforce in the country is represented by Karalite Christians, who comprise a large section of the nurses migrating from India. Nursing is taken up by women as part of their family strategy in which their education and migration constitute a vital part of

the entire process. The majority of nurses in India come from lower-middle class families. Most of the women take up nursing profession because they have plans to work abroad. A nurse working abroad has better marriage prospects as she might be seen as a ticket for the groom to move abroad and to get employment there. The preferences held by groom's family for choosing the prospective bride among nurses in descending order are the nurses with a citizenship of the developed countries, nurses who are working abroad with a work permit, one who has some relatives in India, they try to absorb them in abroad.

It is the experience of the researcher that turn over from corporate hospitals at Mumbai and Pune and mission hospitals at Miraj is very fast. Many students from above area and Karnataka, Kerala people come to nursing with intention to work in abroad after completion of nursing course.

Many bright students are looking for advanced degrees, and are often confused regarding academic tracks for nursing. These students are often discouraged by the lack of the profession is said to have long suffered from public stereotyping and from being closely associated with femininity and powerlessness. The time has never been better for nurses to reach out to the public to change certain perceptions about nursing. Various people have different understandings of the nursing profession based on prior events in their lives since perceptions are subjective. Nursing faces competition from many other career paths, which has made it more difficult to recruit students into nursing. Students are looking for "high status" careers, and because students' perceptions of nursing are limited to visible images instead of informed career decisions, many view nursing as bedside care and taking orders from physicians..

The number of students applying to degree nursing programs across the nation is decreasing. It is observed in Western Maharashtra that private Colleges of nursing who are offering degree courses in nursing, nearly 40% seats are remaining vacant as per report of vacant seats in MUHS 2013. It is observed that in Maharashtra, Govt. university is compelling for common Entrance Test and deemed university conduct own CET but if students have failed to appear this exam, they are not eligible for admissions and most of the

students are not aware of it, due to which seats are remaining vacant in colleges

1.9. MOTIVATION OF PRE-NURSING STUDENTS

There are many problems, hurdles for nursing profession to retain the nurses and to motivate the 10+2 science students towards nursing profession.

Students are looking for “high status” careers, students last option may be nursing as they look for many other career paths, and because students’ perceptions of nursing are limited to sensory and visual images, pre-conceived ideas, pre jaundiced views, No or limited knowledge about the scope and, different programmes, its duration or eligibility, whether through informing them motivation of these students about scope, career opportunities and importance of nursing in human life, could it be possible to motivate these students for admission to nursing.

Dacey Smith, an expert in the field says, “Nursing is the only profession I know that allows one to impact the lives of others from birth to the grave⁴¹ It is often referred to as the “heart and soul” of health care⁴²

Studies prompted by Congressional involvement showed a strong and consistent relationship between nurse staffing and important patient outcomes in acute care hospitals inpatient units The results of these studies indicated that patients cared for by a higher registered nurse share of total staffing had a reduction in secondary infections and length of stay in hospital. Also, careful monitoring of in-home technology by nurses showed improved clinical outcome^{4.7} Economic factors integrated into healthcare and hospitals since the 1990s, show the importance of excellent healthcare provided to patients by professional RNs⁴⁸ Many aspects of adult jobs such as nursing are invisible to young people, thus making it difficult for them to select nursing as a career choice. Many bright students are looking for advanced degrees, and are often confused regarding academic tracks for nursing. These students are often discouraged by the lack of standardization in nursing education, and choose alternative curricula in medicine instead of nursing. Students also need to be aware of advanced degrees in nursing and courses like Nurse practitioner where they can work independently Understanding students’ perceptions of

nursing can be helpful in formulating curricula to empower students with excellent career making skills which will determine the future of nursing...

Students need to understand themselves in order to explore and plan a career,. Students will need to be well informed about the nursing profession in order to make a more informed career decision. All students need to be aware of the educational track they need in order to reach individual career goals in nursing. which may lead to enhance recruitment into nursing, lower the attrition rate of nursing students, and influence retention of nursing graduates in the present health system environment. Students could be offered the educational environment of a healthcare career orientation course, Introduction to Nursing, which should enable them to make a more informed career decision about nursing. A curriculum inclusive of the “high status” academics required for baccalaureate nursing, which includes interactive group learning and “shadowing” of nursing professionals, could provide improved career decision-making skills for prenursing students. Undecided students interested in finding out more about a career in professional nursing can also utilize the calass to enhance a career decision influence a pre nursing student’s image of nursing, career making skills, or factors that negatively affect students’ images of nursing. Sound images of nursing and more informed dimensional career opportunities in nursing could provide students significant skills for more informed career decisions. Developing improved career-making skills allows pre nursing opportunities to explore career/job satisfaction in nursing

1.10 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Nursing Colleges have to recruit and retain qualified applicants in order to confront the current challenge to nursing resources. In order to reduce the current nursing shortage and insure the delivery of quality healthcare, Although academic excellence should be recognized and is important, recognition is needed of the student who demonstrates potential and who can bring much contribution to nursing education and the health care system in the form of critical thinking, creativity, responsibility and accountability.

It is important to know the perceptions of B.ScNursing students because they offer strategic clues towards successful recruitment of the next generation of nurses. To attract more individuals to the profession, a positive image of nursing needs to be engendered by nurse educators and the general community. Attitudes, beliefs, and values are highly subjective areas, usually based upon perception and not fact. Perceptions held by the public about the nursing profession greatly influence the personal and public image of nursing. The perception of nurses being not as professional as the other professions should be highly fought by all members of the profession with the aim of establishing professional uniqueness. The role of gender in the choice of a career is an extremely important concept, because men constitute nearly half of the potential recruitment pool. Noticing a male nurse being ridiculed would deter boys to think of a nursing career“

1.10. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Perception

As per oxford dictionary the word perception” is defined as the “ability to perceive and the result of perceiving, is to realize or become aware of something through the senses, an impression accompanied by an understanding of what it is. It is the receipt of the sensory stimuli by a person regarding objects, situation, person (s) or profession, interpretation of. The perceived stimuli add to a person“s knowledge, whereby their views are turned into attitudes

Perception is the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted Therefore nursing as a „concept“ is more than just a definition”⁴⁵
In this study perception is student“s personal ideas ,views , beliefs and concepts that they have about the nursing profession.

Perception of nursing profession

In this study, the researcher has categorized perception towards nursing profession in three subareas as:

„Care “aspect-It includes nurses role in health care system and necessary knowledge and technical skills required to accomplish her job/role as a professional.

Nursing as a profession: It includes criterion of the profession as well as qualities as a nurse.

Social and economical benefits: It includes social views, social status , job- and advancement opportunities, career avenues and economical benefits.

Level of perception: After statistical analysis of the scores in all the above three subareas ,level of perception towards nursing profession will be categorized as **good, average and poor according to mean level.**

B.sc. nursing students: After passing 12th science, with Physics, Chemistry, Biology subjects, those students who had taken admission to university degree course of four years and studying in first, second, third and fourth year in recognized institution.

Western Maharashtra

In this study, private unaided colleges from Kolhapur two colleges- D.Y.Patil College of Nursing,(Deemed University), Savitribai Phule Nursing College (MUHS) ,from Sangli district-Wanless College of Nursing,Miraj (MUHS),Bharati Colleege of Nursing (Deemed University), Satara district-Krishna Institute of Nursing Sciences,Karad, (Deemed University),and Pune district-Tilak Maharashtra College of Nursing (Deemed University).

Weaker section

In this study, Students belonged to low percentage of marks- -below 50% marks in 12th PCBE group, Low socio-economical group as Father"s/guardian ,,s income is below Rs.2 lakh per annum and belonged to scheduled. caste.

Critical thinking

As per dictionary.com's ⁴⁶ it is the mental process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information to reach an answer or disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence.

In the study conducted by Safadi, R ⁴⁷ and others concept is applied as per a statement by Michael Scriven and Richard Paul, “Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness”

Influencing Factors

Those are power of persons on things to be a compelling for or producing effects on the actions, behavior, opinions etc. of others.

In this study, reasons or the influencing factors which forced or provoked the students to choose and enroll in B.Sc.nursing

1.11. DELIMITATIONS

This study was belonged to the students studying in B.Sc.Nursing of four years at Western Maharashtra Nursing Colleges, in D.Y.Patil College of Nursing, Kolhapur, Savitribai Phule College of Nursing ,Kolhapur, Wanless College of Nursing, Miraj, Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Nursing, Sangli and Krishna Institute of Nursing Sciences ,Karad, District Satara,Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth College of Nursing,Pune, studying in the academic year 2008–2009 were eligible only. The findings may be influence by social and cultural issues. However results may be applicable to Maharashtra where enrollment to the B.Sc.Nursing prograame is problematic.

1.12. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

A conceptual framework is a group of concepts and set of prepositions that spell out the relationship between them. The conceptual framework plays several interrelated roles in the progress of science and overall purpose is to make findings meaningful and application for generalization. This facilitates communication and provides systematic approach for research, education, administration and to practice.

The conceptual framework used in the present research study is based on Resenstock's and Becker's Health Belief Model⁴⁸. This theory consists of interacting components like individual perception, Modifying factors cues to action and Likelihood actions. In this study :

Individual perception

Individual perception is the data obtained through senses and memory are organized, interpreted and transformed and are related to socio-demographical variables such as age, gender, religion , socio economical status, academic achievement, situational variables such as parental or social influence, prior experience regarding profession, desire to help others/values

Modifying Factors

Modifying Factors that influence perception relate to the perceiver , perceived and situation. All these factors are of two kinds:

- Internal environmental (endogenous) factors.
- External environmental (exogenous) factors.

Internal environmental factors:

These factors reside in person It includes perceiver's attitude, motives, interest, expectations, experience, personal attributes and knowledge regarding profession.

External environmental factors:

These factors include availability of opportunities, Job guarantee, job security, Personal fulfillment & Advancement, which are influencing to modify the perception.

Cues to action

Those are also modifying factors like guidance by others and, nursing educators, experience of family members or relatives, peer group and social pressure which are influencing to modify the perception.

Likelihood action

Due to above all factors individual perceives benefits and changes his/her perception regarding the nursing profession resulting into enrollment to B.Sc.nursing course.

In the light of all these factors, the researcher has tried here to study the influence of these factors on perception and enrollment to B.Sc.Nursing in selected colleges of Western Maharashtra.

1.13 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in this study is based on theory stated by Pierre Bourdieu, (1986) a French Sociologist influenced by Karl Marx's concept of economic: capital., Pierre Bourdieu,⁴⁹ distinguishes between three forms of capital, cultural capital and social capital. The underlying concept is that how personal or group perception is determined by culture through socialization. It is generated through family, friends, peer groups, neighbors and teachers or by social groups.

He defines social capital as "the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition."⁵⁰

Bourdieu employs the concept to demonstrate a mechanism for the generational reproduction of inequality. He thus points out that the wealthy and powerful use their "old boys" network" or other social capital to maintain advantages for themselves, their social class, and their children.

Social capital is the expected collective or economic benefits derived from the preferential treatment and cooperation between individuals and groups. The term social capital was in intermittent use from about 1890, but only became widely used in the late 1990. The debate of community versus modernization of society and individualism has been the most discussed

topic among the fathers of sociology Tönnies, 1887, Durkheim, 1893; Simmel, 1905; and Weber, 1946.⁵⁰ They were convinced that industrialization and urbanization were transforming social relationship in an irreversible way. They observed a breakdown of traditional bonds and the progressive development of anomie and alienation in society (Wilmott, :1986)

This theory was criticized as social capital, a new name from an old idea. Social Capital theory gained importance through the integration of classical sociological theory with the description of an intangible form of capital. In this way the classical definition of capital has been overcome allowing researchers to tackle issues in a new manner (Ferragina, 2010:73) Social capital can only be generated collectively or the presence of communities and social networks, but individuals and groups can use it at the same time. Individuals can exploit social capital of their networks to achieve private objectives and groups can use it to enforce a certain set of norms or behaviors. In this sense, social capital is generated collectively but it can also be used individually, bridging the dichotomized approach 'communitarianism' versus 'individualism' (Ferragina, 2010:75)⁵¹

Aldrich, Associate Professor at Purdue University, describes three mechanisms of social capital. Aldrich defines the three differences as bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. Bonding capital are the relationships a person has with friends and family, making it also the strongest form of social capital. Bridging capital is the relationship between friends of friends, making its strength secondary to bonding capital. Linking capital is the relationship between a person and a government official or other elected leader.

According to Bourdieu, habitus refers to the social context within which a social actor is socialized. Thus, it is the social platform, itself, that equips one with the social reality they become accustomed to. Out of habitus comes field, the manner in which one integrates and displays his or her habitus. To this end, it is the social exchange and interaction between two or more social actors. To illustrate this, we assume that an individual wishes to better his

place in society. He therefore accumulates social capital by involving himself in a social network, adhering to the norms of that group, allowing him to later access the resources (e.g. social relationships) gained over time. If, in the case of education, he uses these resources to better his educational outcomes, thereby enabling him to become socially mobile, he effectively has worked to reiterate and reproduce the stratification of society, as social capital has done little to alleviate the system as a whole. This may be one negative aspect of social capital, but seems to be an inevitable one in and of it, as are all forms of capital.

1.14. Summary

Nursing was noted to be as old as time. It basically started from: instinct-human nature of nurturing, caring. The paternal and maternal instinct in a human being is the main source of the nursing impulse and is found in the hearts of people of all ages. A mother's care for her sick child always found expression in such acts to alleviate pain and help the child to get better. Nursing is an oldest art but before civilization, it was provided by those who were widow, divorced, poor women and other criminals as a punishment. Therefore there was no social status, neither was it a reputed work nor it was a source to earn, even there was no scientific formal training. People had very poor perception towards nursing. In 18th century, Florence Nightingale,(1820-1910) a unmarried ,beautiful and highly educated Christian lady from very rich family at Italy, who had a great desire to serve sick and needy people, responded with 38 nurses to the calling of British Government to serve wounded soldiers at Crimean war.Due to poor environment like uncleanliness,poor food and water supply, poor nursing care death rate among soldiers were 100 percent. Her efforts and nursing care brought this death rate to zero within six months.British Government and public realized importance of nursing and she was awarded order of merit“ The lady with the lamp“as she used to on night rounds with a lamp in her hand .She started formal nursing school at st Thomas Hospital,London and she was known as pioneer of modern nursing,12 th May,her birth day is celebrates as „International day,“Her efforts brought this profession in light and perception

of public towards nursing was improving. After establishment of trained nurses association of India and Indian nursing Council and many schools and colleges had helped to strengthen the positive perception towards nursing. However yet seats in nursing schools, Colleges are remaining vacant though India is facing problem of shortage of nurses. Yet this profession is not perceived to that extent as other professions. There are influencing factors like famine profession, no autonomy but doctors dominance, no respect or social status, less salary and rigid duty hours, only low academic achievers enter the nursing. At present maternal and infant mortality rates which are health indicators of the nation relies on nurses work. Nurses are the major part of health care system. In India there are facilities for diploma and degree courses and it is the need of hour that more students should be attracted to the nursing profession. It provides good career as well as opportunities for personal advancement. Nursing is expanded to preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspect. This profession is essential till mankind exists. There are job opportunities in regional, national as well as international nurses. Many nurses are migrating to abroad for high salaries, best facilities and high rank posts in hospital, in administration and in education. It fulfills desire to help sick, gives job satisfaction. Considering all these views the researcher felt the need to explore perception of B.Sc. Nursing students who are enrolled in selected colleges of Western Maharashtra.

Individual Perception

Modifying Factors

Likelihood Action

Internal Environmental Factors-
Perceiver's Interest
Motives
Personal Attributes
Expectations
Experiences
Desire to help sick/ others

External Environmental Factors -
Availability Of jobs
Job Guarantee
Job Security
socio-economic benefits
Personal Advancement
Personal Fulfillment

**Perceived
Benefits
And
Improved
perception
Of an individual**

**Socio Demographical
Factors**

Age
Gender
Religion
Economical Status

**Knowledge & Attitude Regarding
Nursing Profession**

**Perceivers Threat/ Barriers-
Female Profession, Low social Status**

**Cues to Action
Parents Guidance, Social & peer Pressure**

**Enrollment to
B.Sc. Nursing**

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK BASED ON RESENSTOCK'S AND BECKER'S HEALTH BELIEF

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CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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2.1	Introduction
2.2	International studies
2.3	Studies regarding influencing factors in choice of nursing
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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter includes search for relevant literature to the present topic: - perception of Nursing Students towards Nursing Profession., It contains information of the research topic, Conceptual framework and research methodological issues pertaining to the study. A review of literature helped the investigator, to construct the tool, assisted to bring the problem into focus and to formulate appropriate research process. Review of literature is collected and divided under the following headings..

- Studies on perception towards nursing profession.
- Studies on influencing factors to enroll in nursing profession.

As we have already discussed definition of perception in chapter one. It is ¹ one's awareness and understanding of sensory information attained through interplay between past experiences, one's own culture and the interpretation of the perceived.

The word "perception" is defined as the "ability to perceive and the perceived is to realized or become aware of something through the senses, an impression accompanied by an understanding of what it is"²

Perception is the receipt of the sensory stimuli by a person regarding objects, situation, person (s) or profession, interpretation of these received stimuli add to a person's knowledge, whereby their views are turned into attitudes.³ 6 A. S. Hornbey, 2000, postulated that" perception is conceived through a linear dynamics relationship between „description“ (in the brain), the senses and the surrounding. It is bidirectional interplay that holds true to the linear concept of experience “. Perception by itself is merely defied as an idea, belief, or an image

you have as a result of how you see or understand something.⁴ Perception is the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted Therefore nursing as a „concept“ is more than just a definition .It is part of a framework of communication, language of a group and this reflects who nurses are and this definition carries a person“s perception .More importantly, perception of nursing may vary depending on age, educational level, social and professional experience and occupational and social factors⁵

Based on the reviewed literature the researcher of the current study would assume that perception of one“s professional identity changes over the course of the 4 years of the nursing programme.⁶ Changes have taken place in the last two decades in the way health care is being delivered and managed; these changes consist of a different way of practice and perception of the profession. Being a nurse is not only about taking care of patients, but it also requires knowledge of technology, more paper work and more stringent standards of care. Another way nursing has been changing over the years is the gradual increase in men entering the profession and, thus, introducing a new nuance to the meanings embedded in the profession. Bearing on these imminent transformations, nurses and nursing educators are compelled to assist students in their development of caring, nurturing and critical thinking, and to acquire the latest introduction of technological advances into the healthcare system. It is important to ascertain how students perceive nursing and the decision to choose nursing to be their career or any other career is highly influenced by one“s previous ideas about the career. Studies investigating students“ perception of nursing at the beginning of the nursing programme showed that the students had idealistic views of the profession with concepts of caring, compassion and nurturing but after the exposure to clinical experiences it shifted towards it being more of technical, documentation and procedural skills⁷

In studies of nursing students“ perception of nursing, researchers examined perception of students at different points in a programme. Studies included exploration of student nurses“ beliefs and conceptions at entry to nursing programmes, shortly after clinical practice and before graduation.⁸ Moreover,

prospective longitudinal studies were conducted to define and to understand changes occurring over time

2.2. International Studies

The foregoing studies revealed that most male and female students' primary interest in nursing was not linked to cognitive understanding of nursing, but on emotional desires, such as helping people and the desire to nurture. In the three studies cited in examining student's interests in nursing, at least two of the studies showed significant interest in each of the remaining areas. Students' knowledge base of educational programs for nursing, nursing licensure, professional opportunities, or professional responsibilities were not indicated. Why are students overlooking careers in nursing? ⁹ Sought to develop an understanding of how students perceive nursing as a career at various stages in their education, and how these perceptions affect students' interests in nursing. The study indicates that decisions about jobs are being made at an early age and that by late elementary school students have often rejected jobs on the basis of perceptions. Thus, it is important to provide career information and experience for well-defined perceptions about nursing that can be developed for greater career decision-making skills.

A study was conducted in 1998, by Huffstutle,¹⁰ on effects of nursing education on the image of nursing as a profession in Israel. The samples consist of 200 first year nursing students and 200 more advanced students. The result revealed that most of the students felt that nursing profession needs to undergo an image change, while first year students perceived nurses as more angelic than more advanced students, and there was positive correlation found between satisfaction with nurses in the field and image of nursing. Thus the study concluded that there is a need to reinforce a positive image of nursing as a career, nurse educators should alter negative stereotypes about the profession. The image of both nurses and nursing has been the focus of a number of research projects globally.

This study brings out facts that new comers are very delicate, They come with raw mind and very positive perception toward nursing progession. They had super

idea-belief that nurses are angels. Now it is the responsibility of the nursing teachers and sisters in the clinical area to foster their concept as „angels“ Perception of this study is related to the researcher“ study.

A study was conducted in August 2002 by Essie Dec Scott Cockrell¹¹ regarding perceptions of the nursing profession among 207 pre nursing students at Louisiana state university health science centre school of nursing United States. The results revealed that 193 (93.2%) of students desired to help others, 27 (13%) were desired based on religious influences and 11 (5.3%) of the students were career change after completing another degree, in addition 16 (7.7%) respondents had some other reasons choosing nursing as a career. Thus the study concluded that the pre nursing students had the need for career information. They were highly motivated but were unclear regarding their perceptions of the nursing profession.

This study has helped the researcher to prepare tool with likert scale which is known as cockrell five point likert scale. Most of the high school students who were eligible to enter the nursing profession had good perception and had desire to help others, However knowledge about nursing profession was limited, still group was motivated

A study was conducted in 2004 by Al-Omar BA.¹² in Riyadh city, Saudi Arabia. to determine the knowledge, attitudes, and intention among the Saudi high school students towards the nursing profession. In addition, the study aimed to identify students' perception of causes preventing them to become nurses. It also aimed to determine the factors influencing the Saudi high school students' choice of nursing; the more likely the student would be attracted to the nursing profession. Accordingly, it could be concluded that Saudi health decision-makers need to increase the positive attitude on the nature and encouraging characteristics of modern nursing and its increasing respect as a skillful career for high school students. Reconsideration of salaries and benefits were recommended in order to attract more students to the nursing profession.

This study was little different.. The researcher had tried to find out the Saudi students knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession. This is a rich country and many Indian and Philippine nurses work in the said country. They had very less human resource in nursing of their own country. Attitude towards nursing profession may be due to high socio economical status of their own and compared to that less salary is paid to nurses, which is not cleared in this study.

A study done in 2005 at Rio de Janeiro by Spindola, Seibert, Francisco and Clos¹³ of 62 high school students indicated that the students associate the nurse (2005), of 62 high school students indicated that the students associate the nurse figure to the assisting function and they visualize nurses as an auxiliary of the physician and that they were not aware of the different categories of the nursing profession and the education level of the profession. Therefore it is essential to give information to the youngsters before entering college for them to know what nursing is all about so that they choose the profession knowing what it entails therefore reducing the rate of dropouts and therefore retaining them in the profession.

This study reveals that no knowledge or limited knowledge about the different cadres of the nursing and second issue is low status in society and secondary level of work was prohibiting hem to enter in this profession.

A study of 1000 American nursing students reported that students believed nursing to be physically challenging and that there is inadequate respect and recognition of nursing. Other studies reported that nursing students recognize nursing as a caring profession and as an opportunity to help people gain a better health..¹⁵ Nursing students also viewed nursing as a noble and well-regarded career path and one which requires strength, patience and compass¹⁴.people gain a better health..¹⁵ Nursing students also viewed nursing as a noble and well-regarded career path hand one which requires strength, patience and compass

Apart from the traditional perception of nursing as caring, a longitudinal study that examined nursing students'' perceptions of nursing showed that students considered nursing as a profession based on scientific knowledge and

requires expertise in nursing and responsibility. They also viewed nursing as a „medical-technical“ activity.¹⁶

This study has thrown light on new activities include in a job. Technology in the medical and nursing field has grown up. Now nurses are operating and handling their patients with modern technology like ventilators and cardiac monitors in ICU and in O.T This perception may help to motivate the students. This result helped the researcher to prepare a tool.

A research done of highly academic students in 2008 by Neilson at School of Nursing, Dundee University,¹⁷ United Kingdom revealed a different perception of how some people perceive nursing. These students wouldn't consider taking a nursing career because of the perception that doctors cure patients whilst nurses only care for patients. The students also believed that nursing shouldn't be a university programme because they didn't believe that nursing required a university education. In short the students believed that nursing wasn't for high achievers but for low achievers and dim students, therefore, this hindered the students from choosing nursing as their career and therefore chose to undertake other courses which were believed to be in line with their grades and nursing was viewed as the last resort career choice..

A nurse working in clinical area,if she does not have knowledge of basic sciences and why she is doing particular procedure in a systemic manner may cause complications.Even doctors operate and post operative care is not done properly patient will not cure.However knowledge is found deficit to choose nursing career.This helped a researcher to prepare a check list for influencing factors.

An exploratory cross sectional study was conducted in September 2009, students at Azania and Jangwani in ilala district, school of nursing, Dar-es-salaam by kiwanuka achillies¹⁸ on image of nursing profession as viewed by 100 secondary school with the sample size of (50 male and 50 female) students, using both qualitative and quantitative methods Results revealed that, awareness regarding nursing profession above 50% for males was 79.2%, while that of females was 76.9%; whereas awareness regarding nursing profession was below 50% and 31.4%for females and 31.1% was for male. The study concluded that,

students are aware of the profession but they do not want to opt for it due to the image they have of it from public.

This study proved that public image ultimately social status does affect the Perception and influence a choice of nursing profession of the school children.

A study was conducted on Measurement of students' perceptions of nursing as a career. Middle school has been identified as the prime age group to begin nursing recruitment efforts because students have malleable perceptions about nursing as a future career choice.. An integrative review of the years 1989 to 2009 by CINAHL¹⁹ was conducted searching databases using the key words career, choice, future, ideal, nursing, and perception. Reference lists of retrieved studies were hand searched, yielding a total of 22 studies. Middle school students and high school students were the samples. Of the 10 studies, samples were 30% middle school students; 40% high school students; 10% mixed, including school-aged students; and 20% college students with an instrument tested in middle school students. Eighty percent of participants were Samples of white females may hinder generalization. Socioeconomic status was not consistently reported and may be an important factor with regard to perceptions of nursing as a career choice.

A study was conducted in 2010 at Kuala Lumpur²⁰ on perception of nursing as a career choice among 84 secondary male students. The majority (90.5%) of the respondents were between the age 17 and 18 years. The results revealed that, career choice motivators ranked according to importance such as good salary(84.5%), stable job(76.2%), low stress (72.7%), opportunities for advancement (0%), respect(2.4%), flexible work hours(2.4%), autonomy(0%), doing something useful/meaningful (2.4%), enjoy/like the job(6.4%), power/ leadership(48.8%), challenges(44.1%), travel opportunities/ work in other countries(40.5%) The study concluded that further national studies to be carried out to understand the students" and the public perception of nursing, be undertaken with a larger sample. Attempts should be made to work closely with career counselors and parents to refuse the myths and misconceptions about nursing and to promote the vast array of opportunities available in nursing.

This study speaks about criterion of the profession, No autonomy though leaders talk about professional autonomy, No respect and none agreed that there is chance for personal and professional advancements These reasons would be influencing them to choose a nursing profession. These reasons would help the researcher to prepare a check list for influencing factors.

A cross sectional survey study was conducted at Dade County, Florida USA²¹ on what high school students, think of a nursing career:. From 10th and 11th-grade 700 students“ were included in the study. The results revealed that, the Scores from 14 to 56, the mean opinion score for the sample was 40.92% and (SD =7.8). While age had no significant correlation with nursing opinion scores, they were influenced significantly by gender, the students' desired occupation, and the opinions of parents, friends, and guidance counselors. Although only 287 students selected nursing as their desired occupation. The study concluded that 119 (24.5% considered nursing one of their alternatives prior to making a decision. These findings have important implications for the recruitment of high school students into nursing profession. One fourth group had positive perception and parental and peer group influence may help them. These students would be eligible to choose or opt for nursing. Parent“s knowledge in this area need to be strengthened.

A Comparative Study on Knowledge and Attitude towards Nursing Profession among PCL and B.Sc. Nursing Students in a Selected Nursing Institute Pokhara by Devi Ashalata W. y Nepal²² among 183 (113 Proficiency Certificate Level and 70 Bachelor of Science) nursing students by using knowledge and attitude questionnaire on nursing profession. Results showed that both the groups of PCL and B.Sc. students, majority (94.69% and 88.57%) had fair knowledge about nursing profession. Majority (67.25%) of the PCL students had negative attitude on there is no clear cut written policy for nursing profession in most of the nursing institutions and hospitals, whereas majority (78.57%) of the B.Sc. students had positive attitude on the same statement. The study concludes that in both PCL and B.Sc. students, majority (94.69% and 88.57%) had fair knowledge about nursing, and had positive and negative

attitude on various statements towards nursing profession. Studies investigating students' perception of nursing at the beginning of the nursing programme showed that the students had idealistic views of profession with concepts of caring, compassion and nurturing.

There is always dispute between diploma and degree students. Degree students are preferred for the job, they had ladder for promotions. had idealistic views, perception level declines as they progress year to year. .Why? Need to find out

Vanhanen and Janhonen,²³ and , Mendez and Louis (1991),²⁴ say that "nursing students do not always regards nursing as an ideal career." Therefore the majority of nursing students perceive nursing as a career which offers opportunities in caring for people and the students also emphasized on employment opportunities while it (nursing) promotes their own personal growth students choose nursing for other reasons, like recruitment opportunities.

General, nursing is perceived favorably for its ability to provide security of job. It is important to ascertain how students perceive nursing and the decision to choose nursing to be their career or any other career is highly influenced by one's previous ideas about the career. The society and media play a major role in influencing the image and ideas the student has of nursing career employment and a steady income .As mentioned earlier, it is perceived as a job that involves caring, nurturing and teaching it also required compassion, patience and strength Many males perceive nursing as involving working with complex technology and therefore consider nursing to offer career potential .

A charge nurse at Newham community children's home by the name Andrew MCGovern (2006)²⁵ wrote an article which brought out the perception of the public on nurses. He said that the public view about nurses as people who take care of the sick and he adds in his own perspective, nurses care for people at every age, from before birth to death. He also says that nursing is not just a career but it is about making a difference to the patients and their family. As much as it will never be the most financially rewarding career, nurses remain to be the most recognizable health service symbol. Hard work, effective

communication skills and being practical and having the ability to work in a team and act as a leader are some of the characteristics a nurse requires

A study was conducted on impact of the perceived public image of nursing on nurses' work behavior among 346 nurses in Australia.²⁶ The results were analyzed by t- test, polynomial regression and response surface analysis. The results revealed that the overall image of nurses i.e., self image mean was 4.96 and perceived public image mean was 4.48 and paired t- value was 13.22 at $p=0.001$. Leadership aptitudes i.e., Nurses self image mean was 4.88 and perceived public image mean was 4.17 and paired t- value was 16.46 Caring aptitude i.e., Nurses self image mean was 5.16 and perceived public image mean was 5.22 and the paired t- value was -1.29. Thus the study concluded that lack of understanding of nursing as a profession by the general public is a common phenomena that contributes to nurses turn over. It is important to improve the public image of nurses in order to mitigate the current nursing shortage and emphasize the importance of reinforcing in nurses.

This study would help as a guideline to adopt statistical method.

A quantitative descriptive study with a cross sectional study design was used for assessment of nurses' perception towards nursing profession in public hospitals under Addis Ababa health bureau in Ethiopia by lay wondwossen²⁷ in May 2011. The sample size was determined by using a formula for estimating a single population proportion. Sample size was 264. Data collection was carried out using structured questionnaire. The analyses were verified using descriptive interpretation for demographic variables. Bi-variate analysis was done to look at relationship between independent variables of Socio –demographic characteristics with the perception of nursing. On this model of analysis, Asmara nurses were 4.5 more likely to have good perception than other ethnic groups (COR=4.5, 95% CI 1.16 – 17.35). Nurses who had bachelor and masters of nursing had 1.76 times more likely to have good perception than nurses who had diploma educational level (COR=1.76, 95% CI 1.05 - 2.94). Nurses who had a monthly income above 2808ETB were 2.37 times more likely to have good perception than other nurses who had a monthly income of less than 2808

ETB(COR=2.37, 95% CI 1.12 – 5.04). Professional Nurses at Gandhi Memorial Hospital had slightly higher likelihood to have poor perception towards nursing profession than other nurses who work in other hospitals. (COR=0.20, 95% CI 0.08 – 0.49). After adjusting for all Socio – demographic characteristics, nurses who work in Gandhi memorial hospital were also slightly more likely to have poor perception than other nurses who work in other hospitals. (AOR=0.15, 95% CI 0.05 – 0.43) Regarding the Socio-demographic characteristics and perception of important aspects of nursing. Those nurses with Bachelor and Masters Degree were found to be 1.99 times more likely to perceive important aspects of nursing than other group of nurses who had diploma qualification. (COR=1.99, 95% CI 1.06 – 3.74). After adjusting more educated nurses, those who held first degree and second degree, had 2.59 times more likely to perceive important aspects of nursing than diploma Nurses. (AOR=2.59, 95% CI 1.12 – 5.97).

The results of this study is similar to previous studies. However as education was high,, knowledge score was good, perception was going towards positive. As it was comparative study, different statistical methods were used..

All the studies in the area of perception ,helped the researcher to develop the concept of perception towards nursing profession. Except one cohort studies none studies were done as researcher's tproblem.. However review of these studies heped the researcher to construct structured questionnaire on perception.

2-3. Studies regarding influencing factors to enroll inNursing

According to Kerstern Barkwell, and Meyers²⁸ students chose nursing related to five categories of reasons.. In order of frequency students' reasons stemmed from a desire to nurture, meet emotional needs, employment opportunities, financial opportunities, and interest in science/disease.

Stevens and Walker²⁹¹ reported the most frequent reason for college bound students to choose nursing was the desire to help people, followed by wanting to do important work and the desire to work with all kinds of people .Previous research studies, reported that most students decided to join nursing

profession because they had a desire to help others, and nursing was perceived as caring and serving humanity job; on contrary,

Lai HL³⁰ *et al 2006* conducted a study in Taiwan and found that 65.4% of the nursing students would not choose nursing as career after graduation. Attitude of junior nursing students toward their future profession was alarming. Many of the students were not planning to practice nursing at bedside nor did they consider quality bedside care a priority for their career. The students most frequently reported choosing nursing because of the availability of career opportunities, jobs security, salary, and interest in nursing. In their study, students identified pursuing further education as a career goal followed by „doing one’s best in nursing .³¹

Several research studies reported that most of the nursing graduates are reluctant to join bedside nursing and those who joined it has not right attitude towards the profession ³²Each year of nursing study presents its own specific challenges and expectations of the profession. The negative experience of nursing students during clinical practice was a major contributor to the reasons why students choose to leave their chosen future profession

A study of perception about nursing is that it is regarded as a career more suitable for females than male and this was found out from a research made in the University of Ontario Canada,³³ the research was made from female and male nurses and non-nursing university students. It was found out that it is generally perceived by the society and stereotypes that male nurses are for example, gay, effeminate, less compassionate and caring than female nurses and it contributes negatively to the recruitment and retention of the nursing.

A study was conducted regarding perceptions of male nursing role with the samples of senior nursing students (n=90) at an undergraduate program in school of Health located in the north western Turkey. A questionnaire was used for data collection, which received a response rate of 97% .The results revealed that, female nursing students (45.3%) want to see males as staff nurses, while most of the male nursing students wanted to occupy administrative or instructor positions after graduation (34.3%). Female and Male student’s perceptions about

effects of males on image and status of nursing ($p < 0.01$), both gender's perceptions about nursing being only female profession ($p < 0.001$) was statistically significant. Both genders consider nursing as a profession which has negative image in the public (80%). The study concluded that nursing continues to be seen as a female dominant position especially by male students despite the increasing number of men in nursing³⁴

A descriptive cross-sectional design was used by safadi r.r., saleh m.y.n., nassar o.s., amre h.m. & froelicher e.s. in 2011³⁵ The study aimed to describe nursing students' changing perception of nursing over 4 years of the nursing programme and examine whether perception differed by gender, previous study or choice of nursing education. With a probability sample of 606 students. Respondents were a random sample of 50% of each of the four educational cohorts studying within the academic year 2008–2009 in one baccalaureate nursing programme at a Jordanian public university. A specifically designed tool of statements of nursing definitions based on nursing theories, the nursing literature and socio cultural beliefs was used to identify student nurses' perception of nursing. The study sample ($n = 606$) consisted of a higher percentage of female students in the first year (74%, $n = 121$) compared with that in the fourth year (53%, $n = 125$). Most were Jordanian (97%, $n = 585$), with a mean age of 21 (1.66) years. A higher percentage of the students (74%, $n = 447$) had a high school sciences background, and 106 (17.5 students were bridging from an AD nursing programme. Only 54% ($n = 328$) of the students chose nursing as a university education priority

Cohort study takes long duration as same students perception was changing each year. However this study is done at Jordan, which may differ with Indian culture, social , economical, status and criteri for admission also.This study helped the researcher for structuring questionnaire and check list for influencing factors also.

A study done by Raines (2010)³⁶ brings out the fact that there are individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree in another field and they desire to change careers and more specifically to nursing and the factors that attracted

these individuals to nursing were three. These factors were to bring something in nursing, to seek work which is satisfying and to get the missing piece.. One of the many factors that influence people's choices in life is having a career which is good and stable.

This study was different. Graduates in other faculties were again entering in nursing for a stable career.

A qualitative study done by Hsiu-Hung Wang, College of Nursing, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan³⁷ in 2011. The purpose of this study was to explore senior nursing students' perceptions toward the nursing profession and their experiences in clinical practicum in Taiwan. This study used semi structured interview guides and unstructured face-to-face dialogue with the participants based on a qualitative method. A purposive sample with a snowball method from a baccalaureate nursing program in Southern Taiwan was used to recruit participants. A total of 30 senior nursing students participated in this study. Data were collected from February to May 2011. The interviews were transcribed *verbatim*, and data were analyzed based on the phenomenological approach of qualitative methodology. Data were categorized into three major themes: in-depth recognition of nursing, recognition of the meaning and value of life, and decision conflicts for being a nurse. The findings of the study not only help nursing educators further understand the educational effects of clinical practicum, but also provide information for managers of medical organizations to recruit and train newly graduated nurses. that registered nurses and nursing students chose to study nursing because of the opportunity for caring and that it was their vocation in life which were congruent with the character and temperament found in the participants

In Qualitative study, sample size is small but it uses method like case study.

A study done in Hongkong School, indicated that that student's decision to choose or not choose nursing was significantly influenced by factors like Gender, biology subject pursued, previous academic achievement and mother's occupation and the students' perception. The parents, the school teachers, friends, past experiences with career activities and working in hospital were

some of the influences that made the students have the intent to study nursing.³⁸

Kelly, Shoemaker, and Steele³⁹ examined the motivational factors for males choosing a career in the predominantly female dominated field. The results revealed that the choice of a career in nursing was influenced by the following: job security/availability; desire to help people, professional autonomy, and previous contact with the healthcare system i.e. volunteering, working, family member and family support.

2.4 National Studies

A descriptive study to determine the knowledge and attitude towards Nursing Profession among male and female students in selected higher secondary schools at Gujarat. By H.T Dave.⁴⁰ the results showed that the student's knowledge about Nursing was low. Female students showed slightly better knowledge than male. There was a positive attitude towards Nursing among students. However, the positive attitude was not transmitted into a desire to join Nursing. There was no significant difference in attitude among male and female students. Students from monthly high income group showed less positive attitude towards Nursing compared to medium and low income group students.

This study is related to socio-economic status of students .High income group students will naturally opt for high status profession or females in Gujarat may not opt for job. Attitude was positive towards nursing profession but choice may not be as per financial status.

A cross sectional survey in state Punjab⁴¹ in 2011 by Anurag B. Patidar, Jasbir Kaur, Suresh K Sharma, Neeraj Sharma at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Jalandhar, patiala, nawashahar hoshiarpur and Ludhiana of the state Punjab regarding Future nurses' perception towards profession and carrier plans: This study was aimed to explore the perception of outgoing nursing students towards nursing profession and perceived future job orientation. Sample of 530 outgoing GNM, B. Sc. (N) and Post Basic B Sc Nursing students was recruited through proportionate stratified random sampling from conveniently selected twelve nursing colleges of Punjab State. Semi-structured questionnaire was administered to collect data. Descriptive Statistics (mean,

standard deviation and Percentage) was used to describe sample Characteristics; inferential statistics (t-test, Anova, chi-square test) was used to identify Group differences and association of selected Socio-demographic variables with perception Of nursing profession and future job Prospective. Results shown Sample characteristics Mean age of outgoing nursing students Was 22 ± 2.3 years. B. Sc. (n) and gnm group Was slightly younger than pb b. Sc. (n) group. Female (96.2%) dominated over the male (3.8%) in study sample. Majority of the Outgoing students were Sikhs (74.3%) followed by Hindus (15.6%), and Christians and others (10.2%). More than half (55.1%) of the outgoing students were rural dwellers; on the contrary, slightly more than half (51.6%) Of the students in b. Sc. (n) group were urban dwellers. Unmarried students (95.5%) Outnumbered the married students (4.5%) in the present study. Nearly half of (49.6%) the outgoing nursing students were in first birth Order; furthermore, same pattern was observed in all the three groups of the student. Annual family income of 43.8% of the outgoing nursing students was 1-3 lacs in rupees; almost the same percentage (42.3%) of the outgoing nursing students were having less than 1 lac rupees annual family income. Almost half of the students in b sc (n) and Pb b sc (n) group were having annual family Income 1-3 lacs rupees whereas in gnm Group, it was less than 1 lac rupees ($p=0.000$). Findings revealed that majority of the students (83.2%) were self motivated to join nursing. More than half (56%) of the outgoing Nursing students were not having any family member or relative in nursing self motivated profession Majority (99.1%) of the students, perceived nursing profession as an opportunity to serve humanity and a way to get due recognition in the society (69.6%). Two third of (69.4%) the nursing student perceived their profession as dignified and respectful as well as a way to get due recognition in society (69.6%). There was almost equal percent of the students who planned to join teaching (46.4%) and bed side nursing (45.5%) after completion of course. A vast majority (93.4%) of the students were not interested to change their profession. Male students were significantly more interested in bed side nursing as compared to female students ($p=0.04$). More than half of the urban students (52.5%) were interested to join

teaching followed by bed side nursing (39.5%); on contrary, the rural students were predominantly interested to join bed side nursing (50%) followed by 41.8% teaching job ($p=0.039$). The present study concluded that the perception of nursing profession among nursing students is changing towards positive side and majority of the students perceived that nursing is a profession with bright prospects and it provides due recognition.

A cross sectional study assessed the attitudes and perceptions of nursing professionals and their desired future practices by. Poreddi V, Ramachandra, Konduru R,⁴² The study was conducted using a modified version of Beliefs, Attitudes and Perceived Practice questionnaire among 129 students who were undergoing undergraduate nursing programme at a selected college of nursing in Bangalore. Data was analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Forty-four (34.1%) of the subjects agreed that they were enrolled of their own interest; 43 (33.3%) of them reported that they enrolled in nursing out of their own interest and also to improve their financial situations.

An exploratory study was conducted regarding perception of gender in nursing profession among 78 senior nursing students at college of nursing Pondicherry,⁴³ India. The results revealed that 42% of the female nurses preferred men to work as the instructors, 48% of the female students considered men as a staff nurses, but 40% of the male student's intention was to occupy administration or 38% teaching post after the graduation. Thus the study concluded that to emphasize a nurse's role identity without any gender segregations, because most of the male students thought that nursing is a female dominated profession

2.5. State Level studies

A Study to Assess the Knowledge and Attitude regarding Nursing Profession among Professional College Teachers in Karad in March 2013 by Mahesh B. Chendake, Vaishali R. Mohite, Manisha C. Gholap ,⁴⁴ to assess the knowledge & attitude of teachers towards nursing profession and to find the association between knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession with

selected demographic variables. It is also to find the co-relationship between knowledge and attitude towards nursing profession. Setting & Design: Professional colleges present in Karad city, Descriptive survey design. With Purposive Sampling Technique is used with sample size: 219. Tool: used was- Knowledge questionnaire-- Attitude questionnaire -analysis by "Instat". Results: Mean, median of knowledge& attitude: 9.81, 10, 30.04, 30. Demographic data: Age group 20-23yrs. -135 (64%). Sex-female-117(53.42%). Educational status- post graduate-138(63.01%). Hindu religion-204 (93.15%). Marital status - married-128 (58.44%),. type of family- Joint-141 (64.38%).Income-above 20000/PM-86 (39.44%). Place of residence-Rural-84 (38.35%). present post-Teacher-190 (86.75 %). Year of experience- less than five year-153 (31.09 %). Knowledge& attitude- correct response of the knowledge scale-2150(75.51%) Grading of knowledge-excellent -132(60.72%). Grading of Attitude scale- excellent -137(62.55%). Significant association-Type of family with knowledge Chi square: - 48.498, DF 4,P value <.0001. Correlation (Pearson r)-Correlation coefficient- (r) 0.3046, the two tailed P value is <0.0001, considered extremely significant. Conclusion- was overall knowledge excellent & attitude positive. There is significant correlation between knowledge & attitude..

In concluding review of literature it is of investigator's opinion that many studies are done in abroad and less work is done in India and Maharashtra, Socio economical status, social and cultural values in Maharashtra and India, educational status of foreign countries and of india may be different thereby perception towards nursing profession also may be varied. Therefore this study would be significant to know Maharashtra students perception.and to know influencing factors in choice of nursing.profession.

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CHAPTER III

Methodology

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CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

3.1. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Nursing services are the major part of health care system. It plays major role in the delivery of healthcare. Today's Indian population scenario as changes in present life-styles like sedentary work, no physical exercise or lack of exercises, Junk foods, all the time with mobile phones on what's up, Stress due to various reasons like job stress due to severe competitions, or no jobs. This all leads to high incidence of non communicable health related problems such as obesity, diabetes and heart diseases, cerebral vascular accidents. Addictions like tobacco, Gutkha, alcohol and drugs leading to cancer incidences, liver cirrhosis and new communicable diseases like swine flu, Zinka viruses etc.

On the other side major problem of India is Population explosion which is adding in poverty, sanitary problems and nutritional deficiency disorders. Communicable diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, dengue fever are uncontrolled. Life span is increased and thereby increase in population of senior citizens. Old age homes are full and nursing and medical services are essential to them. In addition to that natural and manmade calamities, accidents etc. hospitals are overflowed.

Different health projects are implemented in the hospitals like Rajiv Gandhi schemes of free surgeries. In Primary health centers maternity and child health services are expanded. These health centers are becoming industries. Many corporate,, private and multinational hospitals are coming up The industry of healthcare is rapidly moving forward in technological advances that will allow patients to be monitored at home by the trained registered nurses. For example: A patient with chest pain can request a mobile unit nurse, who can reach to home, takes an ECG, sends photo to the cardiologist and start life saving treatment immediately either at home or reach to the hospital with emergency care till cardiologist arrives.

These all factors are resulting into demand for nurses. Nursing can be defined as the most, and certainly not less than one of the most, valuable pieces in the puzzle of healthcare.. Consequently, it must be assured that we have an adequate nurse work force, both now and in the future, if we are to continue to provide quality healthcare for everyone

It was observed that students, who take admission to the nursing from low or lower middle class group, many times either or both the parents are in nursing profession. Nowadays boys are turning to nursing profession though it was said that nursing is famine profession. As per history more Christian students were seen in this profession but now other region /caste students are also seen.

At a time when India and state of Maharashtra facing a critical professional nursing shortage and the numbers of students entering the B.Sc. nursing program have steadily declined. Given the impact that student perceptions can have on career choice, it is a challenge to nursing educators and recruiters to provide informed career decision-making opportunities essential to students in formulating both accurate and positive perceptions about nursing profession.. This research is also important because it could provide information related to current perceptions about the nursing profession that senior student nurses could address in the workplace as they mentor students. Students observe their seniors .If outgoing batches are recruited in Government or private sector, drawing good salaries, earned stability in life , then their followers ,junior students also develop good perception. In such a way profession gets good publicity..

Knowing their perception, would help nursing authorities.ies to strengthen their positivity towards nursing profession, would help to encourage them to improve their knowledge and skills. It would help to build their capacities .we can avoid the incidences that would foster their negative perceptions, All the health authorities should be made „to handle them with care“. They are like delicate glass. Their potentials should be brought out and could be developed.

An understanding of students“ perception and its evolvment during the course of the baccalaureate programme“s 4 years can assist nurse educators in evaluating the educational programme“s strengths and weaknesses. This understanding can

enhance curricular development towards a caring and holistic paradigm of nursing. Moreover, it will add to the body of knowledge of nursing education, especially in relation to admission processes, by examining specific personal factors that influence. The understanding of the perception about profession, career development and critical issues, many strategies can be added by nursing organizations, administrators, Educators, and the government to address these issues of this profession with the goal of reducing the nursing shortage through increased recruitment and retention of practicing nurses. Ultimately it would be helpful for health care delivery system. One who had greater satisfaction in the profession can be a role model for others. Therefore, research is needed to determine if students' perceptions of nursing can change once they are in nursing programs, and if adequate informed career decisions making skills about nursing prior to entering nursing programs can improve nursing student retention rates, increase the admissions in degree programme and career satisfaction

3.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the perception towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing students enrolled at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra?
2. What are the main influencing factors/reasons for enrolment to the B.Sc. nursing at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra?
3. Is there any association of students between enrolment to B.Sc. Nursing and selected demographical variables?
4. Is there any relationship between perception towards nursing profession and influencing factors/ reasons for enrolment in nursing?

3.3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To find out socio-demographic characteristics of B.Sc.Nursing students enrolled in B.Sc.Nursing students at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra
2. To assess the perception towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing students enrolled at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra.

3. To determine if relationships existed between perceptions of the B.Sc.nursing students and selected demographical variables as admission year age, gender, religion/caste Place of residence, Percentage of marks in 12th PCBE, and Family income.
4. To identify the factors / reasons influencing for enrollment to B.Sc nursing programme at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra
5. To identify if there is correlation between perceptions of B.Sc.nursing students towards nursing profession and factors influencing to enroll at selected nursing

3.4. ASSUMPTIONS:

1. The students enrolling to the nursing colleges are from weaker section of the society.
2. The students enrolling to the nursing colleges are due to job opportunities in regional, national and international level.
3. The Students perceive that being a nurse is not only taking care of patients, but it also requires critical thinking.
4. To prevent illnesses and conservation as well as promotion of health of self and others, it is necessary to acquire the latest introduction of technological advances

3.5. HYPOTHESIS

H1- There is significant association between perception and selected demographical variables of B.Sc. nursing students

H2 -There is significant correlation between perceptions and influencing factors /reasons among B.Sc.nursing students enrolled in western Maharashtra.

36. RESEARCH DESIGN

The primary purpose of this study was to assess the perceptions towards nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing students, who were enrolled in six nursing colleges of western Maharashtra

To find out these factors research design considered an explorative and descriptive method as the best method to assess the perception towards nursing profession among B. Sc.nursing Students enrolled in the academic year from 2011 to 2014, No studies found in Maharashtra .Therefore in present study the researcher aimed at describing the facts and getting insight into various factors which were affecting their perceptions and thereby enrolment to B.Sc. Nursing programme.

3.7. POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The target population was defined as students enrolled in private, unaided nursing colleges in western Maharashtra for a baccalaureate nursing program and currently studying in first, second , third and fourth year for the academic year 2014-1015. Districts selected were Kolhapur, Sangli , Satara and Pune. These districts were representing Western part of the Maharashtra where urban as well as rural students were enrolling to B.Sc. Nursing degree program. These districts were having nursing colleges affiliated to Deemed University except two colleges of Nursing, to Government University MUHS. There was No government college of Nursing in above districts except Pune. All selected colleges are private unaided nursing colleges. The accessible population was identified about 1000 students. Taking into consideration of non-responsive, not willing to participate in a study and non availability on the day of data collection, approximately 440 sample size was determined.

3.8. AREA OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted at six selected private unaided nursing colleges of western Maharashtra at Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Pune districts. These colleges were constituent colleges of Deemed University or affiliated to Government University (MUHS).

3.9.. INCLUSIVE CRITERIA

1. Students studying in all six institutions at Kolhapur (2 institutions), Miraj, Sangli, Karad and Pune for B.Sc.nursing programme in the academic year of 2014-15 for first, second, third and fourth year.
2. Those who were present at the time of data collection. Those shown willingness to participate in the study.

3.10. EXCLUSIVE CRIT RIA

1. Those who were not willing to participate in the study.
2. Those students who were not available at the time of data collection.
3. Those who had left the course in between for any reason.

3.11. SAMPLE SIZE

Sample size consisted of 440 students. The total 50% sample of available candidates on the day of data collection will be selected from each college by systematic random method among available candidates.

3.12. SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The method of sampling was the systematic random sampling method. As per attendance registers even numbers were selected. If student is not available on a day of data collection, she/he was excluded. All students selected to participate in study were willing enthusiastically.

All students selected for data collection were fulfilling the criteria for inclusion and available at the time of data collection.

3.13. STUDY PERIOD

The data was conducted from January 2015 to February 2015.

3.14. DEVELOPMENT OF THE.INSTRUMENTATION/ T00L

Once objectives and hypothesis were clearly laid do the needed informant was done.

3.14.1. Personal experience

The investigator had huge experience of working in hospital and community as well as in teaching in school/college of nursing. Due to which ideas, beliefs, understanding of nurses and students regarding perceptions of nursing profession, and influencing factors to them to enter in nursing and background of many students, nurses as well as co-workers were known to the investigator. In addition to personal experience, review of literature helped the investigator to prepare the tool.

3.14.2. Discussion with the experts.

Various experts in teaching and in the clinical field like Professors, tutors, nursing Superintendents and in charges of recruiting departments were consulted. By virtue of their experiences, they were able to identify some of the areas of perception and influencing factors or reasons regarding entrance in nursing programme.

3.14.3. Informal discussion with the subjects

Having the criteria laid down for the study was great help to develop a tool. After sufficient “feel of the problem” major areas regarding perception and factors influencing were categorized as shown in conceptual framework.

3.15. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL

A questionnaire was developed in three parts.

Part-I –Socio-Demographic data of students This was designed to elicit the demographic information from respondents consisting 12 items .It contained Age, Gender, Religion and caste, Nationality,, Place of residence marital status ,Education , Percentage of marks in 12th PCBE or equivalent exam, Socio-Economic status including Father’s occupation, Income of the family, , and any financial aid for nursing education by any agency.

Part II-Perception Scale-To assesses the student's perceptions towards nursing profession which was designed as five point Likert scale Instrument. A series of 20 statements of responses were prepared regarding perceptions towards the nursing profession. For each of the statements, the available responses and score given for statistical analysis were as follows; for each item range from Strongly Disagree "Score =1, "Disagree Score=-2 ", "Not Sure score= 3 " "Agree score= 4" and "Strongly Agree score = 5". Not sure term was added as many students may not have knowledge regarding some responses. Questionnaire was prepared in English as medium of the B.Sc .Nursing programme is English.

Part III - Stem responses to identify the factors influencing for enrollment to nursing. The questionnaire contains fourteen stem responses (Yes, No and Not sure) to identify the influencing factors for enrolment to nursing. Last one answer was not structured and kept open ended if respondent wished to add her/his own reason other than in structured questionnaire.

3.16. TESTING OF THE TOOL

3.16.1 Validity:

The investigator casually administered the tool to forty students, apart from those included in the pilot study and sample, to see the feasibility of the tool and extend to which it could cover the area to obtain the information sought. To evaluate content validity of the tool was given to five experts who were PhD in respective areas. Dr. Asha Pratinidhi, research director of Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad,, Dr. Pitre Sneha and Dr. Bhattacharji, from Bharti Vidyapth, Pune, Dr. Nilima Bhore, Principal from Sangli and Dr. Sudha reddy, Principal KLE, College of Nursing, Belgaum They validated the tool for adequacy of the content area and inclusion of adequate items, they also validated the tool for maintaining sequence of responses as per psychological order. Construct validity was confirmed by the Registrar of the D.Y. Patil University who is Ph.D. in education after examining the linkage with conceptual framework. All the experts

shared positive agreement except minor modification in construction and organizations of the responses. Questionnaire was modified accordingly.

3.16.2. Reliability:

In order to test the reliability, relevance to the objectives and to refine the tool and technique, a pilot study was conducted on 22 nd December, 2014

3.16.3. Pilot Survey:

Total 40 students from same setting of D.Y.Patil College of Nursing were administered. Ten students from each batch of first, second third and fourth year of B.Sc .Nursing were systematic randomly selected as per inclusive criteria. Willingness of them was sought. Explanation about the self administered questionnaire was given to them. Data was collected as per the plan of data collection. It was found that subjects could understand the statements well, they were able to comprehend the questionnaire and supply the information. Responses in the structured questionnaire were checked through phrasing and counter phrasing statements. For example- “Nursing is well-respected career path.”, after some gap the rephrase statement was “Nursing is not prestigious job” and the answers were consistent. It was observed that two statements were difficult to understand due to unknown words to them. i.e. Nurses are more angelic and sympathetic .This statement was changed to “Nurses are kind and sympathetic” one statement in part III was made short to” parental and peer encouragement” Accordingly the necessary modifications were made in the tool. The technique was found to be adequate and feasible. These subjects were excluded from the actual study. It was observed that to complete the structured questionnaire 20 minutes time was needed. To ensure achievements of the objectives of the study, data analysis of the pilot study was done.

3.17. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

Ethical approval from the authority in written form of the Faculty of Nursing was obtained before attaining the participants’ voluntary involvement in research study. Principal’s written permission was sought. They were assured anonymity and confidentiality of the institution as well as students information.

At individual level after explaining the purpose of the study, informed verbal consent was obtained from all participants prior to their participation in this study. Participants were informed that privacy and confidentiality will be maintained. The study subjects were also informed that the study process will have no intended harm to them. Any study participants who were not willing to be included in the study was not forced to be included in the study. All were free to participate in the study. Schedule of data collection for each institution was well planned as per conveniences of the institution which was followed strictly

3.19. DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE

The principle investigator, herself had been to all the six selected institutions, with prior permission of the authority of the colleges. Accordingly schedule was prepared as per the conveniences of the institutions. Institutions had arranged all four batches in four classrooms. There was best co-operation from all six institutions. Plan was implemented as per scheduled programme. Four supervisors having minimum B.Sc.nursing degree qualification from each college were assigned to follow the whole procedure of data collection. It was discussed and instructions were given to them regarding focusing on the objectives of the study and ways of data collection and data handling after collection. Students were explained the purpose of the study by the principle investigator and were told that they had the right to withdraw at any time without adverse impact on their studies. Anonymity was assured by issuing code numbers. Upon verbal agreement, the questionnaire was distributed to the students. They were explained the nature of questionnaire and they were told that there is no right or wrong answer hence they should feel free to write correct information in part I as well as tick the options in part II and III. Last one response was open ended, which to be written by students. After all clarification they were given full privacy to fill in questionnaire.. Students were asked to return it to the supervisors after completion. Supervisors were asked to check the completeness of the filled in questionnaire. It was completed in approximately 20 minutes. The data which was collected was packed in a sealed envelope and submitted to the principal investigator every day. It was kept in a locked and sealed cabinet

3.20 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Data was fed in computer using code numbers in office excel. It was computed and analysis was done using SPSS version20 in mean, median mode standard deviation and chi square for association and karl pears test of co-relation is used for co-efficient –co relation.. Results are reported in tables and graphs.

Reference:

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CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHICAL VARIABLES

1. Analysis of the Demographic Characteristics
Of the subjects enrolled to B.Sc.Nursing
in Western Maharashtra

2. Analysis of the level of perceptions of the subjects
Towards Nursing Profession enrolled to B.Sc.Nursing
in Western Maharashtra

3. Analysis of the relationship of Demographic Variables To
the Perceptions towards Nursing Profession Enrolled to
B.Sc.Nursing

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHICAL VARIABLES

This chapter deals with the analysis of the data collected from the sample of 440 B.Sc.nursing students of the six institutions of the Western Maharashtra region..

The data has been analyzed and presented in five sections.

Section I: Deals with the characteristics of the subjects

Section II: Describes the level of perceptions of the subjects Towards nursing profession enrolled to B.Sc nursing.

Section III : Shows relationship of demographic variables to Perceptions of students towards nursing

Section IV: Elaborates the influencing reason/Factors for enrollment to B.Sc.nursing programme

Section V: Explains correlation between perception and Influencing factors for enrollment to B.Sc.nursing

Henceforth in the chapter, the study samples i.e.B.ScNursing students will be addressed as „Subjects“.

TABLE No. 4.1

EXISTING SCENARIO OF STUDY POPULATION OF WESTERN MAHARASHTRA AS PER ADMISSION YEAR IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE

Admission year	Academic Year of the B.Sc. Nursing Course	Total Seats sanctioned	Enrolled students No. in all six institutions	Total Vacant seats.
		f	f (%)	f (%)
2011-2012	4 th Year	330	217 (65.77)	113(34.23)
2012-2013	3 rd year	330	254 (76.97)	076(23.03)
2012-2013	2 nd year	330	247 (74.85)	083(25.15)
2014-2015	1 st year	330	297 (90.01)	033(09.99)
Total		1320	1015	305

There are five nursing institutions in Kolhapur, Sangli and in Satara districts which run B.Sc.Nursing programme. These institutions are affiliated either to Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik Government University or affiliated to private deemed to be university.. In Pune, district here are many colleges, but for study purpose one institution of nursing is selected.

In Kolhapur and Sangli districts, there are four colleges and each college is having capacity of fifty sanctioned seats for B.Sc.nursing programme ,total two hundred, whereas Satara district is having only one nursing college and has capacity of one hundred sanctioned seats and in Pune , one college selected for

study purpose has thirty sanctioned seats. Therefore in all six institutions total number of sanctioned seats are three hundred and thirty only per annum.

Graph No.4.1

Existing scenario in six institutions of Western Maharashtra

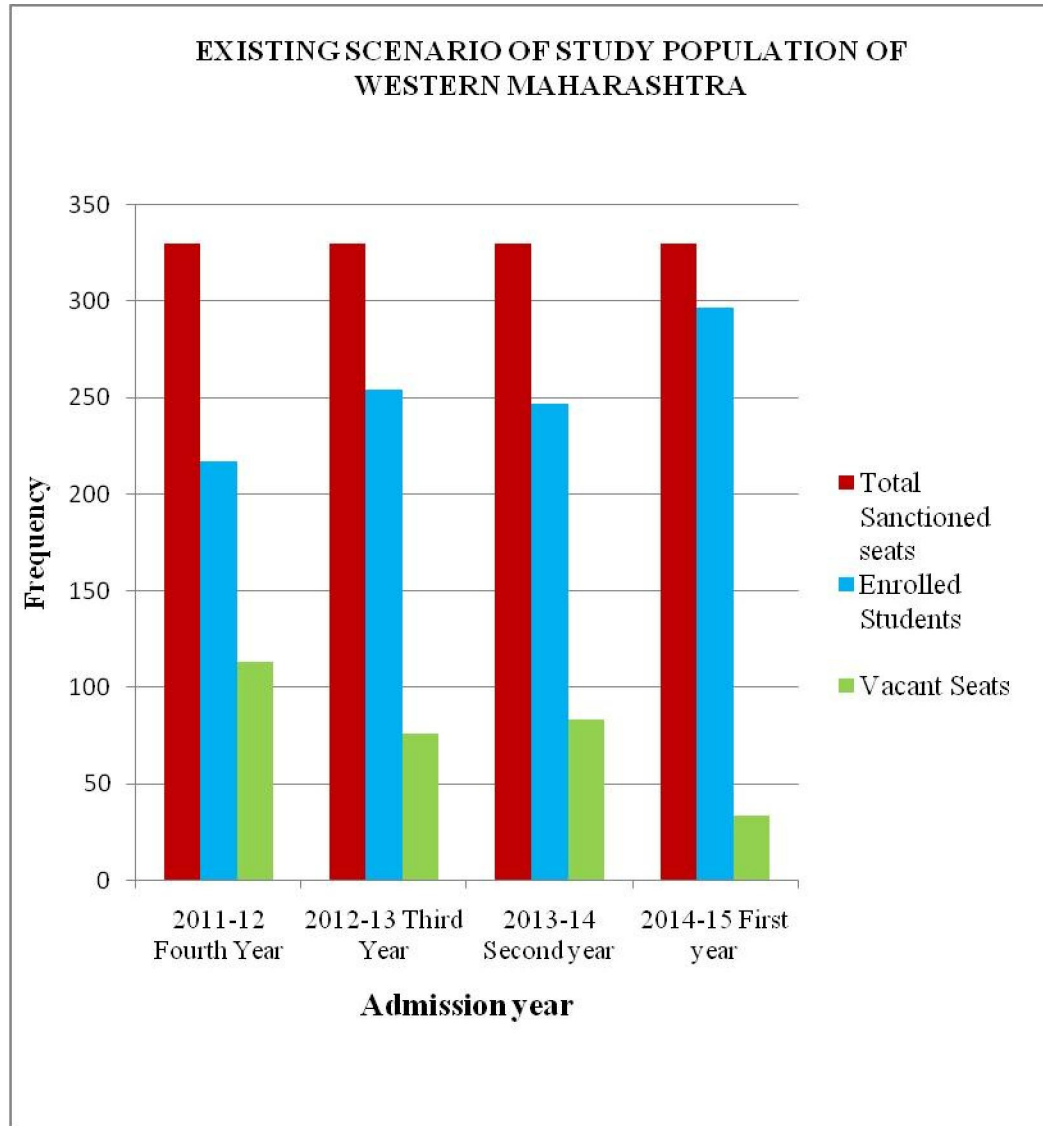


Table No.4.1: and graph No.4.1 indicates total number of existing students and vacancies of students against sanctioned seats at all six institutions of Western Maharashtra During 2011-2012, there were maximum seats (34.23%) vacant,

only 65.77 % seats were filled in Western Maharashtra. In 2012-13 admissions were increased by 10%, but during academic year 2012-2013, admissions were again reduced, there was increase in admission from 2014-15(90.01%)

However admission process under MUHS colleges are strictly through Maharashtra Common Entrance Tes¹ which is conducted by Govt. of Maharashtra for admission into the 1st year of undergraduate Health Science Courses as Medical, and different alternative faculties such as and Dental, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, and B.Sc.[Nursing]) or by Association of Management of private Unaided Nursing Colleges of Maharashtra.. After

appearing to either of his exam many avenues are opened for the students to take the admissions in Health science courses. Most of the students do not prefer for nursing course..Many students are unaware that this examination is a must to get admission in B.Sc .nursing course. When they come to nursing college for admission and their admission is denied due to non appearance for MH-CET exam. Many students after joining the colleges, leave the college either for financial constraints as fees are higher (Rs.50,000 to 1,10,000/-) per annum in private unaided colleges or for some or other reasons. All these factors result into 30-40% seats are remaining vacant mostly under MUHS. Many colleges had approached high court and Supreme Court¹ with a prayer to exempt CET exam for B.Sc. nursing course but court decision remained unchanged. Admission process for deemed university is also through the entrance examination which is conducted by own university, for their own affiliated nursing college, where admissions are satisfactory though not 100% filled in..

In the year 2014-1015 admissions were improved (90.01%), seats were full, and hardly 33 seats (09.995) remained vacant. The main reason was “Opportunity for Government job.”.The CET exam was declared by the Maharashtra Government for recruitment of staff nurses under Director of Medical Education, Maharashtra Government. This policy was changed from the year 2012-²13.Otherwise only students passed from the Government institutions were recruited directly through their merit list. Due to the revised

policy of Maharashtra Government, students in thousands, who had completed B.Sc.nursing, appeared for this examination and about 1400 graduate candidates were selected and they were recruited in Government Hospitals.. Better salary, job security made a drastic change in perceptions of students towards B.S. nursing and admissions were improved.

TABLE No.4.2
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUBJECTS ACCORDING TO
THEADMISSION YEAR IN FRQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Admission year	Year of B.Sc Nsg Programme	Frequency	Percentage %
2011-2012	4th year,B.Sc.Nursing	142	32.29
2012-2013	3rd year,B.Sc.Nursing	110	25
2012-2013	2nd year,B.Sc.Nursing	107	24.31
2014-2015	1st year,B.Sc.Nursing	81	18.40
		440	100%

Table 4.2:Indicates Year of admission: out of four years 440 subjects there were(N= 82) numbers in 1st year, about (18.64%) who were new comers , in 2nd year, (N=106) numbers about one-fourth(24.29%)of the subjects in 3 rd year (N=110) numbers about one-fourth(25%)of the subjects, There were (N= 142) numbers in 4th year, about one-third (32.47%)of the subjects, The maximum samples were from 4th year,then3rd year, second year and minimum were from 1st year This variation was due to clinical posting of batches in shift duties. Those students available on a day of data collection, 50% of them were selected by systematic random sample method. As per their muster list all even numbers among available students were selected for the study. Total sample selected in all six institutions were 440.

TABLE No.4.3
DISTRIBUTION OF AGE GROUP AMONG SUBJECTS

Age group in Years	Frequency	Percentage
18to 19	148	33.64
20 to 21	216	49.09
22 and above	076	17.27
	440	100%

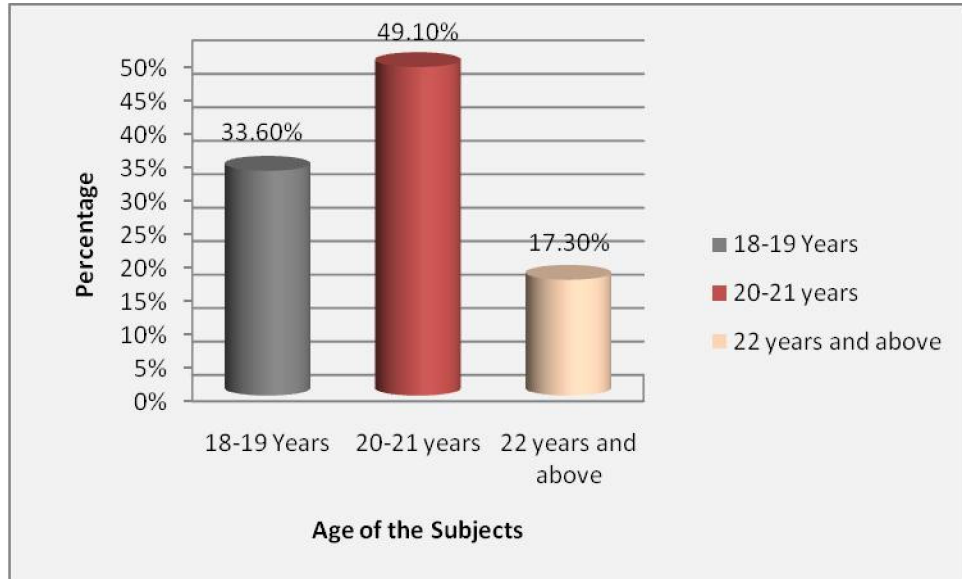
TABLE No.4.4
GENDER DISTRIBUTION AMONG SUBJECTS

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	147	33.41
Female	293	66.59
Total	440	100%

Table No.4.3 and graph No. 4.2 shows age wise distribution of the study population. Out of 440 sample, the majority of the students (N=216) nearly half of the respondents (49.09%) were in 20-21 years age group, one third subjects (N=148) were (33.64%) in the age group of 18-19 years, and minimum (N=76) were (17.27%) above 22 years. Eligibility criteria for admission to 1st year is 17 years completion as on 31st December of the admission year, till they complete education of 10+2 they reach to 17 years and till fourth years they are up to 22 years and some students (22) had taken admission after graduation also, naturally they were above 22 years age. Since data was collected in January and February all students of first year, had completed 17 years, hence age group started from 18-19 years. Those had late schooling or entered late in nursing and those who were graduates in other faculties and then had taken admission for nursing were in group of 22 years and above. They were (N=76/17.27%) only.

Graph No. 4.2

Age wise distribution of the subjects



Graph No.4.3

Gender wise distribution of Respondents

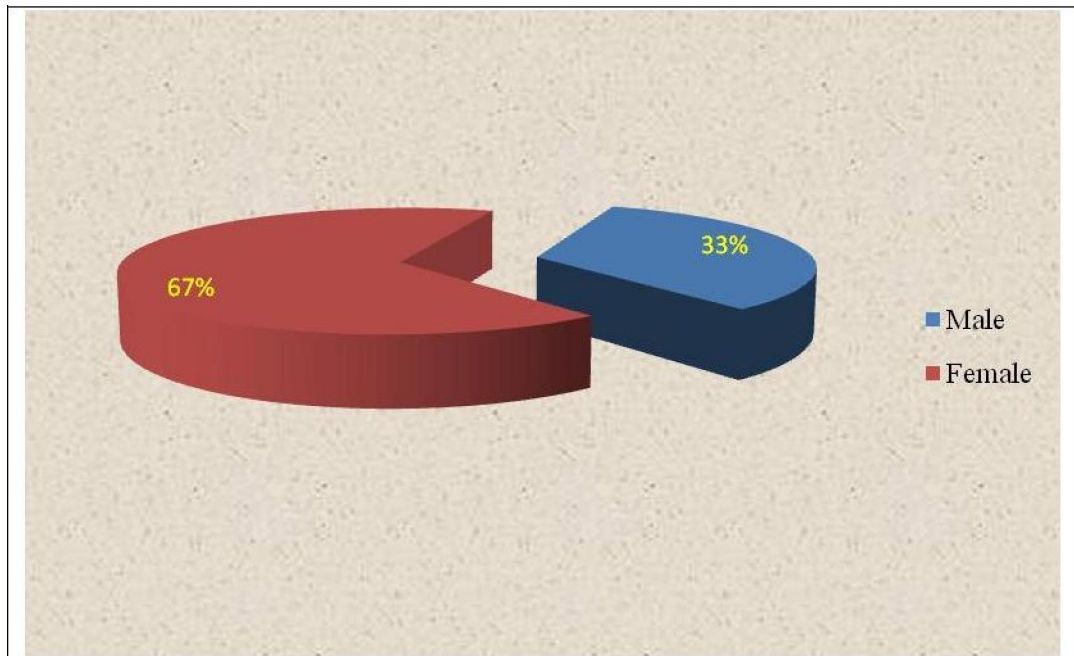


Table No.4.4 and graph No. 4.3 indicates Gender variation: Out of 440 subjects (N=293) about two third (66.59%) were females, and (N=147) one third (33.41%) were male.

Gender inequality was observed in the study. Over the years, the nursing profession has been seen as a profession that is meant only for the female gender. Although throughout history, appears to indicate that men had a place in nursing for as long as records are available, but their contributions has been perceived as negligible, largely because of the dominant influence that the 19th century female nursing movement has had on the occupations historical ideology⁴. The males ,like -Pastor Theodor Fliedner have played important role in the development of the profession, this mind set of “female only” in nursing still persist and resisted to male by unions of nurses.It is assumed that nursing is a natural extension of the woman’s caring nature. These notions have been promoted greatly by the society and the media, and this look /view of society has led to few men entering the profession. The issue of gender inequality and gender disparity in the nursing profession has led to several implications to the nursing profession – administration, practice and education. Yet nursing superintendent’s post is given only to female. In Government this post is named as „Matron“ means mother so she must be female. Such issues are also resulted in nursing shortage worldwide. . The gender of a female nurse is unremarkable whereas nurse if a male is often referred to as not just a nurse but a „male nurse“.

If we peep into the history of nursing, very few people were knowing about nursing. It was limited to the family or house where mother used to take care of her sick children or family members. Sometimes neighbors“ would help for other family in need. Nursing and its importance and severe need was only realized from the Crimean war and soldiers were dying of septicemias due to wound infections and nobody was there to take care of them. In 1854,When British Government has challenged to come forward to look after these injured and wounded soldiers and Florence Nightingale responded to this challenge and came forward with her 36 female colleagues to look after and care for these

soldiers, and she proved that with the nursing care she brought death rate to 2% from 100%. She was honored for her noble work “the lady with the lamp”.

During night rounds, she used to visit each wounded, injured soldier and used to give psychological support with love and compassion. Therefore the name for a nurse also existed as the „Sister.“ She also encouraged many females to enter in this profession. Since then nursing came into limelight. Society also started realizing importance of nursing. This work was done by females and when she opened a nursing school at St. Thomas hospital, only females were enrolled. Men were often barred, therefore men either withdrew or were actively excluded from the profession and nursing came to be widely accepted as a female profession. Due to natural instincts of females of „caring“ called sisters and this history labeled nursing is a „female profession“ the status of Nursing was greatly improved and many women including religious orders were now involved in patient care.

Even Maharashtra nursing Council and Government of Maharashtra restricts the admission of male students to 10%. Though these admissions are not restricted for degree courses in nursing by Indian nursing council, many institutions at Mumbai, Pune do not admit male students. It is said that patients also prefer females as nurses and medical staff too. This domination results into nursing as a female profession and males also hesitate to take admission to nursing. Those who take admission, they face discrimination from educators, patients, other professionals and other nurses. However today, the new merge of males into the nursing profession is due to many different issues including higher pay, a greater demand for nurses, and an improvement in tolerance and understanding of diversity in society. But Male nurses, struggle with the stereotypes placed on them due to the dominance of women in the nursing practices. This is the result of decades of generalizing nurses as female, and in turn, male nurses face discrimination from everyone concerned.

The general public also view nursing as a profession that is meant only for the females and therefore does not give full permission to their nearby, friends,

relatives and even spouse who wants a career in the noble nursing profession. Most people are influenced by careers that their parents favor and that most parents do not like their male children choosing a career in nursing. However, variations occur from one population to the other. The males may be motivated by socio-cultural factors such as parents, teachers, friends, culture and race. Personal factors such as gender, fears, interest and personality, External factors such as salary, status, information, resources, and lastly by the feminine image of nursing. , Women have traditionally been viewed as being caring and nurturing and are designated to occupations which require such skills. While these skills are culturally valued, they were typically associated with domesticity, so occupations such as nursing requiring these same skills are not economically valued. In patriot society women have subordinate role to men. This is done to portray such gender roles as "natural" and "normal" with women such as nursing.

The media carries out this propaganda; for example, If they want to portrayed a surgeon, male person is shown and to say „Yes sir“. Female nurse is shown. Secondary, submissive and supportive person means a female nurse .In medical and nursing books authors would regard the nurse as "she", while the patient and doctor is "he". This has to some extent deterred most men from choosing nursing as a career. Those who opt might be there was no other option for their career. Also, a majority of men don't like being associated to what is term "females only". Therefore, the feminine image of nursing also plays a deterring role in the gender inequality in nursing. It is observed that many male students in nursing change their profession, to management post graduation and jobs in other area.

However these all reasons lead to gender inequality.

TABLE No.4.5

**DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGION AND CASTE AMONG SUBJECTS IN
FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE**

Religion and Caste	Frequency	Percentage %
Hindu- Open caste	147	33.42
Scheduled caste	98	22.27
Other Backward	54	12.27
Muslims	18	04.09
Christians	123	27.95
	440	100%

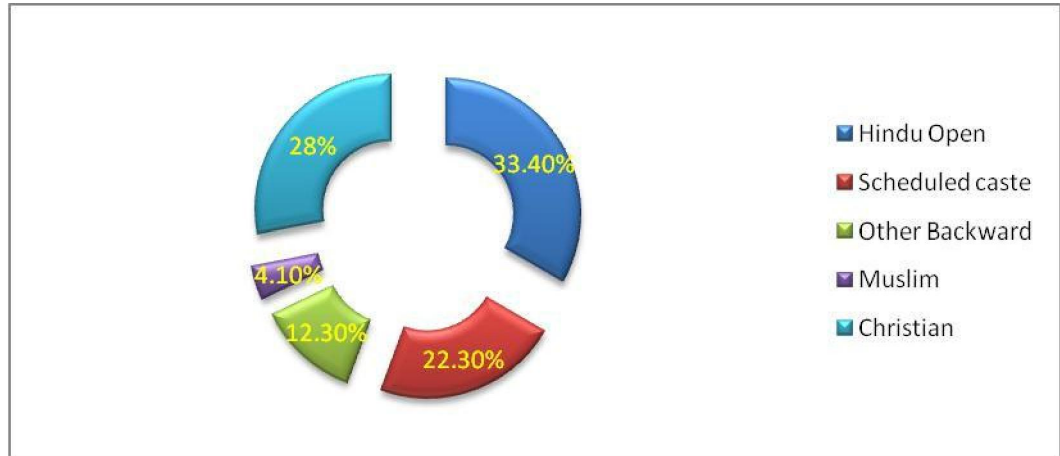
Table No.4.5 and graph No.4.4 indicates Religion and Caste of the subjects. Out of 440 subjects, Hindu-open caste subjects were major group nearly one third subjects 147 (33.42), followed by Christians were 123 (27.95%), then scheduled caste were 98 (22.27%) and 54 (12.27%) were from other backward class. Muslims were very minor 18(4.095%)

TABLE No. 4.6

RELIGION AND GENDER CROSS TABULATION

Religion/caste	Male	Female	Total
Hindu Open	65	82	147
Schedule caste	34	64	98
Other Backward	19	35	54
Muslims	04	14	18
Christians	25	98	123
	147	293	440

Graph No. 4.4
Religion and Caste of the subjects



Graph No.4.5
Religion and gender cross tabulation in frequency

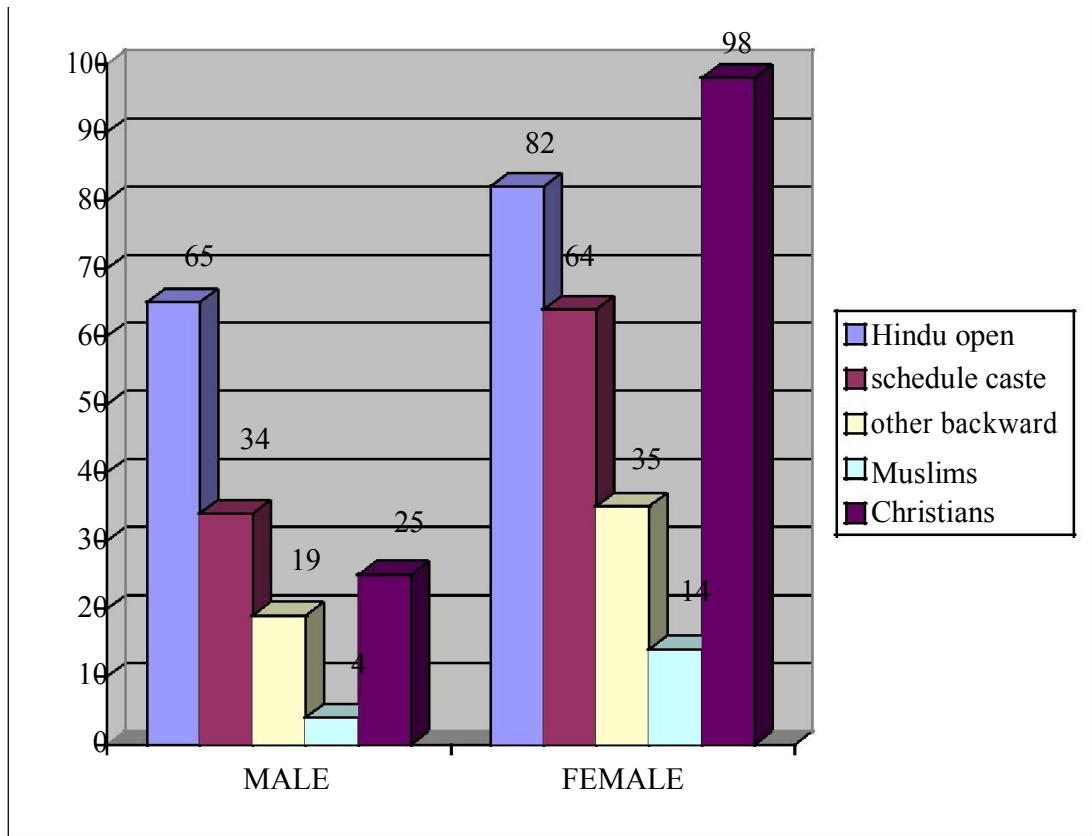


Table No.4.6 and graph No.4.5 indicates cross tabulation of religion and gender: In Christians females are maximum as compared to other caste. If history of nursing is reviewed, nursing in Pre-Christian times, some of examples of such women were as Phoebe -considered the first Deaconess and visiting nurse Fabiola- who were wealthy women and were Christians. They founded the first public hospital in Rome. Rich lady also devoted herself for the services of the sick. She built a hospital for strangers, pilgrims, and travelers and for the sick.. They gave good nursing care for the sick. . During the middle ages, early hospitals were operated by nurses who were affiliated with religious organizations. Such as -mission hospitals. Even in Florence Nightingale's era, only Christian women were in nursing. . As we have already discussed about Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp, a pioneer of the modern nursing had brought changed in professional nursing. Accordingly nursing was the profession of Christians.

Religious beliefs had great impact on the attitude towards the sick and the mode of caring for the sick and the suffering. Christianity believed that one should render services of love to humanity without any reward. It was equal to one's sincere love of God. This principle was fostered and is re-enforced by religious philosophies and beliefs, it inspires people to live a life of service and of self-sacrifice for the sake of others. Along with this spirit, special training and experience has made nursing an ideal and useful profession. Women began nursing as an expression of Christianity (acts of mercy) Women were recognized as important members of community. Yet today in Christians a boy would prefer a „nurse“ as a life partner .

However figures of Hindu-open community is also visible. In history only one lady from Maharashtra-from Thane named Bai Kashibai Ganpat entered in nursing in 1886, she was trained at Madras. It was found in history In Hindu society women's education and that too in nursing had low societal status but slowly these changes are in existence. May be due to nature of job is changed.. In modern era, development of nursing with scientific advance technology brought the changes in nature of job. Instead of devotion it took place of

occupation with social economic benefits like better salary ,flexibility of duty hours, helpers like nursing assistants, ASHA in community health services, facilities on Government job led to improved social status and avenues open for higher education, promotions in different areas such as teaching, clinical, research and administration so also strong unions to support for all demands made from time to time resulted in Hindu castes students entering in nursing. and now they are maximum in numbers This change is notified.

However males of Hindu caste is maximum and that may be due to opportunity and surety of jobs as there is big problem of unemployment in India and

Maharashtra. Muslim boys figure is very negligible. However girl's number is increasing. When the Researcher entered in nursing, criticisms from the society were horrible that all family specially parents were suffered.

Schedule class and other backward class get exemption of 5% of marks in eligibility criteria and financial assistance in the form of scholarships and as per Indian constitution, they had job guarantee. Therefore they were also in good number. Regarding Muslims they were very minor, though male gender is very less (N-4) and girls were (N_14) better than boys. It was appreciable because of rigid customs of pardah system. In spite of that they had entered nursing.

TABLE No.4.7

DISTRIBUTION AS PER NATIONALITY OF STUDENTS

Nationality	Frequency	Percentage %
Indian	438	99.55
Non-Indian	002	00.45
Total	440	100%

Table No. 4.7: Indicates Nationality of subjects There were hardly two non-Indians-f-2 (00.45 %), They were Nigerians. Both had their relatives taking education in other field at Maharashtra.Those two also wanted to take admission in medical faculty but they could not get ,therefore they had taken admission to B.Sc.nursing .otherwise all 438 subjects were Indians (99.55 %

TABLE No.4.8

PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE

Place of Residence	Frequency	Percentage %
Urban	246	55.91
Rural	194	44.09
	440	100%

Graph No.4.6

Distribution of subjects as per place of Residence

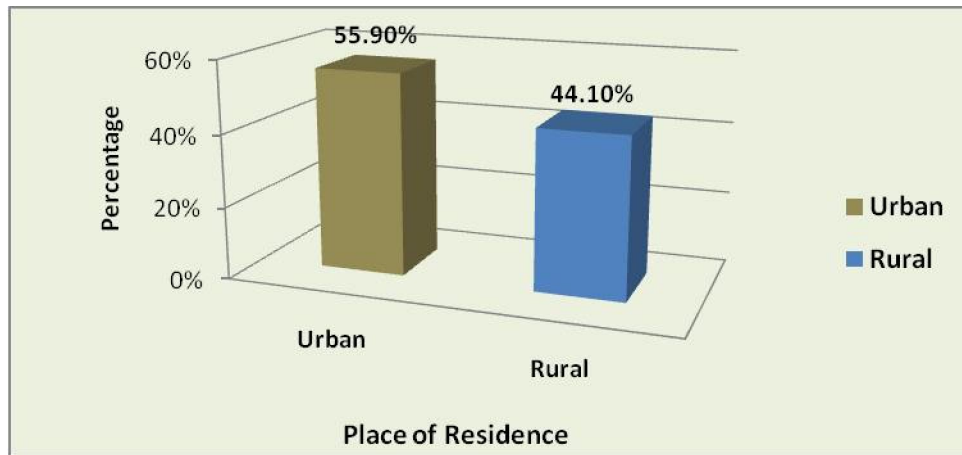


Table no.4.8 and graph no.4.6 shows place of residence among subjects More than half group (N=246) were from urban area (55.91%), whereas (N=194) subjects were from rural area. (44.99%), students residing in urban area were more as compare to rural.

Rural society is dominated by primary relations, Rural people are conservative and orthodox .They prefer to be in joint families and mostly do not want to leave their place unless badly in need of financial resources. Less mobile either in physical or social mobility. Less educated than urban resides

Education facilities“ as compared to urban are deficient. Urban schools are usually larger, enjoy greater responsibility for resources. Urban dwellers have access to all these resources For example a nursing school requires own hospital of minimum 100 bedded for clinical experience and other affiliated

hospitals of various specialties of minimum 50 bedded, which are available only in cities or towns. It is difficult to run a nursing school is very difficult.

TABLE No. 4.9

CROSS TABULATION OF GENDER AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Place of Residence	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Urban	84	162	246
Rural	63	131	194
	147	293	440

Table 4.9: Indicates cross tabulation of place of residence and gender. It was observed that students either male or female from urban residence were more than rural residence. Rural people's perception is still "nurse-bai" who is involved in check up of pregnant mother, in delivery process of women and child care and motivates for family planning. This image is resulting in less male students entering in nursing from rural areas, whereas for girl's education socio economic constraints, sending girls to city for training, there is feeling of insecurity, and if at all what is the Socio-economic benefit to parents if so much money is invested for her education and returns would not be there after her marriage, it would be benefited to her husband and family, All these thoughts are resulting in early marriage of girls and shirking off the responsibility of a daughter's education.

TABLE No.4.10

EDUCATIONAL STATUS BEFORE ENROLLMENT TO NURSING IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE

Education	Frequency	Percentage
12 th Science	418	94.99
Graduation	022	05.00
Total	440	100%

TABLE No.4.11

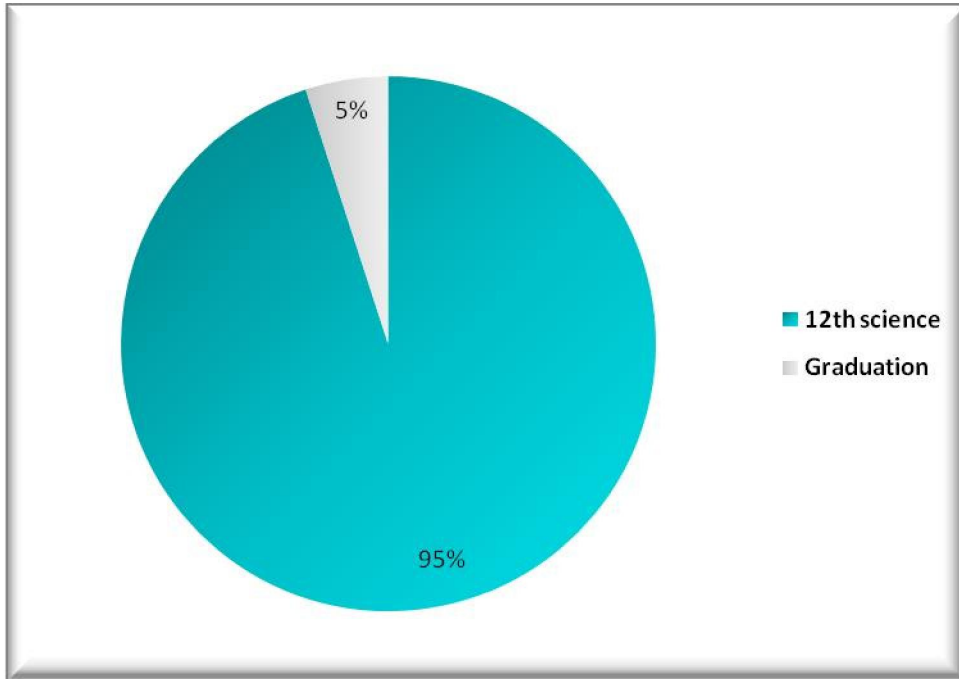
PERCENTAGE OF MARKS IN 12TH SCIENCE-

Percentage of Marks 12th Science-PCBE	Frequency	Percentage %
40-50%	111	25.22
>50 to 60%	200	45.45
>60% and above	129	29.33
Total	440	100%

Table no.4.11 and graph No.4.8:Indicates Percentage of Marks in 12th Science-. Out of 440 samples total (N=111) about one fourth subjects (25.28%) had scored 40-50% marks in PCBE, criteria for admission was 40% in PCBE of 12th science for Scheduled caste and OBC; whereas 45% minimum in PCBE for open category, There were (N=200) subjects(45.45%) had scored more than 50-60%marks and hardly (N=29)subjects had (29.32%) scored above 60% of marks

Graph No.4.7

Educational status among subjects in percentage



Graph No.4.8

Percentage of marks in 12 th science

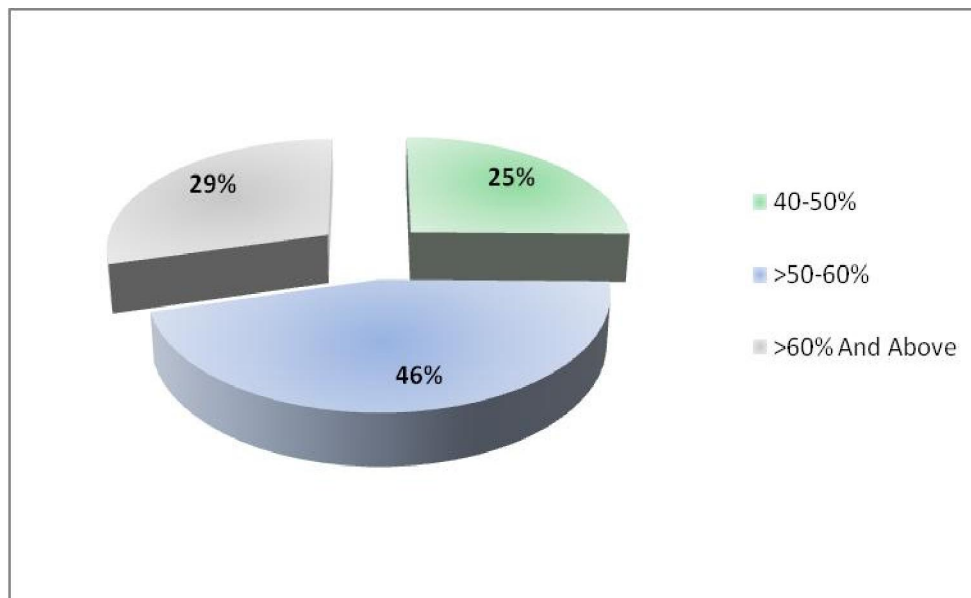


Table No 4.10 and graph No.4.7 Indicate educational status of subjects. Majority of the subjects (N=418) had passed 12th science (94.99%) as per criteria for admission to B.Sc. nursing programme, surprisingly, (N=22) had taken admission after graduation. (0.5 %.)

After graduation also, subjects who were not able to get jobs, had taken admission to nursing as they felt that, being a technical course they had surety of jobs at regional, national and international level.

TABLE No.4.12
PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND PERCENTAGE OF MARKS
CROSS TAB

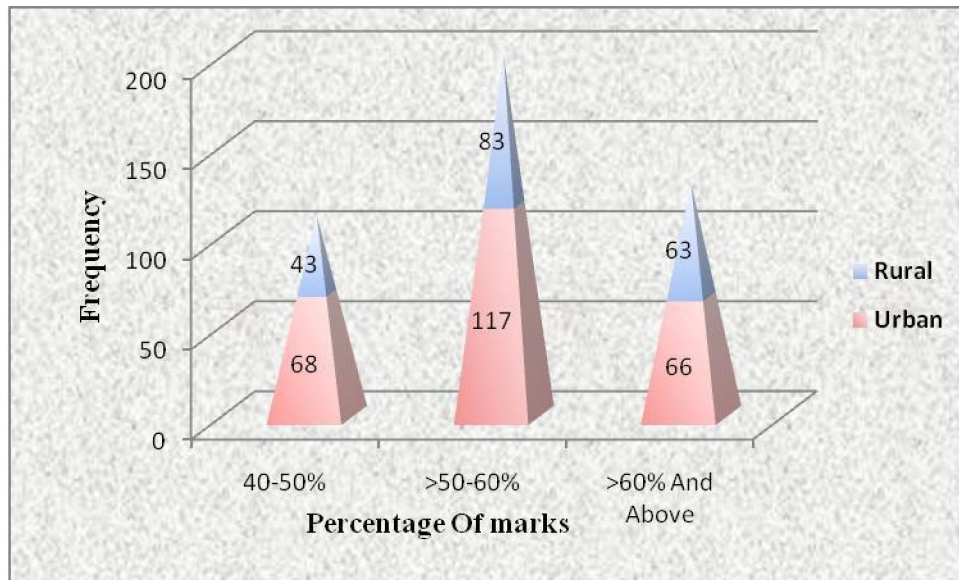
Place of Residence	Marks in percentage			Total
	40-50%	>50-60	>60	
	F %	F %	F %	F %
Urban	63 (14.32)	117(26.59)	66 (15.00)	246 (55.91)
Rural	48 (10.91)	83 (18.86)	63 (14.32)	194 (44.09)
Total	111 (25.28)	200(45.45)	129(29.32)	440(100%)

TABLE No.4.13
MARITAL STATUS OF SUBJECTS

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	398	90.45
Married	038	08.64
Divorced/Widow	004	00.91
Total	440	100%

Graph No.4.9

Cross tabulation of place of Residence and Percentage of marks in frequency



Graph No.4.10

Marital status of subjects in frequency

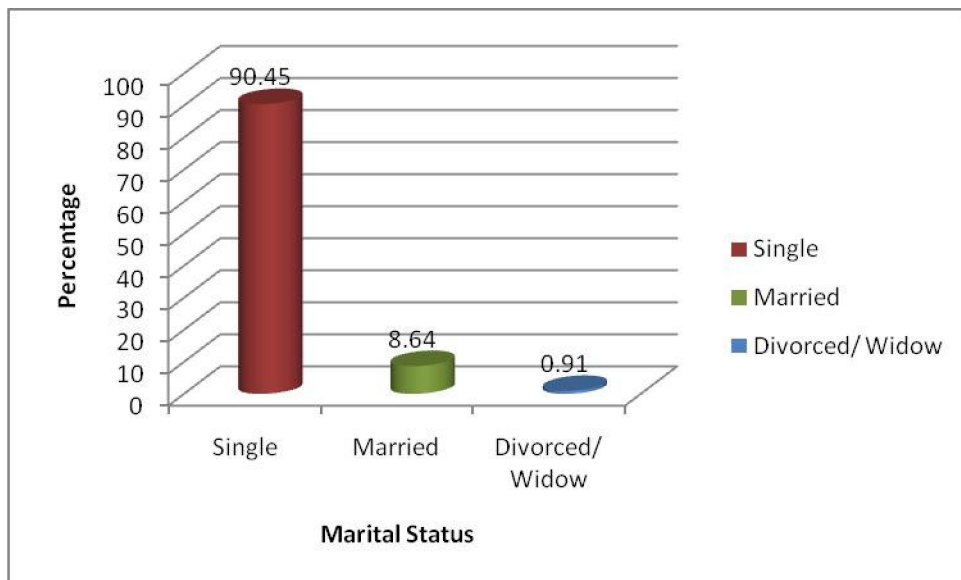


Table No.4.12 and graph No. 4.9: Indicates cross tabulation of place of residence and percentage of marks in 12th science(PCBE): It was observed that maximum subjects (N=117) were from urban area who had above 50 to 60% of marks (26.59%) than rural N=83) students (18.86%), about 8% were more, whereas scoring above 60% were approximately same, urban (N=66) were (15%) and rural (N=63) were (4.32%). In weaker section that is 40-50% marks, urban students (N=63) were more (4.32%) than rural subjects (N=48) 10.91%. Eligibility criteria for admission was 45% of marks in PCBE group of 12th standard but as per state Government rule it was relaxed by 5% for reserved candidates, (SC, ST, NT, OBC, SBC), most of the reserved class candidates were between 40-50% marks.

Table 4.13 and graph No 4.10: Indicates Marital Status: Among 440 subjects, most (N=39) of the subjects (90.45%) were unmarried, (N=38) were (8.64%) married. As per admission criteria 17 years to be completed as on 31st December of the admission year. As per marriage act 18 Years to be completed for a girl and 21 years to be completed for a boy to get marry. All were unmarried at the time of admission, except (N=04) were divorced/widow (00.91%),

If we look in history of nursing, only unmarried or widows were allowed to take admission in nursing. Rigid duty hours like long night shift duties for nurses and concept of devotion, therefore she would be free from family constraints. But it was resulting in change in societal attitude. As per marriage act, a girl is permitted to marry after completion 18 years of age. By the time she would complete her course, she reaches at the age of 21-22 years. It was rather difficult for her to get suitable husband, many nurses remained unmarried either due to age bar, due to often heavy night shifts or societal attitude towards the profession. Therefore parents especially rigid Hindu or Muslims were not willing to send their daughters for nursing. These all reasons led to shortage of nurses India is facing an acute shortage of trained nurses. A poor ratio of one nurse for every 1,100 people (1:1100) in India. Finally the health ministry and Indian nursing council decided to cancel the condition of only unmarried / single

woman students for admission to nursing and there was a resolution passed to allow married women to get admission to nursing courses. Indian Nursing Council President,⁵ has circulated notification to all states directing them about the said resolution, to minimize shortage of nurses.

TABLE No.4.14
OCCUPATION OF SUBJECTS FATHER/GUARDIAN

Occupation of Father /Guardian	Frequency	Percentage %
Government Service	108	24.54
Private Service/Business	146	33.18
Pensioner	013	02.97
Farmer/Agriculture worker	169	38.40
Unemployed	004	00.91
	440	100%

Graph No.4.11

Occupation of father/guardian in frequency

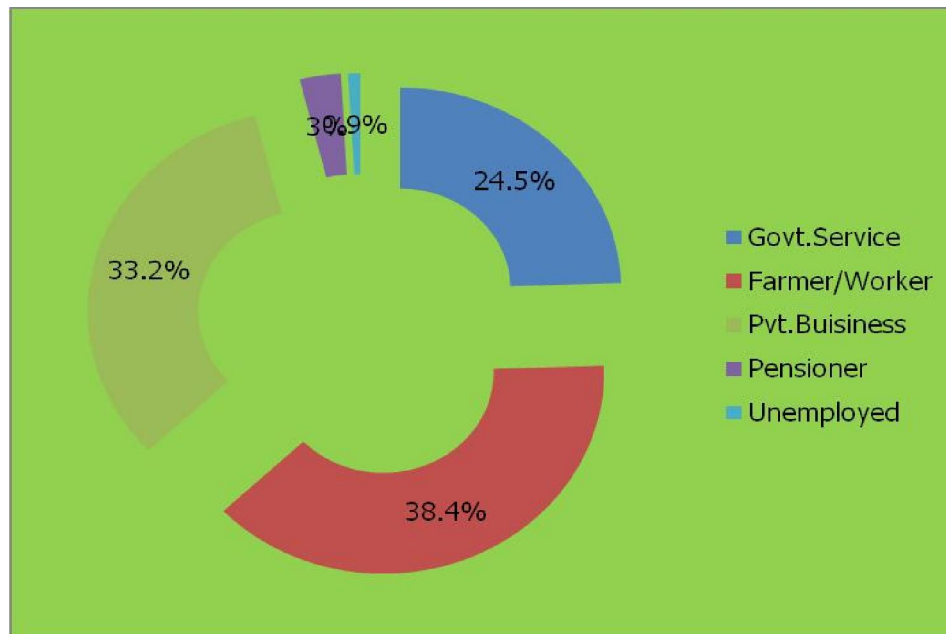


Table 4.14 and graph 4.11: shows Occupation of Father/Guardian:

Maximum group's (N=169) occupation was either farmer or agriculture worker (38.40%). India 67% of the population resides in rural area and their main occupation is farm or agriculture work. Second major group had private service (N=146) or own small business (33.18%), nearly one third (N=108) were in Government job (24.54%) and few (N=13) were pensioners (2.97%), and hardly (N=4) had no work./jobs or Unemployed (0.91%).

It was observed in this study that maximum subject's occupation of father was a farmer, who owned small land holding or landless agriculture labors. Agriculture provides employment ⁶ to 56 per cent of the Indian workforce. However, there have been exclusion problems in the country. One of the report says that "Over dependence on the monsoons - meteorological cycle of 93% of area under dry rainfall, land farming". This means, our farmers are totally dependent on the rainfall. If no rain or scarcity of rain leads to dry draught. The farmers and their families who are totally dependent on farming, no other source of irrigation, even no water to drink no crop, no income dying of hunger or taking loan from Private money lenders who .Year after year due to global warming same cycle of dry draught .Farmers are unable to return the loans taken from „Savkar“.and lastly these farmers commit suicide.. This uncertainty of agriculture enterprise in India, the cycle of repeated sowing resulted in rising costs of cultivation. Economical theory of cost of input is more for cultivation than income generated is low Farmers are in financial loss, All these factors leading to worry to a farmer for future of their children and they prefer to send them to some professional courses which has surety of job and source of income and that is nursing.

Second major group was private business or service like own Auto rickshaw or small pan or grocery shops or industrial worker etc. Source of income is neither stable nor sufficient for a family expenditure from these small scale business.. To avoid these problems parents also perceived nursing as a source of stable income.

TABLE NO. 4.15

CROSS TABULATION OF CASTE AND OCCUPATION OF FATHER

Religion/ Caste	Govt. Serv ice	Farmer/ work	Pr. ser vice/ha sire	Pension ers	Unemployed	Total
Hindu Open	42	62	39	3	1	109
Schedule caste	24	49	23	1	1	098
Ot.B.C.	14	24	13	1	2	054
Muslims	06	03	09	0	0	018
Christians	22	31	62	8	0	123
	108	169	146	13	4	440

Graph No 4.12

Cross tabulation of caste and father's occupation in frequency

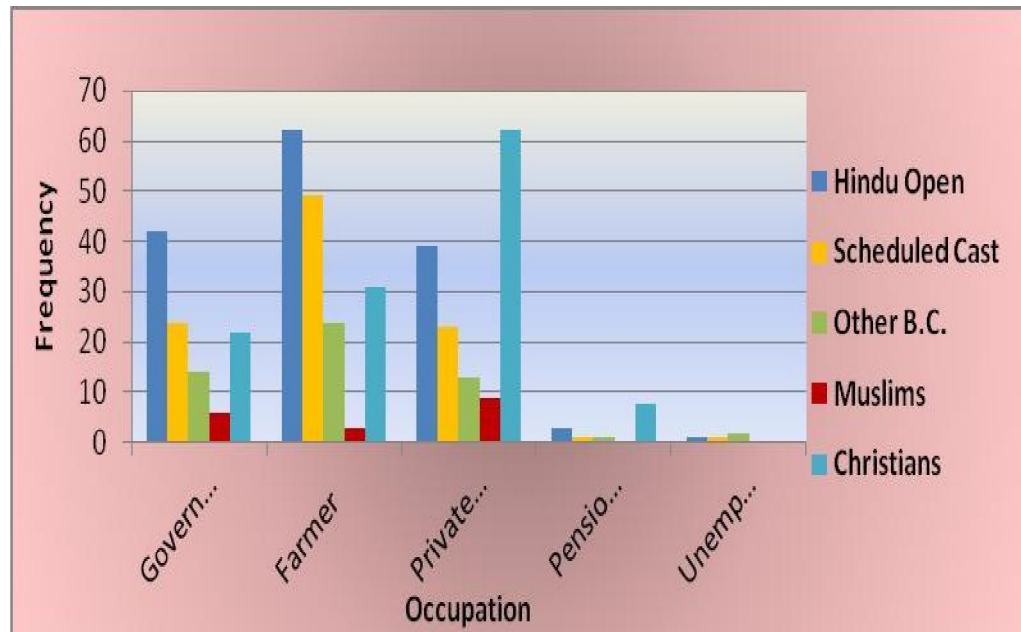


Table 4.15 and Graph No.4.12: indicates student's father / guardian's caste wise occupations .Many cases are traditionally associated with an occupation, such as high-ranking Brahmins; middle-ranking farmer and artisan groups, such as potters, barbers, and carpenters; and very low-ranking "Untouchable" leatherworkers, butchers, launderers, and latrine cleaners..The above table indicates that farmers or agriculture worker were ranking highest in all caste as it is a main occupation of India. Second highest ranking were in private service or own small self employed business like own rickshaws ,salon - barbers or working in Industry .Third ranking were in Government sector, Hindu open caste were ,(N=42)maximum(9.54%),then schedule caste N=24) as they get reservation facility(05.45%), third were (N=22)Christians (05%) ,hardly N =20) were other backwards(04.54%) including Muslims. Pensioners and unemployed were minor in number. There was no association in caste and occupation of father or guardian

TABLE N0.4.16

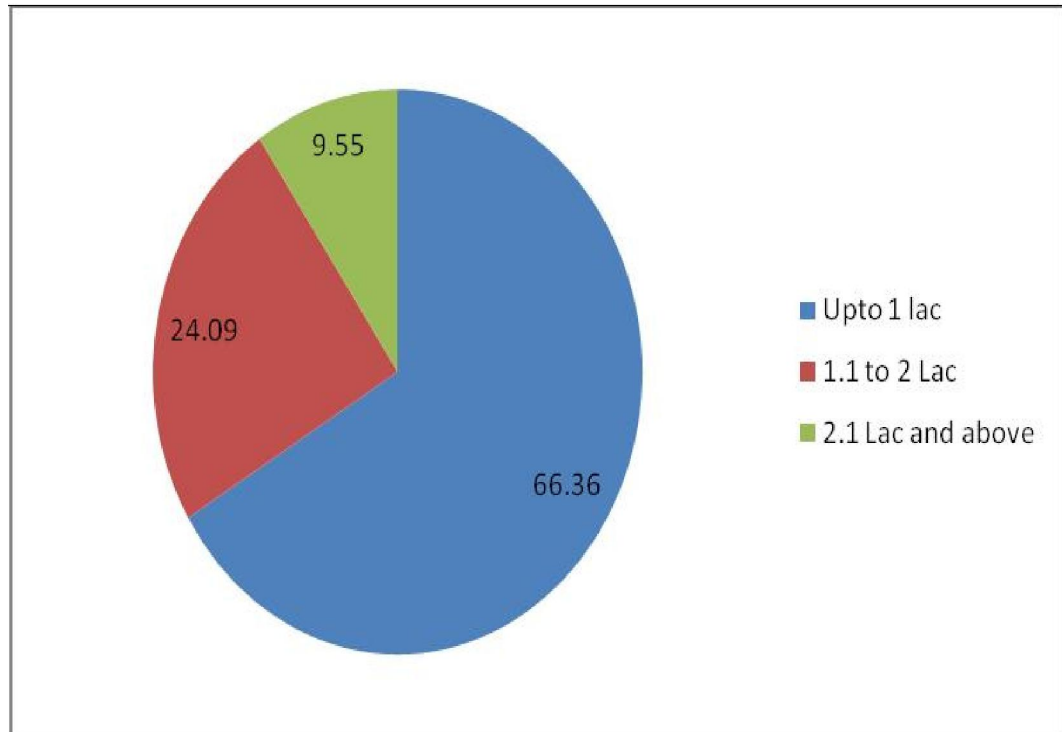
DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO INCOME OF FAMILY

Annual Income of family in Rs.	Frequency	Percentage%
Up to 1 lac	292	66.36
1,1 Lac to 2 lac	106	24.09
2.1lacand above	042	09.55
Total	440	100 %

Graph No.4.13

Distribution of subjects in percentage

As per family income per annum (Rs,)



g

Table 4.16 and graph no. 4.13 show: Annual Income of family. As per our assumption, out of 440 subjects almost the whole group (N = 398) were financially weaker (90.45%), their family income was less than Rs. two lac per annum. Nearly two-thirds (n=292) of subjects (66.36%) were from the very weak income group, below one lac per annum, and above two lac income group were (N=42) hardly (9.55%), in which Christians (N=17) were (03.86%), Open Hindu (N=13) were (2.95%), Scheduled caste (N=8/1.8%) and others were (N=4) hardly (0.90%), very negligible. It is said that ⁷ “there is some correlation between ritual rank on the caste hierarchy and economic prosperity. High caste hierarchy people are richer than lower caste community.

In this study irrespective of religion and caste, mostly all were from the financially weaker section.

TABLE No.4.17

FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED FOR EDUCATION

Financial Aid	Frequency	Percentage
Scholarship	163	37.05
Bank Loan	165	37.27
Any other//No	112	25.68
Total	440	100%

GraphNo.4.14

Financial Aid received to subjects for education

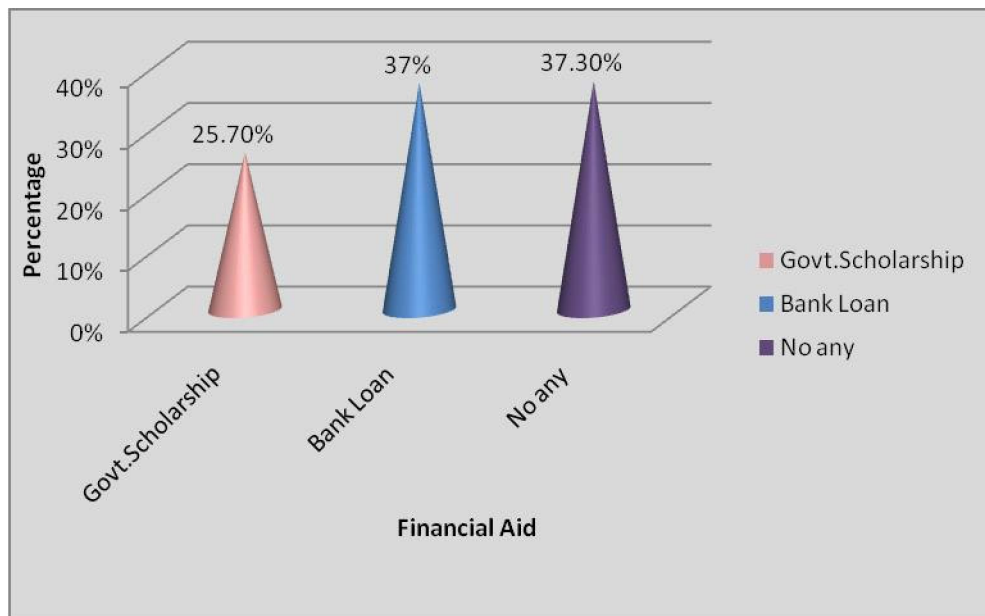


Table 4.17 and Graph 4.13: indicates regarding Financial Aid: Out of 440 subjects (N= 163) students had either applied or received educational scholarships (37.05%) others (N=165) had applied for bank loan (37.27%) and about one fourth N=112) responded as neither scholarship nor bank loan (25.68%).

Nursing Colleges under Maharashtra Government charges minimum fees from Rs.3, 500 to 5,000/-per year and free accommodation is provided, Mess charges are as per Government rate, whereas fees in private unaided colleges ranges from Rs.50, 000 to 1, 10,000/-per year, plus accommodation and messing charges therefore students had to take financial assistance from some organization as students belonged to low income group. Private unaided colleges under deemed universities are not eligible for social welfare scholarship, except colleges affiliated to Government University (MUHS).However minority students can take benefit of minority scholarship of central Government and some religious organizations also help the students for financial assistance. Most of the students take educational loan from banks for that also they struggle as the need some dead property of their own.

Objective II: To assess the perception towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing students enrolled at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra.

Part II of the structured questionnaire Likert Perceptions Scale Instrument, consisted of 20 perception statements related to nursing profession Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement on a five-point scale .For statistical analysis every response weights were given as followsranging from

Strongly Disagree=1, Disagree=2, Not sure=3,, Agree=4, to Strongly Agree=5.

To accomplish this objective, the researcher presented the frequency percentage ,mean and standard deviation for each of the 20 items included in the Likert scale Instrument In addition, demonstrated the sum, mean value and standard deviation of each stem mining relationships between demographic characteristics and each of the 20 items individually in subsequent manner.

The researcher used factor analysis method to further summarize the findings regarding the B.Sc.nursing students” perceptions of the nursing profession. The characteristics of each item, under part II likert scale was determined to which sub-area , underlying constructs identified in the data. The researcher first determined the appropriate number of factors to be extracted from the scale. Using a combination of the characteristic and criteria, the number of sub-areas were determined to be three. The results of the factor analysis including the factor, its label as determined by the content of the items included in the factor, and the factor loadings for each item in each of the factors is presented .The three sub-areas were labeled by the researcher as perception of nursing aspect as **“Care”**, “perception of **“nursing as a profession”**”, and **“”Social status and socio-economic benefits** in nursing. Accordingly perception in three sub-areas are demonstrated in tables,(4.18,4.19 1nd 4.20)

Illustration No.2

**CONCEPT OF PERCEPTION OF NURSING PROFESSION IN THREE
SUB-AREAS**

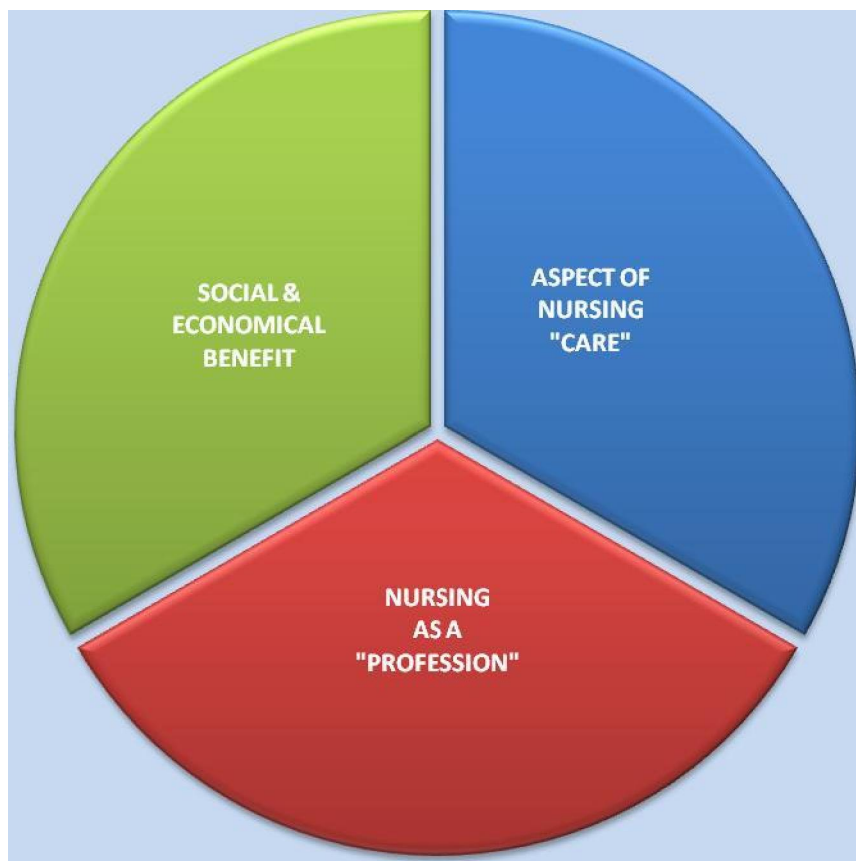


TABLE N0.4.18

Responses to the statement regarding Perceptions towards nursing profession

Sub area-: Perception regarding “Aspect of Care”

S. No	Sub area-:Perception of “Care”	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Not Sure		Agree		Strongly Agree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	An opportunity to serve humanity	5	1.14	7	1.59	13	2.95	153	34.77	263	59.77
2	Key role in prevention of diseases & promotion of Health	1	0,23	3	0.68	8	1.82	175	39.77	254	57.73
3	Need to acquire advance technology	6	1.36	2	0.45	9	2.05	136	30.91	287	65.23
4	Care requires with critical thinking	3/	0.68	5	1.14	19	4.32	155	35.23	258	58.64
5	requires compassion, patience and strength	00	00	6	1.36	24	5.45	181	41.14	229	52.05
6	Nursing involves caring of Patients and Teaching regarding health	4	0.91	1	10.23	6	1.36	100	22.73	329	74.77

Graph No.4.15
Perception regarding “Aspect of Care „in frequency

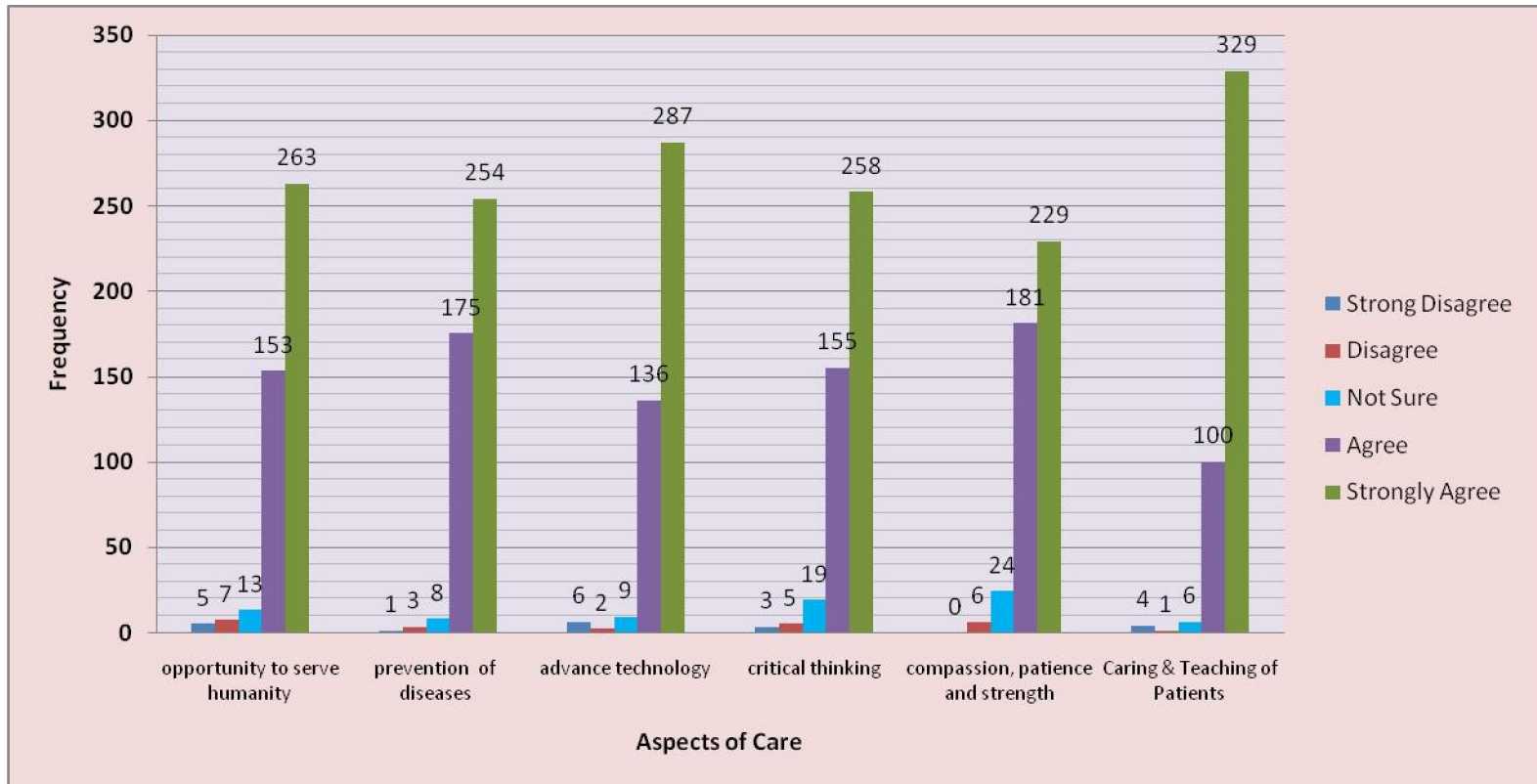


TABLE No.4.19
Responses to the statement regarding Perceptions towards nursing profession
Sub area-: Perception of “nursing as a profession”

S N	Sub area-:Perception of “nursing as a profession	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Not Sure		Strongly Agree		Agree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
7	Nursing is a noble profession	03	0.68	05	1.14	24	5.45	124	28.18	284	64.55
8	Profession is dignified, respectful as well as a way to get due recognition in the society	08	1.82	29	6.59	51	11.59	215	48.86	137	31.14
9	A nurse is an important person and nursing is an equally important career to the health care system\	08	1.82	16	3.64	19	4.32	165	37.50	232	52.73
1	Nursing isa medical technical activity	06	1.36	04	0.91	45	10.23	225	51.14	160	36.36
11	A suitable profession for females	65	14.7	91	20.6	88	20.00	122	27.73	74	16.82
12	Nurses are more kind and sympathetic	06	1.36	19	5.68	83	24.55	196	47.33	136	20.45
13	Nursing is not prestigious job	61	13.8	105	23.8	81	18.41	124	28.18	69	15.68
14	Nursing is autonomous.	06	1.36	25	5.68	108	24.55	210	47.73	90	20.45

Graph No.4.16

Respondent's perception in sub area-„Nursing as a profession“

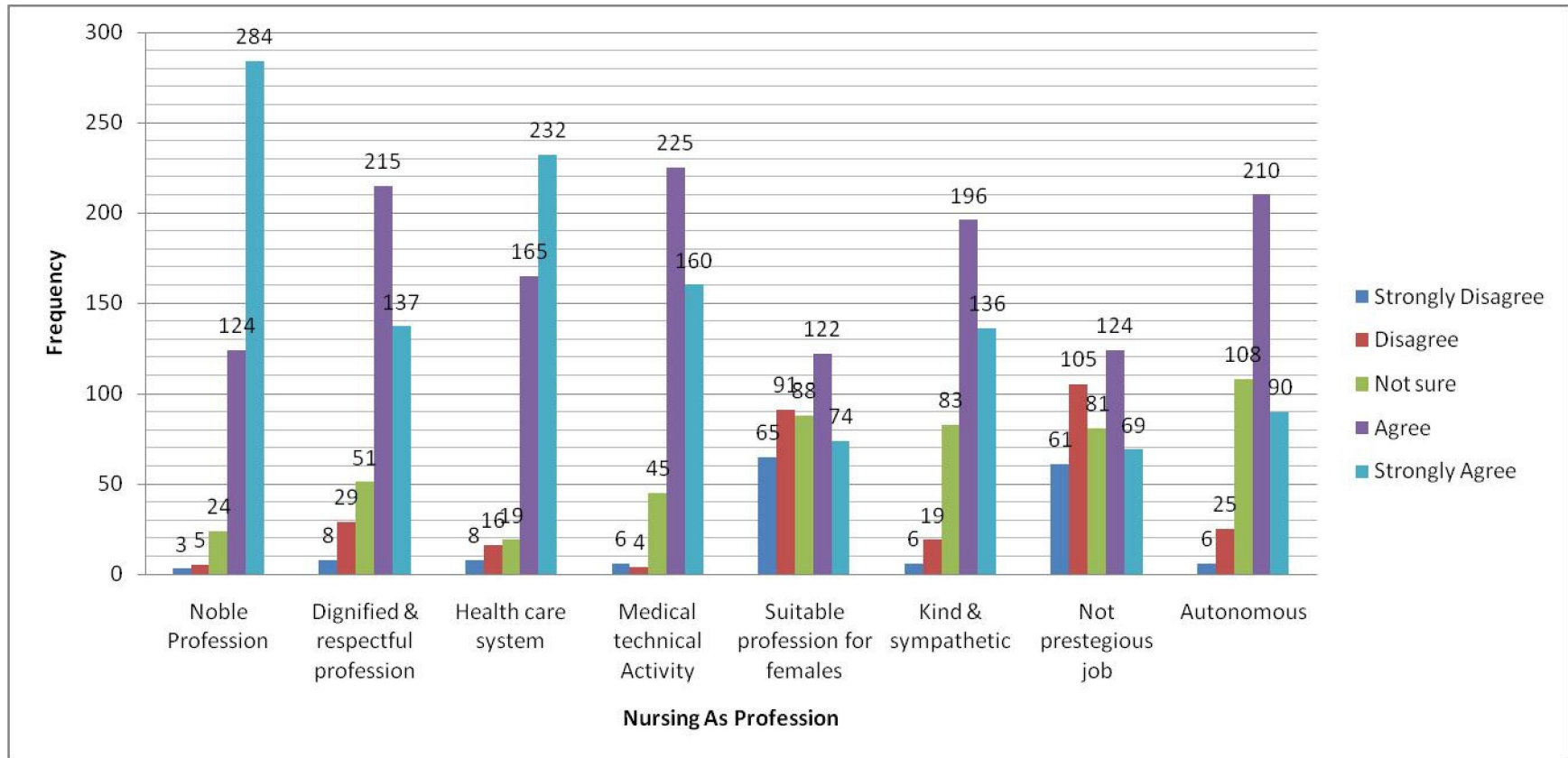


Table No. 4.20

Responses to the statement regarding Perceptions towards nursing profession

Sub Area: Perceptions towards Social status and socio-economic benefits

S.N.	Sub Area:Percepti0n towards socio economic benefits Statements	Strong Disagree		Disagree		Not Sure		Agree		Strongly Agree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
15	Opportunities for personal advancement	5	1.14	11	2.50	64	14.55	225	51.14	135	30.68
16	Opportunities to work in other countries	7	1.59	9	2.05	34	7.73	168	358.18	225	50.45
17	Good salary, Stable Job, Low Stress and flexible working hours	22	5.00	41	9.32	72	16.36	164	37.27	141	32.5
18	Nursing is well respected career path	65	14.77	91	20.68	88	20.00	122	27.73	74	16.82
19	Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students	93	21.14	61	13.86	59	13.41	92	20.91	135	30.68
20	Nurses are an auxiliary of the Physician	58	13.18	130	29.55	94	21.36	105	23.86	53	12.05

Graph No.4.17

Respondent's perception in sub area Social status and socio-economic benefits in frequency

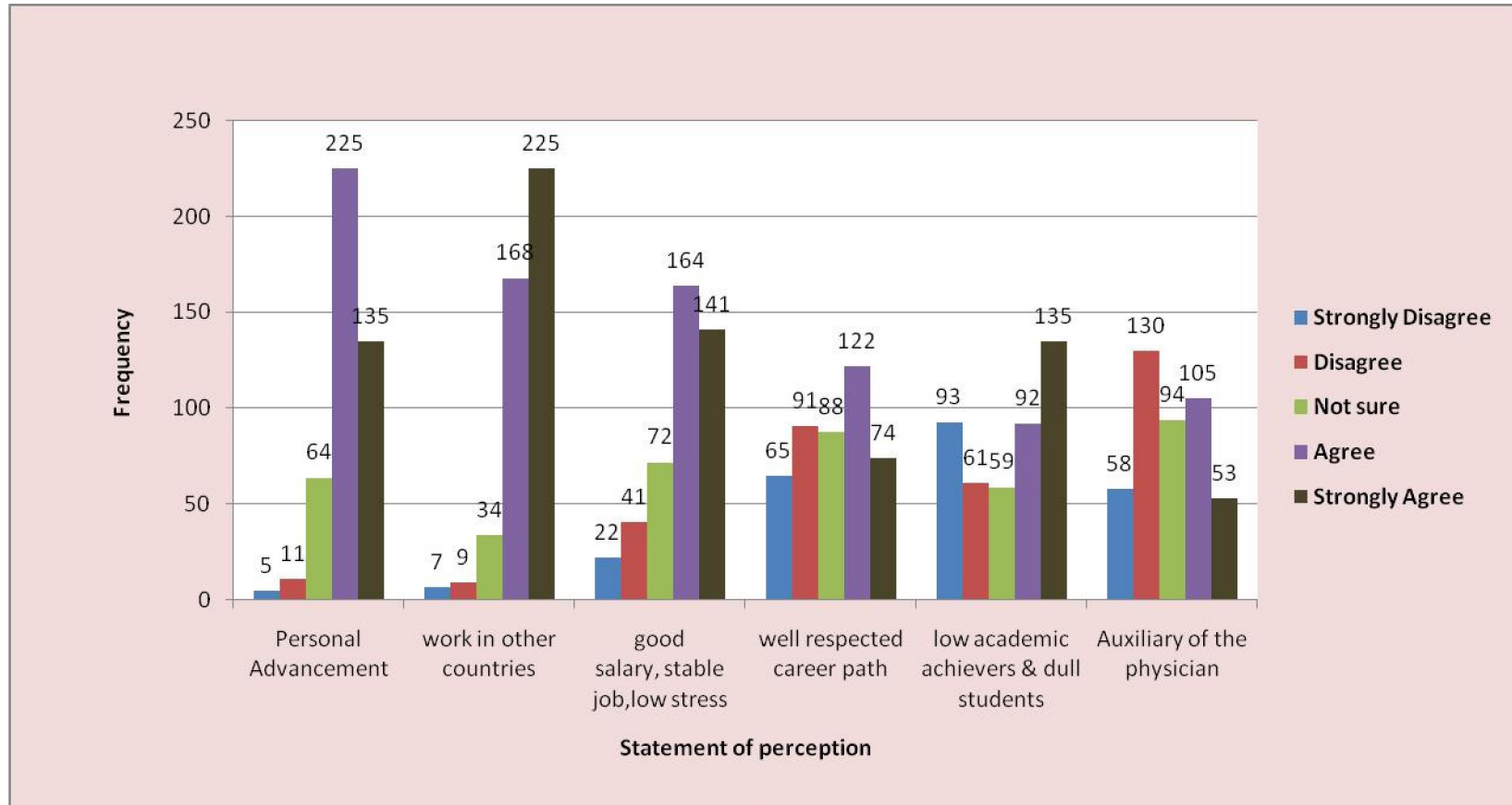


TABLE No: 4.21

**PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION SUB AREA”-CARE”
IN MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION AND CATEGOGORY**

S.No.	Statements	Response	Mean	S.D
1	An opportunity to serve humanity	Strongly Agree	4.51	..717
2	Key role in prevention of diseases and promotion of health	Strongly Agree	4.54	.583
3	Nurses Need to acquire advance technology for prevention of diseases &&promotion Health	Strongly Agree	4.58	.690
4	It is not only taking Care brut requires with critical thinking	Strongly Agree	4.50	.698
5	Nursing requires compassion, patience and strength	Strongly Agree	4.44	.662
6	Nursing involves caring of Patients and teaching regarding health	Strongly Agree	4.70	.600

CARE;

Table 4.18: shows perception towards aspect of care. It was observed that above all the six statements for which respondents indicated “strongly agree”, were concerned with CARE. Regarding nursing care student’s perception was found good; Majority subjects ranging from 52% to 75% were “strongly agree” for all six statements pertaining to care aspect. Their perception in this area was very good. As per International Council of Nurses, “Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of Individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people.” the basic concept of nursing is to give care for them who are sick, helpless or deficit in physical, psychological abilities. Care includes health teaching to the families and clients to prevent ill-health and diseases, Nurses have role in prevention of diseases and promotion of health. In hospitals they are working under the guidance of senior faculty, supervisors or in collaboration with physicians but in community nurses are working

independently. They are implementing all national programmes like “Immunization programme” ,mass education programme, Reproductive and child health programme,school health programme etc.” they are preventing communicable diseases, nutritional deficiencies as well as major role in reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Therefore she must be acquainted with advance technological knowledge. Medical science is advancing very fast and nurses has to keep pace with them.To keep herself update she must attend conferences workshops, in service education as well as reading nursing journals, research articles will enhance her technogical knowledge. Nursing has become medical technical activity. When new equipments, ,machines, instruments are brought to the hospitals, she must be enthusiastic to learn. Nurses need critical thinking, at each step. No treatment can be given without rationale or knowledge of possible complications of each medications, procedures, interventions and emergency care as nurses are working round the clock.

In the present study subjects had good perception for all the statements belongs to care, (strongly agree)

TABLE No.4.22

PERCEPTION TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION

SUB-AREA: “NURSING AS A PROFESSION”

IN MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION AND CATEGOGORY

S.N	Statement	Response	Mean	S.D
1	Nursing is a noble profession	Strongly Agree	4.55	.713
2	Profession is dignified, respectful as well as a way to get due recognition in the society	Agree	4.01	.925
3	A nurse is an important person and nursing is an equally important career to the health care system	Strongly Agree	4.36	.868
4	Nursing is a medical technical Activity	Agree	4.20	.765
5	A suitable profession for females	Agree	3.11	.892
6	Nurses are more kind and sympathetic	Agree	3.99	.892
7	Nursing is not prestigious job	Agree	3.08	1.30
8	Nursing is autonomous.	Agree	3.81	1.31

Nursing as a Profession::

Table no.4.20 indicates: Majority of the B.Sc nursing subjects responded as “strongly agree” for “nursing is a noble profession.” dignified profession “ and “a nurse is an important person and nursing is an equally important career in the health care system” and “agree “for other five statements, which were related to the characteristics of nursing profession. In first chapter, we have discussed all the criteria of the profession. Nursing is not an occupation but a profession. It deals with live human beings, nursing has been essential to the preservation of life. Survival and welfare of the human race, this profession is service oriented through research its body of knowledge is increasing, it has code of ethics and this profession is autonomous. However

subjects working in clinical field were puzzled about autonomous nature of the profession due to the experiences they come across .May be they were not sure, therefore they did not agreed strongly. However they were motivated with their seniors or they had gained knowledge through observations and communicating experiences of self and others they had developed positive attitude towards the nursing profession. Perception scale was rating from mean 3.08 to 4.20, which indicated as good perception.

Table No. 4.23

**PERCEPTION TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION
SUB AREA-“SOCIAL STATUS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS
IN MEAN, STANDARD DEVIATION AND CATEGOGORY**

S.N	Statements	Response	Mean	S.D
1	Opportunities for personal advancement	Agree	4.08	.806
2	Opportunities to work in other countries	Strong Agree	4.34	.833
3	Good salary, Stable Job, Low Stress and flexible working hours	Agree	.3.82	1.13
4	Nursing is well respected career path	Agree	3.74	1.20
5	Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students	Agree	3.26	1.53
6	Nurses are an auxiliary of the Physician	Disagree	2.92	1.24

Social status and socio-economic benefits –

Table No.4.24 “opportunities to work in other countries were indicated as “strongly agree” other Statements were, ,good salary ,opportunities for personal and career development were indicated in „good“ category .Students are observing during their study period that many teachers and seniors were going abroad as well as working in regional, national and international levels either in hospital or educational settings, A mass group got the opportunities in Government jobs with good salary, flexible duty hours and facilities for in

service and continuing education, which they have observed directly as their senior batches were recruited in Government hospitals in Maharashtra state due to which students had developed futuristic positive perception regarding social status and socio-economic benefits of the nursing profession.(Mean ranging from 3.08 to 4.20).

Disagree: There was hardly one statement where respondents indicated “Disagree.” A Statement was “Nurses are auxiliary to the physician” Students had indicated disagreement (f=225/51.14%) and strongly disagreed by (f=135 (30.68%) total 360 students about 82% had denied this statement. (Mean=2.92, SD=1.24) Nurses develop a plan of care, working collaboratively with physicians, therapists, the patient, the patient's family and other team members, that focus on treating illness. Nurses, physician or other health workers are working in a team. It is a team work .Each member of the team tries to give best possible care to the patient, or client. Nobody is auxiliary to anyone. But media had portrayed such image. Now central Government had started “independent nurse practitioner” two years course after graduation in nursing. However there was strong denial for this statement. They believe that nurses are the member of a health team.

Levels of perception: After the underlying constructs were identified, were categorized in three sub-area the researcher computed sub-scale scores for each of the identified constructs, which were then used in analysis of relationships with demographic characteristics These scores no longer reflected simply agreement/disagreement, but as good ,average and poor perceptions of nursing with a scale values ranged from 1=strongly negative perception to 5=strongly positive perception This procedure enabled the researcher to minimize the inflation error associated with possible scores on the perception.

This perception scale had 20 statement where it could range from minimum 20 (1x20) to maximum 100. (5x20) In the study, the scores ranged from 57 to 100. Mean score was 80.40 and S.D. was 6, 77 .therefore score was divided into three categories, “**Good, Average and Poor.**” **Mean 80** was

categorized as good perception, **Mean 60-80** was categorized as average perception and **< 60** was categorized as poor perception towards nursing profession.

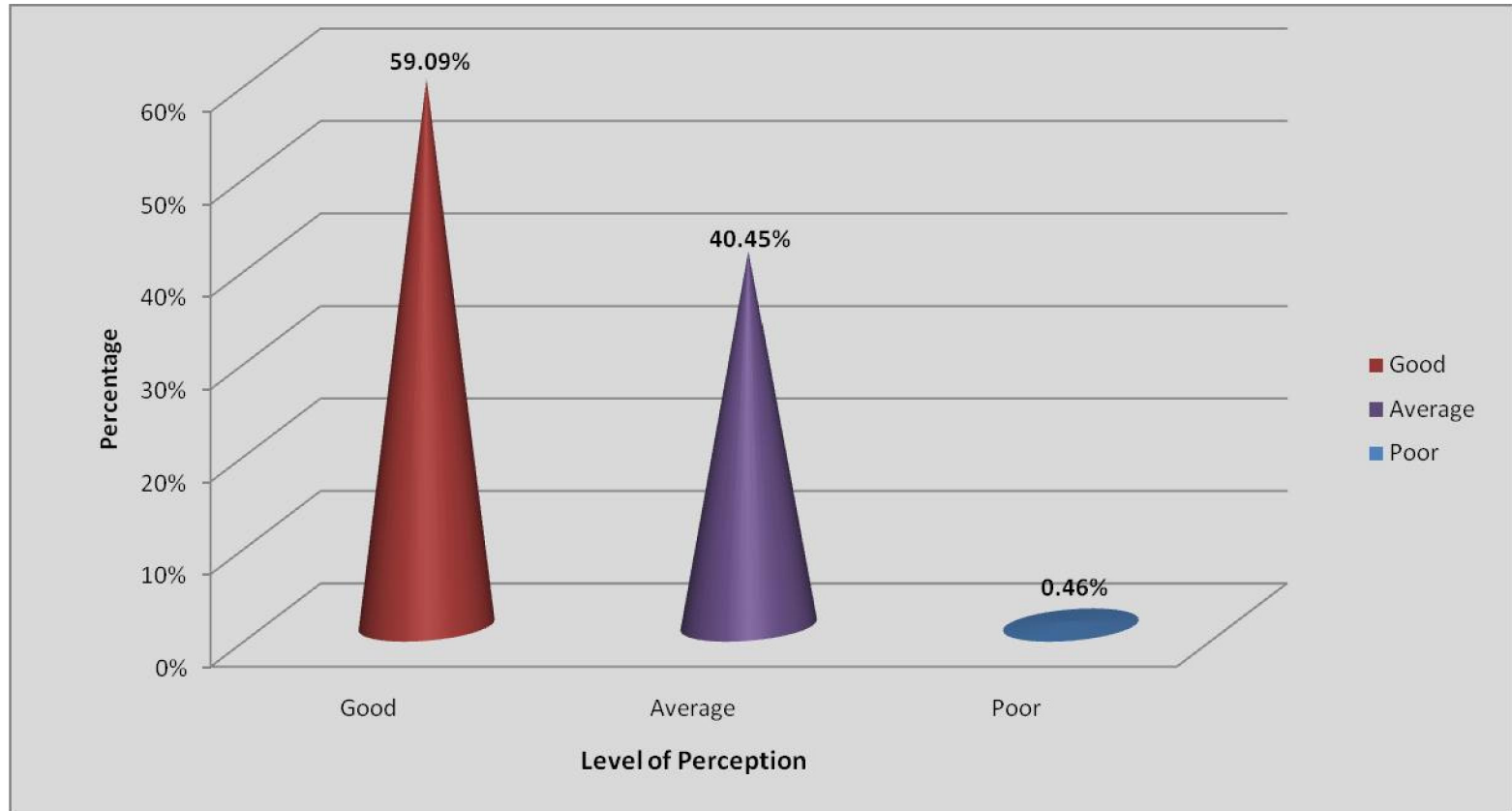
TABLE No. 4.24
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION AMONG SUBJECTS
IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE

S.No	Level of perception	Mean Score ranges from	Frequency	Percentage
1	Good	>80 -100	260	59.09
2	Average	60 - 80	178	40.45
3	Poor	<60	002	00.46
			440	100%

Table No. 4.24 and Graph No.4.15: indicates that maximum subjects had „Good“ level (59.09%) of perception, others (40.45%) had „average“ perception; Hardly two respondents (0.46%) had „poor“ perception.

Graph No.4.18

Level of Perception among subjects in Percentage



Objective III: To identify relationship of demographical variables to perception of nursing profession, among B.Sc nursing students enrolled in western Maharashtra.

Data were analyzed statistically, to determine if relationships existed between perceptions of the B.Sc nursing students and selected demographical variables. as age, admission year, gender, religion/caste ,place of residence, Percentage of marks in 12th PCBE, and Family income.

TABLE No.: 4.25.

RELATIONSHIP OF AGE TO LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE

Age in years	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
17 to 19	104 (70.27%)	044 (29.72%)	0	148 (100%)
20 to 22	113 (52.30%)	101 (46.75%)	2 (0.92%)	216 (100%)
23 and above	043 (56.57%)	033 (43.43%)	0	076 (100%)
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE 4.21; Indicates that the younger the age ,the percentage of good perception(70.27%) were more, This age group (>17 to 19 years) was mostly of first year students, specially new comers, as admission criteria is completion of 17 years, and some were in second year. In age group of 19 to 21 years as compared to other age group minimum (52.31%) were in good perception, Even in average perception, they were maximum (46.75%) The more the age, they were exposed to the different environment, clinical experiences, communications with different people, seniors and expectations might be changing their perception. The more the age, percentage was more in average level of perception

Graph No.4.19

Relationship of Age to level of perception in percentage

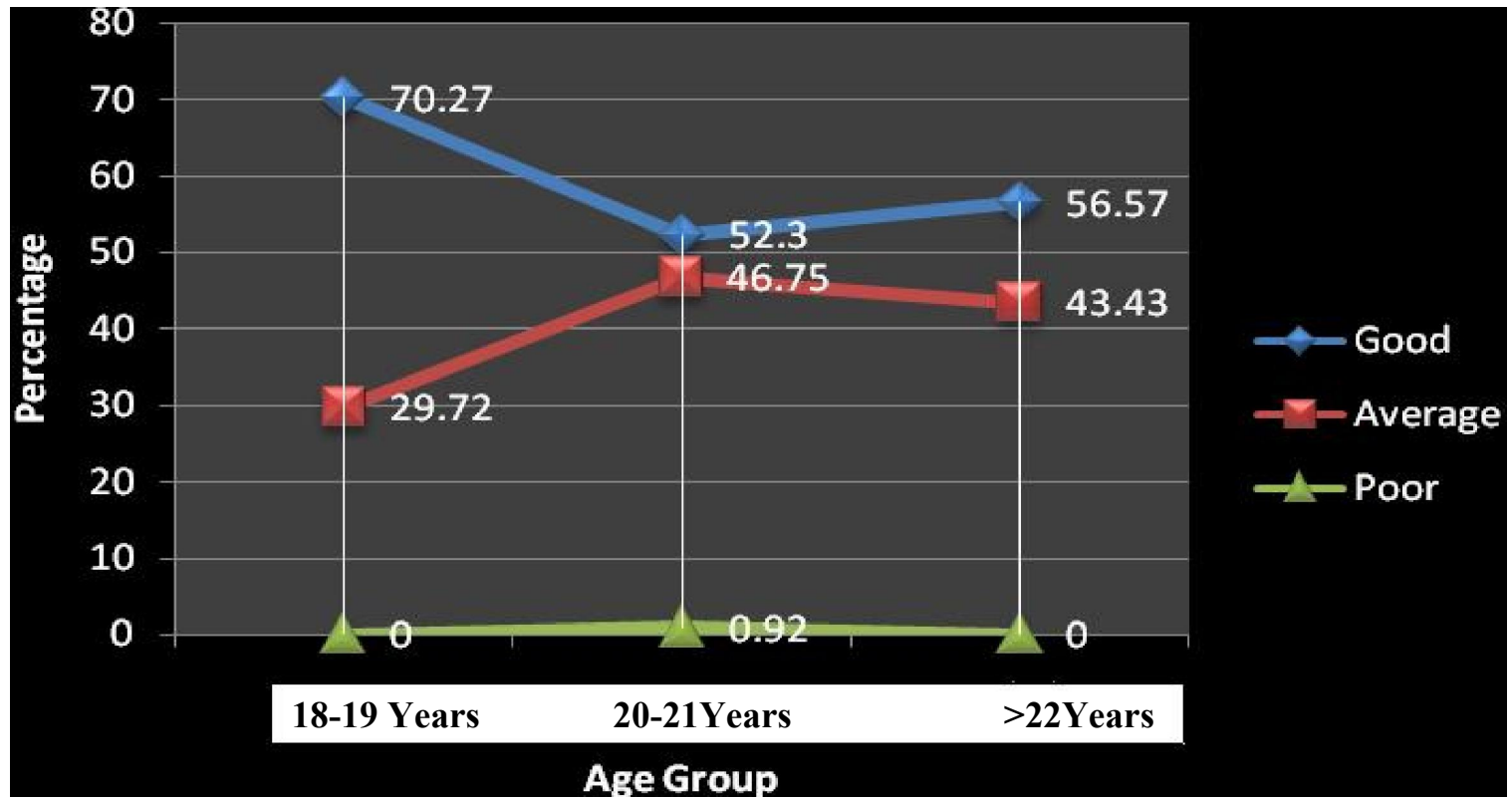


TABLE 4.26

RELATIONSHIP OF ADMISSION YEAR TO LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Admission year / year of the course	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
2011-12 (4 th year)	71 (50.00)	70 (49.30)	1 (0.70)	142 (100%)
2012-13 (3 rd year)	59 (53.64)	50 (45.45)	1 (0.91)	110 (100%)
2013-14 (2 nd year)	65 (60.75)	42 (39.25)	0 (0.00)	107 (100%)
2014-15 (1 st year)	65 (80.25)	16 (19.75)	0 (0.00)	81 (100%)
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE 4.22 ; Indicates that maximum first year students (80.00%) had good perception If we look at the table as they were becoming seniors their level of perception was more in average. Perception was changing from new comers to seniors year by year. This may be due to exposures to the clinical field, college environment area, curriculum, examinations, communication with different people, different difficulties they were facing either in theory or practical"s as year to year. Their level of good perception were in descending level from first to fourth year, and average level of perception was in ascending manner. (See graph on next page.)

Graph No.4.20

Relationship of Admission year to level of Perception in percentage

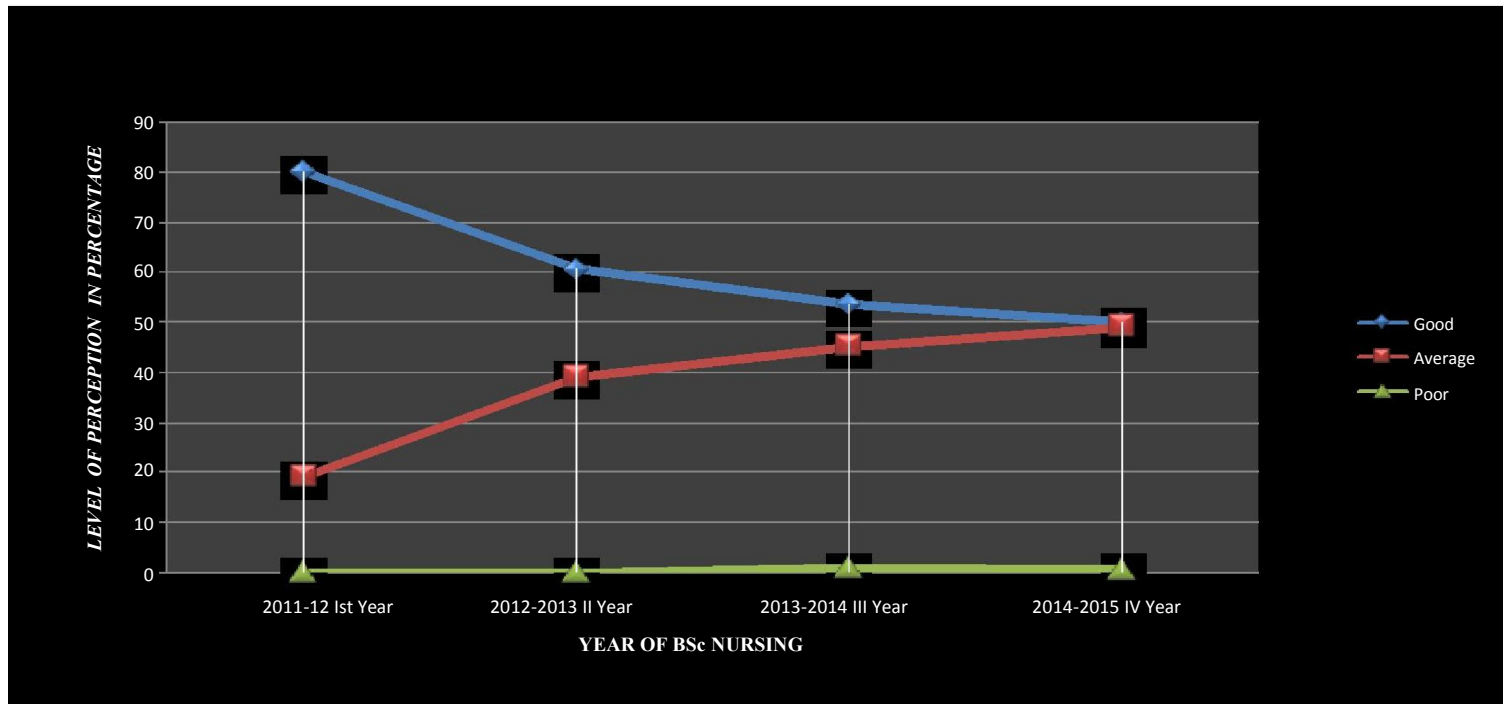


TABLE No.:4.27;
RELATIONSHIP OF GENDER TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Gender	Level of Perceptions			Total
	80-100	60-80	41-60	
Male	87 (59.18%)	58 (39.45%)	2 (1.36%)	147
Female	173 (59.04%)	120 (40.96%)	0 (0.00%)	293
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE N0.4.27 5.3: Out of total male respondent's (147), more than half (59.16%) had good perception and about equal number, 173 out of 293(59.04) females had good perception. There was no relationship between gender and level of perception.

TABLE No.: 4.28
RELATIONSHIP OF EDUCATION TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Education	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
12 th science	242 (57.90%)	174 (41.62%)	2 (0.47%)	418
Graduation	018 (81.82%)	004 (18.18%)	0	022
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE 4.24: indicates that out of 22 graduates about 82% had good perception, whereas about 58% among 12th science had good perception. After graduation subjects who had no jobs, again turned to nursing for job surety. However, sample size of graduated subjects were small, therefore results could be varied.

TABLE No: 4.29
RELATIONSHIP OF RELIGION TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Religion	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
Hindu Open	81 (55.10%)	64 (43.53%)	2 (1.36%)	147
Schedule Caste	61 (62.24%)	37 (37.76%)	0	098
O.B.Caste	34 (62.96%)	20 (37.045)	0	054
Muslim	12 (66.66%)	06 (33.34%)	0	018
Christians	72 (58.54%)	51 (41.46%)	0	123
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE No.4.25: indicates that Schedule Caste (62%) ,Other Backward and Muslims (sample size small) were maximum in good level of perception Weaker section of the society view the nursing profession as service to the God through service to mankind,.

TABLE No. 4.30
RELATIONSHIP OF MARITAL STATUS TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE

Marital Status	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
Single	237 (59.55%)	159 (39.95%)	2 (0.50%)	398
Married	22 (57.83%)	016 (42.175)	0	038
Divorced	01 (25%)	003 (75.00%)	0	004
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE No.4.26; If compared statistically 58%married students were in group of good perception whereas 60% of the unmarried had good perception. There was not much difference.

TABLE No: 4.31

**RELATIONSHIP OF RESIDENCE TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY&PERCENTAGE**

Residence	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
Urban	147 (59.76%)	97 (33.43%)	2 (0.81%)	246
Rural	113 (58.25%)	81 (41.75%)	0	194
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE 4.26: There were no relationship found in place of residence and level of perception.

TABLE No: 4.32

**RELATIONSHIP OF FATHER'S OCCUPATION TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY&PERCENTAGE**

Father's Occupation	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
Govt.Service	64 (59.26%)	43 (33.81%)	1 (0.93%)	108
Farmer	97 (57.41%)	71 (42.00%)	1 (0.59%)	169
Private Business	91 (62.33%)	55 (37.67%)	0	146
Pensioner	07 (53.645)	06 (46.15%)	0	013
Unemployed	2 (50.00%)	02 (50.00%)	0	004
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE No. 4.29: indicates that there was no much difference in level of perception as concerned to father's occupation

TABLE No.4.33
RELATIONSHIP OF FAMILY INCOME TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY& PERCENTAGE.

Income per Annum(Rs.)	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
<100,000/-	172 (58.90%)	119 (40.75%)	1 (0.35%)	292
>100,000 to 200,000/-	065 (61.32%)	41 (38.67%)	0	106
>200,000	23 (54.76%)	18 (42.85%)	1 (02.39%)	042
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE No.4.33; indicates that there were no much difference in relation to income and level of perception.

TABLE No. 4.34
RELATIONSHIP OF PERCENTAGE OF MARKS TO
LEVEL OF PERCEPTION IN FREQUENCY&PERCENTAGE

12 th Marks Percentage	Level of Perceptions			Total
	Good	Average	Poor	
40-50	70 (63.06)	41 (36.93%)	0	111
>50-60	119 (59.505)	79 (39.505)	2 (01.0%)	200
>60	71 (55.03%)	58 (44.97%)	0	129
Total	260	178	2	440

TABLE No.4.34: Indicates that admissions were starting from 40% for schedule caste and other reserved candidates as per state government special relaxation of eligibility criteria, for open candidates criteria was of 45% of marks in PCBE, however above 60% were not supposed to be very intelligent. Maximum subjects had scored above 50% to 60% of marks. On an average perception level was good. Very high achievers and competent students had hardly enrolled in

nursing. There were no relationship in level of perception and percentage of marks.

For variables that were measured on an interval or ordinal scale of measurement, relationship were calculated between the factor sub-scale scores and each of the demographic characteristics being examined for their association with perceptions of nursing. The Chi square method was used to correlate the characteristics. (Table 4.35)

TABLE No.4.35

SHOWING STASTICAL ANALYSIS REGARDING RELATIONSHIP OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES TO THE LEVEL OF PERCEPTION TOWARDS NURSING PROFESSION AMONG B.SC.NURSING STDENTS ENROLLED IN WESTERN MAHARSHTRA

S. No	Demographic Variable	Perception calculated X² value	Table Value	Remarks
1	Admission Year	22.48*	15.51	Significant
2	Age	13.45*	9.49	Significant
3	Gender	4.04	5.99	No Significance
4	Religion	5.08	15.51	No Significance
5	Nationality	0.08	5.99	No Significance
6	Marital Status	2.25	9.49	No Significance
7	Education	4.96	5.99	No Significance
8	% of marks	4.09	9.49	No Significance
9	Residence	3.23	9.49	No Significance
10	Father's Occupation	3.16	15.51	No Significance
11	Income	4.36	9.49	No Significance
12	Financial Aid	2.52	9.49	No Significance

Table4.32 and Graph No 4.20.: indicates that age and year of admission had significant association with the level of perception. It means demographic variables and perception towards nursing had significant relationship

Hypothesis (H₁): There is significant relationship between demographical variables and perception towards nursing

Hypothesis is accepted,

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CHAPTER V

**ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL AND
EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES**

1. Analysis of Internal and external influencing factors to enroll for B.Sc. Nursing in Western Maharashtra

2. Analysis of Correlation between perceptions towards Nursing Profession and influencing factors to enroll for B.Sc. Nursing in Western Maharashtra

3. Summary and findings of the study

CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES

Introduction

Fourth objective of the present study is to identify the influencing factors / reasons for enrollment to B.Sc Nursing programme at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra

There were 14 statements given in Part III questionnaire and option for responses was _Yes. No and not sure.' After 14 statements one open ended question was asked to give free response for reason/influencing factor to enroll in nursing if any, other than 14 statements, which were already in structured questionnaire. But subjects had kept it either blank or repeated the same statement which were already included in 14 statements..Those numbers were negligible. Therefore open ended response was not considered.

Below (table 5.1) indicates responses for 14 statements in frequency and percentage. These statements include both, the internal environmental factors and external environmental factors, which would be categorized as per conceptual framework.

TABLE No. 5.1

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCING FACTORS TO ENROLL FOR B.Sc. NURSING IN WESTERN MAHARSHTRA IN FREQUENCY AND PERCENTGE.

S. N.	Influencing factors/reasons to enroll in B.Sc.Nursing	Yes		No		Not sure	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Desire to help sick and help who are in need	386	87.73	41	9.32	13	2.95
2	Service to mankind is service to God	393	89.32	33	7.50	14	3.18
3	Own interest/self motivated	328	74.55	78	17.73	34	7.73
4	Nursing profession gives 100% job guarantee	354	80.45	39	8.86	47	10.68
5	Availability of jobs at regional, national and opportunities to work abroad	336	76.36	68	15.45	40	9.09
6	Religious influences	153	34.77	237	53.86	50	11.36
7	Parents/Relatives/friends are already in nursing	243	55.23	186	42.27	11	2.50
8	parental and peer encouragement	259	58.86	158	35.91	23	5.23
9	Personal liking, willing to work hard &self-confidence.	326	74.09	92	20.91	22	5.00
10	Pre-educational experiences of nursing and caring	205	46.59	206	46.82	29	6.59
11	Opportunities for Government job with good salary	310	70.45	81	18.41	49	11.14
12	Attracted to the socio-economic benefits of the nursing career	226	51.36	169	38.41	45	10.23
13	For further personal and professional development	332	75.45	84	19.09	24	5.45
14	There was no other option /Choice than nursing	125	28.41	292	66.36	23	5.23

TABLE No. 5.1: indicates responses to the statements regarding influencing factors/reasons to enroll in B.Sc.Nursing in selected colleges of Western Maharashtra. There was agreement for eleven statements in majority of subjects. First priority to agreement (response ‘yes’) was highest (89.32%), for ‘Service to mankind is service to God’ was by second priority was for a statement ‘Desire to help sick and help who are in need’ (87.73%), and third priority ‘Nursing profession gives 100% job guarantee’ (80.45%) and other statements as shown in table.

Agreement (response-yes-46.59%) and non agreement (response-no-46.82%) for a statement ‘pre-educational experience of nursing and caring’ were nearly equal, it showed that influence of pre experience of nursing numbers were visible. This experience could be in different manner such as nursing care given by subjects in home or might be observed in hospitals or home while caring by others or nurses. However this factor was influencing to enter in nursing. Those who were in non agreement also, they had entered through some concept or image or knowledge they had for this profession. Parental and peer encouragement (58.86%), and ‘parents /relatives friend are already in nursing’ (55.23%), agreed for it.. This is supported in a study¹ ‘the psychosocial factors influencing the perception and choice of nursing as a profession’ by student nurses. Three hundred and sixty student nurses (N=360) were systematically sampled from Korle - Bu Nurses’ training College in the Accra Metropolis in Ghana. A self-designed questionnaire on the students’ perception of the nursing profession and the factors that influenced their choice of nursing as a career was administered to students in their first, second and third year of study in the programme. The findings of the study revealed that the students had a favorable perception of nursing as a profession. The psychosocial factors that influenced their choice of nursing included, the opportunity that the profession will offer for them to travel abroad and influence from parents.

If either parents or relatives are already in nursing and if their experiences like job security, stable income or if they are in Government job, they also expect the same

for their children, naturally they encourage them to enter in nursing, The researcher had noticed that many present students' or faculties mother's (previously nursing field was for female Only) were her x students in nursing. This profession is spreading generation to generation. These results are found as per theoretical framework of —Capital culture —of P.Bourdeu ,which is used in the present study.

There was Non-agreement (response _No) for three statement by visible number of subjects..Clear non agreement were shown in majority number for the following only one statement _there was no other option/choice than nursing' (66.36%), It showed that they had other options but they had taken admission by choice of their own or intentionally. Not only that but (74.09%) responded that that entered nursing due to personal liking, willing to work hard and they had self confidence, own interests elf motivated (74.55%) and they had desire to help sick (87.33%) and they strongly beleved in the philosophy that service to mankind is service to God{89.32%)

Second statement of non-agreement in majority were —Religious influences (53.86%),.In this study analysis showed that percentage of Hindu open, and other caste were more in nursing than Christians..If history of nursing is reviewed influence of Christian religion was more. But in present study, other caste students were entering more than Christians and number of 'non agreement to religious influence' were increased.

Response of _not sure' were given by 2.5% to maximum 11.24% subjects.(Mean=10.34%)May be due to no knowledge or may not be very sure reason, might have followed friends/peers.

Internal and external environmental factors bring changes in perception and thereby person is forced to take action. In present study it influences to enroll in nursing Internal environmental factors include perceiver's interest, motives, experience, expectations and personal attributes.

External environmental factors influencing perception are, Availability Of jobs, job guarantee, Job Security, social- economic benefits, opportunities of personal fulfillment & advancement (As described in conceptual framework) also attitude, knowledge, social pressure, guidance by parents, teachers are cues to action and would modify the perception and will help to enroll in nursing.

In part III questionnaire, responses to 14 statements were divided into two factors as statements related to internal environmental factors and statements related to external environmental factor

TABLE No. 5.2

INTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS INFLUENCING TO ENROLL FOR B.SC.NURSING IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA IN MEAN & S.D.

S.N.	Statements	Mean	S. D.	Sub factor
1	Service to mankind is service to God	1.86	.428	Attitude
2	Desire to help sick and help who are in need	1.85	.434	Attitude
3	Personal liking, willing to work hard & Self –Confidence	1.69	.682	Attitude, Interest
4	Own interest/self motivated	1.67	.514	Interest
5	Pre-educational experience of nursing and caring	1.53	.548	Knowledge Experience
6	Parents/Relatives/friends are already in nursing	1.40	.610	Motivation
7	Religious influence	1.23	.532	Motivation
8	There was no other option /Choice than nursing	1.23	.532	Interest

Yes response=Agreed ,No response-Not agreed, equal=Yes and No=equal number

Table 5.2: The first four statements were related to Attitude. It is a evaluative statements or judgments concerning people or value reflect how we feel about something This table indicates attitude of the subjects towards the nursing profession which had influenced them to enroll in nursing.

A response to the statement or influencing factor, ‘Service to mankind is service to God.’ Strong positive responses shown were highest (N=393/89.32%) for the said statement. (Mean =1.86/S.D.=.428). It showed majority students who had enrolled to B.Sc. nursing, influencing factor were positive attitude —towards mankind. “ **Service to mankind is service to God.**”

One example to inculcate the ability to serve mankind in humans is about the —Good Samaritan who has helped a sick man and did not even care to reveal his identity to the people. There are various social service organizations in every part of the world which help the orphans, women, children and the elderly. They are served by providing material provisions like food, shelter, clothing, medical help and education.

One example to inculcate the ability to serve mankind in humans is about the —Good Samaritan who has helped a sick man and did not even care to reveal his identity to the people. The International lady, Mother Teresa who was known for the service of sick people and who were in need. She devoted her life for social service. Baba Amate who devoted his life in service of Leprosy patients. Even there are various social service organizations in every part of the world which help the orphans, women, children and the elderly. They serve by providing material like food, shelter, clothing, medical help and education.

Similarly, we find in Islamic history the best examples of love and compassion for fellow human beings. Islam has laid great stress on helping the poor and needy ones. But we know that man’s needs are not confined to just material aspects of life; rather, he seeks to fulfill higher needs as well, like guidance and seeking knowledge. Hence we find that along with material needs, It is quoted in Islam’s holy Quran by the Holy Prophet that , Man is a creature who always longs for company, love and compassion. To respect him, to love him, consider it prohibited to backbite about him, to visit him when he is sick, to escort his funeral procession, to say nothing but good about him after his death. Surely, this kind of service to mankind can be termed as service to Allah.’

Nursing practice is an opportunity for service to fellow humans motivated by compassion and obedience to God. Nurses are present to the patient's phenomenological perspective and attend to the subtle and ordinary expressions of the human experience. It is said that service to the mankind is one way of praying.² The love of God is expressed through service to mankind. All people are unique, integrated beings created by God with spiritual, physical, psychological, social and cultural elements and therefore, nurses view individuals as whole beings. As God's creation, individuals have intrinsic value and are worthy of respect. Nursing practice has the goal of promoting, maintaining and/or restoring optimal wholeness and health. The caring nurse works with people to promote self-management and enable them to achieve optimum health and actively participate in health care decisions. Nurses work independently and interdependently as caregivers, advocates, educators, counselors, coordinators, and collaborators to accomplish whole person care.³ To improve health care, nurses need to be knowledgeable about current trends in health care, work together locally, regionally, nationally and globally, develop critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills, use evidence to inform nursing practice and become life-long learners.

Desire to help sick and help who are in need

If you choose nursing, you are choosing to spend your life helping others, using skills that blend scientific knowledge with compassion and caring. There are few professions that offer such a rewarding combination of high tech and high touch, irrespective of rich or poor, caste or creed.

Nursing is a blend of science and technology with the art of caring and compassion. Nursing professionals provide preventative and restorative health care to patients in a variety of settings. Every day on the job nurses use the science they learned in nursing school, and when employed, they take continuing education courses on a regular basis to keep up with the latest in the medical and nursing sciences. Nurses work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illnesses. Nursing is a science that requires in-depth

knowledge, skills and understanding. Nursing deals not only with a person's biological needs, but their psychosocial and cultural needs as well. Nurses help in maternal and child health services. They assist and witness to bring babies into the world, and they take care of mothers before and after childbirth. They are the ones to assess growth and development of pre-school and school children. Right from birth nurses immunize children with polio vaccine and as per schedule they protect children from communicable diseases. Nurses help sick and injured people get better, and they help healthy people to stay healthy. Nurses are concerned with the emotional, social, and spiritual conditions of their patients. Nurses teach and counsel patients, as well as family members, and explain what they can expect during the recovery. Nurses provide health care teaching and counseling in the community. Nurses observe, assess, evaluate, and record patients' conditions and progress, and they communicate patient condition information to doctors and other members of the health care team. Nurses help patients and families determine the best mix of health and social services - hospice, home care, rehabilitation, physical therapy, and others. Nurses design and complete quality assurance activities to ensure appropriate nursing care. Nurses' help terminally ill patients die with dignity, and they help family members deal with dying and death. In this study students had shown great desire to help to those who are sick, poor or in need.

Previous research studies (Patidar: Kaur:2011.) results are consistent with present study. It was reported that most students decided to join nursing profession because they had a desire to help others, and nursing was perceived as caring and serving humanity job; on contrary, In the present study the major group has shown positive attitude showing responses which were influencing perception for enrollment to B.Sc.nursing were (N=386/87.73%)_desire to help sick and help who are in need' (Mean=1.85/S.D.=.434)

Own interest/self motivated

As per dictionary, meaning motivation means⁴ ‘internal and external factors that stimulate desire and energy in people to be continually interested and committed to a job, role or subject, or to make an effort to attain a goal.’

Motivation results from the interaction of both conscious and unconscious factors such as the desire or felt need to a person, which should be within and intensity should be the maximum provided he or she should know the benefits of that goal which must match his/her, family members and peers expectations. For example, a pre nursing student will be motivated if he or she has strong desire to become a nurse and knowledge of scope of nursing as salary would be up to the expectations, social status, job satisfaction. These factors are the reasons one has for behaving in a certain way.

Interest:

State that power or the force which directs towards manifestation in a person's behavior. According to Locke and Latham⁴ personal goals are vital for direction and maintenance of behaviors that help to achieve future rewards. Effective goal setting can be a source of motivation as an individual pursues a career. The social cognitive career theory (SCCT) has postulated that self-efficacy beliefs and outcome expectations are key motivators for career selection. Individuals who are confident of goals, who believe in their ability to reach their goals, and who believe that goal attainment will lead to a successful career are able to complete the tasks required to achieve their goals⁵ A Study was conducted to explore the students' motivations for entering the nursing profession⁶ (February 25, 2011)

In the present study also subjects were well motivated, ((N=328/74.55%)enrolled with own interest (Mean 1.67/S.D=.514) and not because of ‘There was no other option /Choice than nursing’, this statement was denied by (N=292/66.16%) as most of them were good academic achievers(45%) were between 50-60% percentage gained in 12th science and

nearly one third (30%) were above (60%) percentage of marks,ti meant that these findings were inconsistent to the previous research study done by (Neilson:2008:nurse education today: P P680-690)in Scotland, however their social cultural environment may be different regarding standard of education.,

Experience and knowledge: serve as basis for perception. While one's successful experience enhances his/her perceptive ability, failure erodes his/her self confidence. Successful experience also helps perceiver understand stimuli with more accuracy.

Experience: Due to past experience, a person may develop either positive or negative impressions of nursing as a result of personal or family illnesses.Many times,person had to go to hospital for self or family member's sickness or to visit hospital for friend's or nearby relatives are admitted.At that time,when they observe nurses working in the hospital,their communication skill,conselling of the patient, such experiences impact leads to positive or negative image for nursing,which is depend on situation. Other experiences like working in hospitals as healrh care assistants or in some other capacity also helps to attract towards nursing

In the present study also motivating factor found as responses to the statement. 'pre experience of nursing and caring' (Mean=1.40/S.D.=.610)

Knowledge: In addition, students identified background knowledge of the nursing profession as a motivation, explaining that family members who were nurses or who worked as healthcare team members gave them some understanding of what nursing is about. A number of studies found that having family members as nurses were important motives for undertaking nursing and Friends, parents and other family members had a positive influence on students' perceptions of nursing

In the present study also one of the factor was 'Parents/Relatives/friends are already in nursing' (Mean=1.53/S.D.=.548)

Religious influence: We had already discussed that reinforcement for the spiritual thinking is given in Christians to serve humanity, help the sick and to those who are in need. Many missionary institutions also came out of this theme. Doctors, nurses are paid very less in mission hospitals but they work with motive or due to religious preaching to them that Christianity is created to help the sick. Even Florence Nightingale entered in nursing with this influence and she said that there was —calling from God and nursing would allow participation in medical mission trips.

In the present study (N=237/53.86%) denied religious influences and (N=153/34.77%) agreed that it had influenced for enrollment to B.Sc. nursing and they were Christians.

Expectations: Needs are never ending. There are different types of needs like personal, social and professional needs. These are different from person to person according to their educations, their own concept, personal abilities etc. Some may have financial expectations, other Social persons expect human contact. Expectations are very individual.

Personal attributes:

Personal liking, willing to work hard & self Confidence

Personal liking –Nursing can be successfully completed only if personal liking for this. One who has innate thirst to help sick, It is not a commercial profession. If personal liking then only interest will arise, Those only will be motivated and they will have their personal and professional growth.

Willing to work hard-

Doctors will visit a patient for 10 minutes. Nurses are working around the clock. If emergency comes, nurses have to be there, though their duty time is over. Nurses cannot leave their job unless reliever comes. Nurses may spend 12 hours or more on their feet during a shift. Use of medical stockings and prevention of varicose veins, a healthy diet and performing regular exercise are

essential as they work very hard. Maintaining physical health is a vital part of enduring the stressful and high-energy demands of the nursing profession. Devotion and dedication is essential part of this noble profession. Successful nurses provide the best possible care under any circumstances, with available resources. These dedicated nurses grow in their personal and professional career and become leaders in their field,. Empathy means to be able to see a situation as it is happening for self. ‘ Seeing yourself in other’s position. For example-patient is admitted two hours back but none doctors had turned to see a patient. Relatives are grumbling as patient is screaming out of pain. See yourself in that position. Try to understand and respond accordingly is called empathy. Nurses need to have this attribute.. Empathy is a multidimensional concept that enables the caregiver to identify, share emotions and provide care for the patient in distress. Sympathy is a ‘feel for a patient’ and to help the patient. for example: Poor social economical condition, helping him through social worker’s help.

Self –Confidence

Definite goal, setting, gaining detailed knowledge, developing skills and striving to accomplish the task accepted builds self confidence

To develop self confidence a nurse must have detailed knowledge regarding patient. Nursing process is a great tool of nurses .perform patient assessments. For each patient it is there job to have full orientation about the patient, Minute observations, nursing diagnosis and implementation and evaluation of patient care..They have to carry out each procedure very carefully, handling the equipments with accountability and administer medication. Right time, right dose, right dose, right route and documentation is very important while caring for the patient/client. The nurse’s role has a zero tolerance for error where the smallest mistake may result in a life-threatening event.. Those who are oriented to the finest details in patient care are superior in the nursing field.

Critical thinking is an important quality that allows nurses to take action and make referrals. Minute observation, scientific knowledge and using her

head for quick action prevents the life of a patient. Some drugs are prescribed by the doctors but if she knows effect of drugs, side effects, she immediately informs physician instead of just obeying the orders. Such critical thinking skills that arm them with the ability to respond to the constant changes and needs of a patient in their charge. As nurses build on practical knowledge, gain experience and continue educational endeavors, the intellectually disciplined process allows the nurse to recognize possible patient problems. Quick Sense of observation /Intuition. The best nurses use experience, scientific knowledge, and instinct when assessing patients. Intuition in nursing is defined as the immediate understanding of a problem without the necessity of conscious thought. Nurses pick up on the smallest cues, nuances and seemingly unrelated patient statements that may render further investigation. Through intuition, superior nurses save lives and prevent further illnesses' For example: Best experienced nurse will immediately recognize sign symptoms of hemorrhage in post partum case. Her observation will save a patient through preventing shock. Patience- Patience is an integral part of success. Great nurses understand that patience can overcome anxiety, misunderstandings and help patients and colleagues feel empowered by good decisions.

Communication skill helps to build a self confidence. Communication is a two way process. It includes listening, understanding and giving and receiving the message .Communication may be verbal or non verbal like body language. Nurses provide care for and interact with people of various ages, multicultural backgrounds and cultural beliefs. Accepting the patient/client as he /she is and communicate with individual respect and dignity is a skill.

It is observed that in Maharashtra, nurses from other states are not able to communicate in Marathi. Neither patient's are satisfied, nor they understand what nurses want to advise the patients, nor nurses themselves get job satisfaction thereby they lose self confidence.

To develop self confidence ,nurses must have strong health, along with emotional Stability. Nurses are tend to get irritable and stresses. It is said that nobody comes willingly to the hospital .Hospital is a place where patient comes with suffering. Nurses need to be ready to handle difficult emergencies, be witness to human suffering, death and experience stressful situations. Nurses should be able to cope with these events. Emotional stability is needed..It doesn't mean that they do not have emotions or feelings but it is a balancing. It is observed that there is 'burn out' syndrome due to stress specially those who are working in ICU..

These all attributes are essential to build a self concept and self confidence. Improving one's self concept leads to self confidence. When people successfully accomplish what they want, it develops a sense of self regard and self esteem. It is called 'self concept'. Those who have committed themselves to the service of the community continue to demonstrate similar attributes that are indicative of successful careers in nursing. A nurse using her head, hands and heart is a confident. She uses, applies her knowledge in all setting either in hospital or community. By practice she develops skill and empathetically view will enable her to co-ordinate her services with all other health team members to give best possible care.

Knowing all these personal attributes in the present study subjects (N=326/74.09%) had given positive response to the statement 'personal liking, willing to work hard and self confidence. It meant that their personal attributes are matching to the required traits for nursing profession.

External environmental factors influencing to enroll in B.Sc.Nursing in western Maharashtra.

Availability of job guarantee, job security, opportunities for personal fulfillment & advancement and social pressure (as described in conceptual framework)

**TABLE No.5.3
SHOWING EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
INFLUENCING TO ENROLL IN B.SC.NURSING IN
WESTERN MAHARSHTRA IN MEAN AND PERCENTAGE**

S.N	Factors/Reasons influencing to enrollment in B.Sc.nursing	Mean	S.D.
1	Nursing profession gives 100% job guarantee and job security	1.70	.652
2	For further personal and professional development	1.70	.566
3	Availability of jobs at regional, national and opportunities to work abroad	1.66	.637
4	Opportunities for Government job with good salary	1.59	.682
5	parental and peer encouragement (Social Pressure)	1.54	.595

Table 5.3 shows that in external environmental factors the most of the subjects opted to enroll for B.Sc.Nursing were for job guarantee and another influencing factor was for personal and professional development. There are plenty of opportunities. It is observed that nobody is unemployed after completion of specially B.Sc.Nursing. There is shortage of staff nurses in clinical area as well as of teachers in nursing school/college. After completion of B.sc.nursing many avenues are open, many prefer to go abroad also for better salary and different attractive facilities.

Job guarantee and job Security

As long as human beings are existed in the world, there is necessity of nurses. At present, there is shortage of nurses. Even this deficiency is replaced, need of the nurses will still continue. There will not be any saturation as long as production is in same manner.

As the population ages, As people live longer, their need for healthcare services increases, also increasing the demand for nurses as per population: Nurse ratio. Even more nurses will be needed to replace retiring nurses, going nurses to abroad and to care for those aging individuals. Not only nurses but need of doctors will increase. More medical colleges and hospitals will come up .In community also there will be need of primary health centers and rural hospitals .Nurses are a necessary part of the healthcare system. Nurse's work in a number of roles throughout healthcare, and healthcare would not be able to exist without them. Nurses provide care to people in almost every aspect of industry, not only in healthcare. Nurses provide preventive, curative, promotive and rehabilitative care also because nurses are so ingrained in society, there will always be a need for them no matter what the outlook is for other jobs or industries. Nurses are leaders in hospital systems around the country, and hospitals would not be able to function without them. Nurses are needed to provide care to patients at all hours, every day. Hospitals would not be able to admit patients without nurses there to care for them.

Job security : The nursing career provides the benefit of job security for this reason. Even in times of cut-backs and zero budgets in the state or country or even where economic constraints , nursing jobs are not banned from the recruitment. Nurses are still a necessary part of health care as they are in emergency health resources. Nurses can always find a job, even after a layoff. The job may not be in the specialty the nurse wants to work in, but there are always open positions, and usually more positions than there are nurses to fill them. While a nurse may have to work temporarily or on contract basis in an area that she does not wish to, she will always be able to find employment, no matter the circumstances. Uptill now no nurse is unemployed, unless she is willing to work. Choosing a nursing career

provides someone with the opportunity to always have their skills be in demand. Nurses enjoy a great deal of job security, even in uncertain economic times. Nurses are always in demand, and there are always jobs available for qualified individuals. Job security is an excellent benefit for a career as a nurse.

In the present study, responses (N=354/80.45%) agreed to 'nursing profession gives 100% job guarantee and job security' (Mean=1.70/S.D..652). It was a major factor influencing enrollment in B.Sc.nursing. These results are supported by the study.⁷ The study of nursing students' perceptions toward the nursing profession in Jordan revealed that the highest percentage of study subjects joined the faculty of nursing because of financial reasons/ availability of work (41.2%). The study of (Streubert: 1994: Pennsylvania) revealed that nursing was attractive because of job opportunities, security and availability. This is also supported by (AbdiKarim: 2004: Egypt). They found that around two-thirds of their subjects have chosen nursing as it represented a good opportunity for them to work. reported that slightly more than three quarters of the subjects joined nursing because of availability of work.. Another study showed that students choose to study nursing because it offered work abroad and opportunities for further professional development.

Opportunities

There was a time when professional nurses had very little choice service because nursing was centered in the hospital and bedside nursing.

At present, Career opportunities are more varied due to many reasons. If we look for career options and scope of nursing, it includes number of positions as follows: A staff nurse provides direct patient care to one patient or a group of patients. Assists ward management and supervision. Directly responsible to the ward supervisor. Ward sister or nursing supervisor, responsible to the nursing superintendent for the nursing care management of a ward or unit. Takes full charge of the ward. Assigns work to nursing and non-nursing personnel working in the ward. Responsible for safety and comfort of patients in the ward. Provides teaching sessions if it is a teaching hospital. Department supervisor/assistant nursing superintendent responsible to the nursing superintendent and deputy nursing

superintendent for the nursing care and management of more than one ward or unit for example the surgical department or out-patient department. Deputy nursing superintendent responsible to the nursing superintendent and assists in the nursing administration of the hospital. Nursing superintendent responsible to the medical superintendent for safe and efficient management of hospital nursing services. A Director of nursing is responsible for both nursing service and nursing educations within a teaching hospital. Community health nurse (CHN) services focus on the reproductive and child health programme and health teaching in nursing. The functions and responsibilities of the nursing instructor include planning, teaching and supervising the learning experiences for students. Positions in nursing education include clinical instructor, tutor, senior tutor, lecturer, and associate professor, Reader in nursing and professor in nursing. Industrial nurses provide first aid, care during illness, health education about industrial hazards and prevention of accidents. The Military Nursing service became a part of the Indian Army, and nurses became commissioned officers who earned ranks from lieutenant to major general. Nursing service administrative positions. At the state level the Deputy Director of Nursing at the state health directorate. The highest administrative position on a national level is the Nursing Advisor to the Govt. of India. Nursing Informatics is also a scope for Nurses in India. Recently Indian Nursing Council has announced Independent Nurse Practitioner in primary health care and for critical care. Pilot project completed successfully.⁸ Ten candidates are successfully trained at Calcutta.

Though there are so many opportunities in the country, there is attraction to work abroad, This is only because of high salaries compared to India. The actual situation is very different. All nurses are not able to get jobs in Government sector or at big corporate hospitals. Nurses search jobs at local place in private hospitals due to their family. But the salary paid in private hospitals, mission hospitals or nursing homes is very less, ranges from Rs.3000/-to maximum 10.000/- for trained nurses and duty hours are minimum 12 hours. Private doctors, though trained nurses are available opt for untrained personnel to work as nurses, whom they themselves trained in

their hospitals. Such nurses do not have any license or registration to practice, neither possess any diploma, degree nor they need critical thinking. Because their basic education is low, they just obey the doctors but public view them as nurses. Her social status is low. Whereas Opposite situation is seen in other countries. Indian nurses⁹ earns Rs.40,000 per month as a starting salary after migrating to the Gulf countries A nurse, who goes abroad, mainly saves 70% of her salary for her future, which is difficult for a nurse to have sufficient savings from her earnings in India. Thus, there is attraction to work in abroad. A nurse has two main options amongst the destination countries. An Indian nurse can migrate to the Gulf countries or they can take up employment in developed countries like the US, the UK, Ireland, etc. It is necessary to pass some qualifying tests as CGFNS, NCLEX, and IELTS for working in the developed countries. The nurses who passes these tests, get the hobs and earns 2-3 lakh rupees per month, naturally their social status is also upgraded. Specially Kerala nurses and Christian nurses in majority opt jobs abroad.

In the present study students opted for the statement, 'Avilability of jobs at regional, national level and abroad (Mean=1.66/S.D.=.699)

Personal Fulfillment and Advancement: A nurse career brings a person a great deal of personal fulfillment. The nurse is able to choose her own path in the career. She also understands that she is making a difference in the lives of the people she cares for on a daily basis. The profession also allows for career advancement, often giving the nurse an additional sense of personal fulfillment.

Nurses are able to choose their own paths in their careers. A nurse can work in many different fields of nursing and medicine, allowing her to choose which field is most interesting to her, personally. This can provide the nurse with a sense of personal fulfillment. A nurse can choose which pathway in the nursing career is most appealing to her. She may choose to work with patients directly at the bedside in a hospital, or she may choose to work with healthy people in community clinics, or any number of areas in between. The ability to choose which setting to work in is often a source of great personal fulfillment for the nurse. The ability to advance in

the nursing career is another source of personal fulfillment for nurses. Few professions provide as great a pathway as nursing does for people to advance in their careers. With only a nursing school education, nurses are often able to climb the career ladder in the healthcare industry. The flexibility in allowing the nurse to advance professionally is a great source of personal fulfillment in the nursing career.

In the present study, B.Sc.Nursing (N=332/75.45%) subjects responded that _For further personal and professional development _ was a factor influencing to them for enrollment in B.Sc.Nursing (Mean=1.70/S.D..565). It meant that they had knowledge of avenues for personal advancement. But (N=84/19.09%) denied that they had taken admission for the same reason. It meant that they were unaware of different ladders or promotional avenues open for them. Even when job prospects are bleak for the rest of the community, the need for nurses never decreases, giving the career strong job security.

Socio economic benefits

A nurse career provides excellent wages and benefits. Nurses can now expect a very fair salary and to be paid extra for overtime work. Nurses also earn excellent benefits from their employers, usually with a minimum of health coverage, and often with additional benefits as well. Nurses are now able to claim a much better salary than they have been able to in years past, making the wages and benefits one of the positive aspects of the nursing profession.

Registered nurses earn a very fair salary for the work that is performed. Nurses that have just graduated from nursing school can expect to make above the median income when working full time, and experienced nurses can expect to make much more. Nurses are usually paid on daily wages basis, especially if they are not in management, and can expect to be paid for every hour worked, including an additional amount for any overtime worked. Nurses can also expect a higher wage for experience and additional education. Some nurses are also paid an additional amount for having been certified in a particular specialty related to their employment. The nursing career generally provides the opportunity for the full-time

nurse to earn medical benefits from the employer. These are usually provided to the nurse working full time as a part of employment, sometimes after a specified waiting period. Benefits may also be available for a nurse's spouse and children, although this may be an additional cost and may not be included as a part of the employment benefits. Some employers also offer life insurance for employees and may provide other benefits as well, such as discounts for investigations ,treatments or indoor admissions., cell phones, and local establishment.

Government jobs are found more secure due to good and regular salary, more facilities and felt more stability in life. Government of Maharashtra was recruiting nurses in large numbers for last three years which became ultimate aim of the majority students. Nurses are also paid well for their work, with most registered nurses earning well over the median income of the India specially in Government and corporate hospitals even in companies /industries for full-time employment

In the present study subjects responded that 'Opportunities for Government job with good salary' (Mean=1.66/S.D.=.637) A study indicated that job security was the prime reason why school leavers choose nursing as their higher education and career (Brodie, et al., 2009). A similar result was reported in a correlation study by Rognstad, Aasland and Granum (2004),. In other words, social economic status has a direct influence on student's choice of nursing as a career.

In the present study ((N=226/51.36%) strongly agreed for the statement that nursing profession provides socio-economic benefits (Mean=1.41/S.D.=.689) .It was a influencing factor for enrollment to B.Sc.Nursing .

Social pressure:

Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital is very much applicable here. Parental influence and peer encouragement plays a substantial part on students choice of nursing study Parental influence was found to feature strongly in affecting the choice or choosing nursing as a career. These results were consistent with a recent study by (Law and Arthurs :2003) that reported 28% of high school students were interested in studying nursing, and that their choice was significantly influenced by

parental influence. Harrigan (2003) identified parental pressure as the major factor in preventing the Native Hawaiian, Samoan and Filipino students from choosing nursing as their career. A similar study by Paa and McWhirter (2000) studied the extent to which peer pressures have on high school students' career choices. They reported that peers and parental influence do significantly influence the students' eventual choice, especially in circumstances Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital when the specifics of the course program are not familiar to them. Given the importance of peers and parental encouragement influence on student's choice, : A study at Korle (2014)¹⁰ Bu nurses' training college by Prudence Portia et. all on" psychosocial factors influencing the perception and choice of nursing as a profession' The results indicated that the relationship between parental influence and choice of the nursing profession among the students was significant. The choice of profession accounted for 17% of the variance of parental influences'. This supports present study results.

In the present study results are consistent with above studies. (N=259/58.86) Subjects responded positive to the statement 'Parental and peer encouragement but (N=158/35.90%) denied that they enrolled due to parental and peer encouragement

Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital and culture capital is generated. If either or both the parents are already in nursing service, observing the stability of parent's life, children also opt for the same profession considering the benefits of it.

Objective V: To find out if there is any correlation between perception towards nursing profession and factors influencing to enroll in B.Sc. nursing at colleges of Western Maharashtra

Hypothesis: (H₂): There is significant correlation between perception towards nursing and factors influencing to enroll in B.Sc. nursing at nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra. There were 20 statements on perceptions and options to response were strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree and strongly agree. For every response weights were given as follows:

TABLE No.: 5.4

SHOWING WEIGHTAGE TO RESPONSES ON PERCEPTION

Responses	weight age
Strongly Disagree	1
Disagree	2
Not Sure	3
Agree	4
Strongly Agree	5

For every individual sum of responses of 20 statements on perceptions of nursing (X) and number of —Yes’ among 14 influencing factors/reasons (Y) asked to find out main factors influencing to enroll for B.Sc.nursing at Western Maharashtra were calculated. By Karl Pearson correlation coefficient between (X) and (Y) and answer is 0.172, which is statistically significant (P value is less than0.000.1).

It is confirmed that there is correlation between perception and factors influencing to enroll for B.Sc. nursing in colleges of Western Maharashtra.

Hypothesis (H₂) is accepted.

SUMMARY & FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Objective I: Demographic characteristics of the subjects

Year of admission: Total subjects selected were 440 from all of four years programme .of all six institutions. There were (N= 82) numbers in 1st year, about (18.64%) who were new comers ,iIn 2nd year, (N=106) numbers about one-fourth(24.29%)of the subjects in 3rd year (N=110) numbers about one-fourth (25%)of the subjects, There were (N= 142) numbers in 4th year, about one-third (32.47%)of the subjects, The maximum samples were from 4th year, then 3rd year, second year and minimum were from 1st year .This variation was due to clinical posting of batches in shift duties. Those students available on a day of data collection, 50% of the available students were selected .a systematic random method was used for sampling technique.

AGE: Out of 440 subjects, (N=148) one third subjects were (33-64%) in the age group of 18- 19years, The majority of the students (N=216) nearly half of the respondents (49.09%) were in 20-21 years age group and minimum (N=76) were (17.27%) 22 years and above.

Gender: Out of 440 subjects ,(N=293)about two third (66.59%) were females, and (N=147)one third (33.41%) were male There was gender inequality.

If we relate Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital, from generation to generation and through socialization message is conveyed that nursing profession is famine. However due to availability and surety of job male students are taking admission to nursing profession. Perception is *changing*, Bourdieu theory is not very effective regarding gender issue but it is applicable as social class is concerned.

Religion and Caste and gender(cross tab.): Out of 440 subjects, the major group were from Hindu-open caste (N=147) nearly one third subjects (33.42%),among them (N=65)were male and (N=82) females others were(N=98) Hindu but among scheduled caste (22.27%) among them (N=34)male and (N=64)females and (N=54) were of other backward class (12.27%).among them (N=19)males and (N=35)females, Christians were

N=123 (27.95%) among them (N=25) males and (N=98) females and Muslims (N=18) were very minor (4.095%), male (N=4) and females were (N=14) Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital is applicable here. Through nursing education students perceived that social class can be changed by improving socio economic benefits. However perception among Hindu open is changing, due to flexibility in working hours, nature of work and economical benefits.

Place of Residence-More than half group (N=246) were from urban (55.91%) whereas (N=194) subjects were from rural area. (44.99%) , residing in urban area were more as compare to rural.

Educational Status-Majority of the subjects (N=418) were 12th science (94.99%) as it per criteria for admission to B.Sc. nursing programme, However (N=22) had taken admission after graduation too (0.5%).

Nationality: Hardly two subjects (N=2) were non- Indian (00.45 %), They were Nigerians. Both had their relatives taking education in other field at Maharashtra..Those two also wanted to take admission in medical faculty but they could not get, therefore they had taken admission to B.Sc.nursing .otherwise all (N=438) subjects were Indians (99.55 %).

Percentage of Marks in 12th Science:- Out of 440 samples total (N=111) about one fourth subjects (25.28%) had scored 40-50% marks in PCBE, criteria for admission was 40% in PCBE of 12th science for Scheduled caste and OBC; whereas 45% minimum in PCBE for open category, There were (N=200) subjects(45.5%) had scored more than 50-60% marks and hardly (N=29) subjects had (06.60%) scored above 60% of marks.

Percentage of Marks in 12th Science and place of residence: It was observed through cross tabulation that maximum subjects (N=117) were from urban area who had above 50 to 60% of marks (26.59%) than rural (N=83) students (18.86%), about 8% were more, whereas scoring above 60% were approximately same ,urban (N=66) were (15%) and rural (N=63) were (4.32%), In weaker section that is 40-50% marks, urban students (N=63) were

more(4.32%) than rural subjects(N_48) 10.91%.Eligibility criteria for admission was 45% of marks in PCBE group of 12 th standard but as per state Government rule it was relaxed by 5% for reserved candidates,(SC,ST,NT,OBC,SBC),most of the reserved class candidates were between ssss40-50% marks.

Marital Status: among 440 subjects, most (N=398) of the subjects (90.45%) were unmarried,(N=38) were (8.64%)married. As per marriage act 18 Years to be completed for a girl and 21 years to be completed for a boy to get marry. All were unmarried at the time of admission, except (N=04) were divorced/widow (00.91%),

Occupation of Father/ Guardian: Maximum group's (N-169) occupation was either farmer or agriculture worker (38.40 %.) In India 67% of the population resides in rural area and their main occupation is farming or agriculture work .Second major group had private service (N=146) or own small business (33.18%),nearly one third(N=108) were in Government job (24.54%) and few (N=13) were pensioners(02.97%),and hardly (N=4) had no work./jobs or Unemployed (00.91%).Cross tabulation was done to observe if any relation between traditional occupation and caste. However it was not seen in this study.

Annual Income of family –As per our assumption, out of 440 subjects almost whole group (N =398) were financially weaker (90.45%) , Their family income was less than Rs. two lakhs per annum . Nearly two third (n=292) of subjects(66.36%)were from very weak income group ,below one lakh per annum, and above two lakh income group were(N=42) hardly (09.55%).,in which Christians (N=17 were (03.86%),Open Hindu (N=13) were (2.95%),Scheduled caste (N=8/1.8%) and others were (N=4) hardly(0.90%),very negligible. Irrespective of caste or religion, most of the subjects were from financially weaker section.

Financial Aid: Out of 440 subjects (N= 163) students had either applied or received educational scholarships (37.05%) others (N=165) had applied for bank loan(37.27%) and about one fourth N=112) responded as neither scholarship nor bank loan(25.68%). Private unaided colleges tuition fees are very higher plus other charges for accommodation, food etc, Private unaided colleges under deemed universities are not eligible for social welfare scholarship, except colleges affiliated to Government University (MUHs). However minority students can take benefit of minority scholarship by central Government and some religious organizations also help the students for financial assistance. In general, students from weaker section take the admission for B.Sc.Nursing.

Objective II: Perception towards nursing profession among B.Sc.nursing students enrolled in Western Maharashtra.

Perception Scale which was designed as five point liker scale instrument to assess the student's perceptions towards nursing profession A series of 20 statements of responses were prepared regarding perceptions towards the nursing profession. For each of the statements, the available responses for each item range from Strongly Disagree — Disagree —, —Not Sure — —Agree and —Strongly Agree. To facilitate the interpretation of the responses to the items in this scale, the researcher developed a scale of substantive interpretation with the following: Strongly Disagree -- scores=1, 'Disagree -- scores=2, ' Not Sure -- scores=3, ' Agree -- scores=4 and —Strongly Agree -- scores= 5'.

„strongly agree” responses were given to nine statements in par-II questionnaire regarding perception towards nursing profession. The statement with which the subjects (N=329) most strongly agreed (74.8%) were —Nursing involves caring of patients and teaching regarding health, (Mean=4.70/S.D..60). Second priority was (N=287/65.2%) —Nurses need to acquire the latest technological advances to prevent illnesses and conservation as well as promotion of health of self and

others' (Mean=4.58/S.D.=.69) third priority (N=254) for strongly agree (64.5%) were —nursing is a noble profession, (Mean=4.55/S.D.=.71), then indicated priority (N= 254/57.7%) —key role in prevention of diseases & promotion of health —, (Mean=4.54/ SD.=.583) Other additional items that received ratings from the subjects in the —Strongly Agree category were —Opportunity to serve humanity, (Mean=4.51 /S.D..717), Nursing needs critical thinking, and a nurse is important person in health care system (Mean=4.50/S.D.=.698) It also requires compassion, patience and strength (Mean=4.44/S.D.=.662), except the last statement —opportunities to work abroad which was concerned with futuristic perception. (mean=4.34/SD..71)

„Agree „responses were given for following ten statements, —Nursing is medical technical activity , Profession is dignified, respectful as well as a way to get due recognition in the society, Nurses are more kind and sympathetic , Nursing is autonomous. Nursing is well-respected career path ,Nurses are more kind and sympathetic, Opportunities for personal advancement ,Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students, A suitable profession for females, Nursing is not prestigious job Mean was ranging from (3.08 to 3.99)

„Disagree“ responses were more (N=130) than agree (N=105) only for one statement by —Nurses are an auxiliary of the physician (Mean=2.92/S.D.=1.24)

„Strongly disagree“ though responses were in minor number. If combined —strongly disagree‘ and —disagree‘ responses, frequency was not negligible. Last four statements were negative. A suitable profession for females —combined responses were (N=156/35.3%) —Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students (N=154/35.7%), Nurses are an auxiliary of the Physician, (N=188/42.7%) Nursing is not prestigious job (N=166/37.8%)

„Not Sure“ responses were considerable for last five statements. The statements were Nursing is well-respected career path. (N=59/13.4%) were in

dilemma , —Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students (N=59/13.4%), ‘ A suitable profession for females (N=88/20%), Nurses are an auxiliary of physician (N=94/21,4%) Nursing is not prestigious job, (N=81/18.4%). for other all statements, frequency was negligible.

Levels of perception: perception scale had 20 statements, where it could range from 20 to 100.. In this study the scores were ranging from 57 to 100. Mean score was 80.40 and S.D. (.677) Therefore score was divided into three categories, “**Good, Average and Poor.**” **Mean >80** score was categorized as **‘Good’** perception, **Mean 60-80** was categorized as **‘Average’** perception and **Mean < 60** was categorized as **‘Poor’** perception towards nursing profession It indicated that maximum respondents had **‘Good’** level (59.09%) of perception ,others had (40.45%), average ‘ perception, hardly two respondents (0.46%) were in **‘poor’** perception.

Sub Area in perception of nursing profession: There were 20 statements regarding perception. Those were categorized into three sub-areas as per characteristics of the statements ias — six statements were included in subarea — Care, eight statements in —Nursing as a profession and six statements for —social economical benefits in profession

It was found that in care subarea all six statement’s responses were —Strongly Agree and mean range were highest from 4.44 to 4.70. The maximum responses were for a statement Nursing involves caring of patients and teaching regarding health (mean 4.70) Second subarea was —Nursing as a profession .In this subarea two statement’s responses were —strongly agree and other six statements were in —agree category ,ranging mean from 3.08 to 4.11. Nursing is a noble profession and —A nurse is an important person and nursing is an equally important career to the health care system were highest (mean 4.36 & 4.35). However in this area yet perceptions were not very strong. Third subarea —social economical benefits in profession only one statement

responses were ‘Strongly agreed’ for 11 opportunities to work in other countries —other four statements got only ‘agree’(mean 3.26 to 4.08) and for one statement responses were ‘Disagree’ in majority ‘Nurses are an auxiliary of the physician’ mean was lowest (2.92) .

Influencing Factors /Reasons to the enrollment for B.Sc.Nursing

Influencing factors were divided into two areas, based on Health and belief theory, as (stated in conceptual framework} internal environmental factors and External environmental factors.

Internal environmental influences: It includes attitude, interest, motivation, experience & knowledge, expectations. and personal attributes.

External environmental influences: It includes all the factors related to socio economical benefits like availability of jobs at regional, national and international level, job guarantee opportunity for personal and professional advancement and social pressure.

Internal environmental factors were dominating, Majority of the subjects had strongly positive attitude towards nursing profession. There were highest agreement (Yes=response) for the statements ‘Service to mankind is service to God’. (N=393/89.32/Mean=1.86/S.D=.428). and (N=386/87.73%) strongly agreed to the response ‘Desire to help sick and who are in need’(Mean=1.85/S.D=.434).Along with this third highest influencing were external environmental factors such as 100 % job guarantee and personal and professional advancement (mean=1.70). Other external factors like socio economical benefits were more dominating than other internal factors as own interest, motivation, experience ,knowledge etc .However statements as ‘Own interest and self motivated’(N=328/74.55%) were also in priority. (Mean=1.67/S.D=.514)

Boudieu's theory is related to the present study in following manner: Attitude development as 'desire to sick people and those who are in need similarly' 'Service to mankind is service to God' is generated in Christian students through generation to generation. Opportunities in nursing profession for job as well as guarantee motivates the students to opt for nursing which would be helpful to them for changing their social class as this profession will offer socio economic benefits. Peer group, parental influence and social pressure had major role though not in majority. If either parent or any relatives in nursing profession, students receive the message through the process of socialization and viewing their stability in life, students were motivated. Social capital is the expected collective or economic benefits derived from the preferential treatment and cooperation between individuals and groups. As described in Social capital theory it can only be generated collectively in the presence of communities and social networks, but individuals and groups can use it at the same time. Individuals can exploit social capital of their networks to achieve private objectives and groups can use it to enforce a certain set of norms or behaviors. Socialization through bonding, bridging, and linking social capital. An individual wishes to better his place in society. He therefore accumulates social capital by involving himself in a social network, adhering to the norms of that group, allowing him to later access the resources like social relationships gained over time.

To this end, according to Bourdieu, it is the social exchange and interaction between two or more social actors, in the case of nursing education, students uses these resources to better his educational outcomes, thereby enabling him to become socially mobile, capital, but seems to be an inevitable one in and of it, as are all forms of capital his theory is applicable to the present

Significant findings

It was tested statistically; and found that demographic variables like gender, religion. Nationality, marital status, place of residence, education, percentage of marks, father's occupation, income, and financial aid had

statistically no relationship with the level of perception. But the first two demographic variables, admission year and age had significant association with the level of perception. Highest level of —Good perception were found in fresher's, as first year ,it went to lowering level of perception in descending manner as they were becoming seniors, going to 2nd,3rd and fourth year. Similarly, as age was increasing, level of perception was lowering, Admission year and age had relationship with the level of perception. Similarly, Those who entered with average perception, their perception was moving towards 'good' level of perception as age and seniority was increasing. Pierre Bourdieu theory of social capital related here as peer group or socialization process through friend circle, their perception was changing.

Hypothesis (H₁) states that there is relationship between demographic variables and the perception towards nursing profession among B.Sc.nursing students enrolled in Western Maharashtra had relations ship,

Hypothesis (H₁): is accepted.

To identify correlation between perception and influencing factors for enrollment to B.Sc.nursing programme in Western Maharashtra .

When statistically tested ,it was Calculated by Karl Pearson correlation coefficient method between sum and number of 'Yes' were calculated It was found that .Observed value is 0.172 and it is statistically significant.(p-value is less than 0.0001) There is significant correlation between perception and influencing factors for enrollment to B.Sc.nursing programme in Western Maharashtra.

Hypothesis (H₂) is accepted.

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CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Conclusion drawn from the study
2. Suggestions
3. Recommendations

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In India, health care is delivered by many agencies like public, private, corporate or nongovernmental stakeholders. Nurses are the major part of this health care delivery system. They provide care either in hospital, in community or in industrial settings, Nurses provide preventive and promotive care through immunization programmes and educating the public on prevention of communicable diseases. Today many communicable diseases are eradicated and this is the credit of nursing services. Recently report of polio cases found very rare. However many emerging communicable diseases like swine flu, dengue fever, for which we have to struggle. Incidences of Non communicable diseases like heart attack, stroke, and malignancy are increasing mainly due to e unhealthy life styles, like sedentary work, addictions, junk foods, stress and strain etc. Nurses educate patients, relative and general public about healthy life styles to prevent non communicable disorders.

Nurse is a health care professional who is engaged in the practice of nursing. They are helping in curative treatment, safety and recovery of critical or chronic ill as well as injured people and busy in nursing care of life-threatening emergencies in a wide range of health care settings.. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, responses, and progress; assist physicians during treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. Nurses also develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families about proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health. Nurses work as a member of health team and co-ordinate with other team members.

As discussed in previous chapter of introduction there is shortage of nurses in world and in India. Need of nurses is forever till the human lives. Nursing shortage refers to a situation where the demand for trained nurses

exceeds the supply, either in local health care setting or nationally or globally. It can be measured, for instance, in teaching hospital one nurse for three patients, one incharge sister for 25 patients, in community one nurse for 5000 population and in hilly area for 3000 population .As per the norms of Indian nursing council and increasing population the number of job openings necessitates a higher number of nurses working in health care than currently available. This situation is observed around the world.. There may be various reasons for shortage like migration, poor paid salaries in private hospitals, family problems, social status, odd duty hours, nature of work they have to perform, hard physical work, mental stress and so on. Many factors may be may be hindering to enter in nursing profession.

In various parts of the world, the educational background for nurses varies widely. In India four year program conferring the graduation from a university with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing after passing higher secondary (10+2) examination with PCBE. Theory and practical knowledge and skill is practiced well as clinically-focused courses as well as orientation to research, administration. Methods of teaching and practice of teaching is given. After graduation and sufficient clinical experience they can work as a staff nurse in clinical area or in teaching field. Another three and half year's diploma course (GNM) which is recognized by the Indian nursing council and State Registration nursing council. As per INC list of 2014-15, there are 701 degree nursing colleges in India. Out of that 44 in Maharashtra (2013) with minimum 30 to 60 student's capacity to each year. The Government has made necessary interventions to increase human resource in the health sector in the country. The MCI and Nursing Council rules are changed to increase the admissions in nursing training institutions and increase in human resource of health sector within the country. However, the fact is that 40% to 50 % of the seats are remaining vacant which is affecting production of tainted registered nurses leading to shortage of nurses..

Therefore the Researcher felt the need to explore the student's perception towards nursing profession as an individual .There were hardly any studies

found in India. The researcher's native is Kolhapur, from western Maharashtra and had huge experience in teaching as well as in clinical area.

We, the faculty of private nursing colleges have to strive to get the admissions for nursing programmes. Considering these factors the present study was undertaken and stated as follows:-

“A study of the perceptions towards nursing profession among B.Sc. nursing students enrolled in Western Maharashtra”

The objectives of the study were:-

- 1) To find out socio-demographic characteristics of B.Sc.Nursing students enrolled in B.Sc.Nursing students at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra
- 2) To assess the perception towards the nursing profession among B.Sc. Nursing students enrolled at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra.
- 3) To identify the factors / reasons influencing for enrollment to B.Sc Nursing programme at selected nursing colleges of western Maharashtra
- 4) To determine if association existed between perceptions of the B.Sc.nursing students and selected demographical variables as age, admission year, gender, religion/caste Place of residence, Percentage of marks in 12th PCBE, father's occupation and Family income,
- 5) To identify if correlation between perception of the B.Sc.Nursing students and influencing factors to enroll in nursing colleges in Western Maharashtra

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The Students of weaker sections are enrolled in B.Sc.Nursing Course.
- 2: The students enrolling to the nursing colleges are due to job opportunities in regional, national and international level.
- 3 The Students perceive that being a nurse is not only taking care of patients, but It also requires critical thinking,

4. The students perceive that it is essential to acquire the latest introduction of technological advances to prevent illnesses and conservation as well as promotion of health of self and others

Hypothesis

(H₁): There is significant association between perception and selected demographical variables of B.Sc. nursing students.

(H₂): There is positive correlation between perceptions and influencing factors among B.Sc.nursing students enrolled in western Maharashtra..

This study was an exploratory and descriptive in nature. It was conducted in six private and unaided nursing colleges of western Maharashtra among B.Sc.Nursing program and currently studying in first, second, third and fourth year for the academic year 2014-1015. Districts selected were Kolhapur,Sangli , Satara and Pune. These districts were representing Western part of the Maharashtra where urban as well as rural students were enrolling to degree program. These districts were having nursing colleges affiliated to Deemed University except two colleges of Nursing were affiliated to Government University MUHS.

The sample selected were 440 students, currently studying in either of these four years programme. from six selected colleges.The Total 50% from available students sample were selected by systematic random method and as per criteria laid down The tool was prepared with the help of review of literature, investigator's previous personal experience, discussion with various experts in teaching and in the clinical field and initial informal discussion with the subjects helped the investigator to prepare the tool. Several tests were taken to modify the tool and technique. The tool was tested by various methods for reliability and validity. Validity of the tool for adequacy of the content area and inclusion of adequate items, and for maintaining sequence of responses as per psychological order by the various experts. Finally a pilot study was conducted on 22nd December, 2014. With forty four students, having the same criteria, apart from those included in the final study, to see the feasibility of the tool and

extend to which it could cover the area to obtain the information sought. The tool used for study was structured questionnaire method. It had three parts. First part dealt with Socio-Demographic data of students to elicit the demographic information from respondents consisting 12 items. Second part deals with Perception Scale which was designed as five point likert scale instrument to assess the student's perceptions towards nursing profession A series of 20 statements of responses were prepared regarding perceptions towards the nursing profession. For each of the statements, the available responses for each item range from „Strongly Disagree” “Disagree “, “Not Sure “ “Agree” and “Strongly Agree”. Not sure term was added as many students may not have knowledge regarding some responses .Third part of the questionnaire contains fourteen stem responses to identify the factors influencing for enrollment to nursing. Last one answer was not structured and kept open ended if respondents wished to add their own reason other than in structured questionnaire.

Ethical approval from the authority in written form was obtained before attaining the participants' voluntary involvement in research study. They were assured anonymity and confidentiality of the institution as well as students information. At individual level after explaining the purpose of the study, informed verbal consent was obtained from all participants prior to their participation in this study.

The data was collected between January 2015 to February 2015 .The Researcher; she had been to all the six selected institutions, with prior permission of the authority of the colleges. Accordingly schedule was prepared as per the connivances of the institutions. Institutions had arranged all four batches in four classrooms .There was best co-operation from all six institution.

For data analysis and processing Microsoft excel was used .Data was fed, coded, edited and analyzing using PC with statistical packages for social science (SPSS) version 20 for windows. Descriptive statistics were done using frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and chi square for relationship and Karl Pearson test for co efficient co relationship The analysis

included checking errors and describing the collected data by numerical summary measures tables, charts and measures of association, all of which are instruments for interpretation of the collected data. Multiple attributes for outcome variables was checked for its association.

THE IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THE PRESENT STUDY ARE:-

In all six colleges seats (mean 23.10%) seats were vacant among all the four batches of B.Sc. Nursing.. As compared to constituent colleges of deemed universities, more vacancy was found in colleges affiliated to MUHS Nasik., May be due to complicated admission procedure through CET and central admission procedure through rounds.

However admission flow was increasing as of the year 2011-12 to 2014-15. This was mainly due to opportunity for Government jobs through MH-CET examination. Government of Maharashtra started recruitment in Government jobs for a post of staff nurses in Government hospitals either students had completed their nursing courses from Government or private colleges provided they had registration in Maharashtra Nursing Council.

Mean age for 364 subjects were 19 years and 76 subjects were above twenty one years., as admission criteria to get admission is completion of 17 years as on 31 st December of the admission year.

Out of 440 subjects genders of two third subjects were females whereas one third was males.

The subjects who had entered in nursing profession, majority of them were from Hindu open caste. Male student's percentage is more (56%) than female among Hindu open whereas female Christian's percentage is more (80%) than male among Christian's. Number of Muslim female subjects were significantly increasing though lot of restriction in the religion.

Students from urban area were more as compared to rural residents especially number of females were significant. "Beti Padhao" and making them economically self reliant through professional education which gives job surety,, this awareness is increasing among rural residents.

Two non-Indian students are studying in B.Sc.Nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra.

Most of the subjects were medium academic achievers; their basic education was 12th science as profession demands scientific and critical thinking as they deal with live human beings. Thirty percent subjects were good academic achievers and few entered nursing profession after graduation in other field but no jobs but entered nursing for definite assurance of job.

Though subjects were from good or medium academic achievers, they opted for nursing. Other higher education fields were not affordable to them. Their socio economical condition were poor as most of the subjects father or guardian"s occupation were small scale farmer /agriculture workers or small scale own business like autorikshaw, saloon or small grocery shops, family income was up to rupees one to lakh per annum. Seventy five percent of the subjects were dependent on either scholarships or Bank loans.

Regarding perceptions towards nursing profession among B.Sc. nursing students enrolled in selected colleges of western Maharashtra.

To assess the perception the structured questionnaire Likert Scale Instrument, consisted of 20 perception statements related to nursing profession were used. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement on a five-point scale .For statistical analysis every response weights were given as follows-ranging from Strongly Disagree=1,Disagree=2,Not sure=3,, Agree=4, to Strongly Agree=5.

To accomplish this objective, the researcher presented the frequency, percentage ,mean and standard deviation for each of the 20 items The perception scale had 20 statements where it could range from 20 to100. In this study, the

scores ranged from 57 to 100. Mean score was 80.40 and S.D. was 6, 77
.therefore score was divided into three categories “**Good, Average and Poor.**”

The researcher has categorized **Mean >80** as the good perception, Mean 60-80 was categorized as an average perception and < 60 was categorized as p the poor perception towards nursing profession

It was found that tout of 440 subjects, two hundred and sixty (N=260) subjects (59.09%) had „Good“ perception (N=178) had „Average“ perception and hardly two (N=2) had „Poor“ perception towards the nursing profession.

To further summarize the findings regarding the B.Sc.nursing students“ perceptions of the nursing profession, the researcher used factor analysis The three sub-scales aspects were labeled by the researcher as “Care”, “The nursing profession”, and Social status and socio-economic benefits.

It was observed that all the nine statements for which respondents indicated “strongly agree”, out of that six were concerned with CARE Regarding“ nursing care „student“’s perception was found good, ranging mean from 4.34 to 4.54 (table 4.19),

Perception regarding characteristics of the nursing profession {table 4.20) such a „noble profession, dignified, respected profession and nurse is key person in health care system“ were perceived as „strongly agree“ whereas other statements were simply „agree“ such as nursing is a medical technical activity, prestigious or autonomous profession etc. may be yet they need more experience of indecently working in a job to form strong perception about these statements

Perceptions regarding social status and socio economic benefits of nursing profession, subjects were strongly agreed on job opportunities at regional, ,national and international level as during their study period, many teachers were going abroad for jobs with

attracted high salaries, many seniors of them were recruited in either government or corporate hospitals, or in educational institutes and many times through media, newspapers, advertisement on notice boards regarding jobs were attracting them. As this profession is dominated by female, there was agreement for „suitable profession for females“ there was “disagreement” „regarding nurses are auxiliary to the physician. In olden days ,before formal diploma, degree courses started, doctors were training them in their hospitals, there was no scientific ,approved courses therefore that image was created and also media portrayed this image through televisions, cinema but today nurse has become a member of health team and her role specially in community setting she is important person to prevent the communicable diseases, in promotion of health and specifically to reduce maternal and infant mortality, Nurses are the key person to implement national rural health programme. Even she is becoming „independent nurse practitioner“. social status of nurses is uplifting due to basic requirement to enter in nursing programme, different ladder of educational programmes, demand and employment opportunities for personal advancement at national and international level and high wages, this all resulting into positive perception towards nursing profession.

However response of “Not sure” by (Mean-10.34%)was alarming regarding nursing profession.

Third objective of the researcher was to identify if there is any relationship between demographic variables and the level of perception. For this, demonstrated the sum, mean value and standard deviation of each stem mining

relationship between demographic characteristics and each of the 20 items individually in subsequent manner.

Hypothesis (H₁): stated that there is relationship between demographical variables and perception of B.Sc.nursing students enrolled in nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra. It was statistically calculated with chi square using (SPSS) version 20 software, and found that age and year of admission had significant association with the level of perception. Initially, at the time of admission their level of perception was in „good category“ but as they were becoming seniors and age was increasing their perception was **declining** to the average category and vice versa, Those who entered with average perception, were moving to „good „level perception with age and seniority.“ This could be due to they were exposed to different clinical experiences and they were exposed to the world around them in nursing and could be the effect of environment of college including curriculum, assignments or examinations..May be finding difficult ot might have reduced interest, whatever it may?. Need to find out by further study. However,

H₁ is accepted.

It means demographic variables and perception towards nursing had relationship which was fluctuating each other..

Fourth objective of this research study was to identify the influencing factors or reasons to enroll to B.Sc. nursing in nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra.

To accomplish this objective, in structured questionnaire part III was developed There were 14 statements given stating possible factors influenced to enroll in B.Sc.nursing and options of responses were also given as “Yes, No, and Not sure” .Subjects had to choose option „just () mark, they were explained that there is no right or wrong answer but project your own reason, to enroll for B.Sc. nursing. „Not sure“ response was opted by (Mean=06.28%).but they had enrolled in B.Sc.Nursing. One open ended question was given to respond if any other reason other than in questionnaire, they were free to write. Only few had

tried it but they had repeated the same response, which was already in questionnaire.

As mentioned in conceptual framework (Chapter I) reasons /factors were divided into two parts” internal environmental factors and external environmental factors

Internal environmental factors were attitude, knowledge, motivation, experience, expectations and personal attributes.

External environmental factors were Availability of Jobs and job security, Opportunities for Personal fulfillment & Advancement.

The most priority factor/ reason to enroll in B.Sc.nursing was (N =393/89.31%) subjects had positive attitude towards nursing profession. they opted a statement “Service to mankind is service to God (Mean =1.86/S.D.=.428) and“ Desire to help sick and help who are in need“ (Mean=1.84/S.D..434). Third main influencing reason/factor were all related to external environmental factors, “Availability of jobs security of jobs, opportunities of employment in abroad, good salaries all these factors were motivating the subjects to enroll in nursing colleges.(Mean ranging from 1.70 to 1,59),

Personal attribute as self concept and self confidence were shown by the subjects as „personal liking, willing to work hard and Self – Confidence“(Mean=1.69/S.D =.682),which was the dominating factor as well as own interest and self motivated (Mean=1.67/S.D.=.514), Those who had Knowledge of nursing education, nursing profession influencing factor were „Parents/Relatives/friends are already in nursing“(Mean=1.53/S.D.=.548) also parental and peer encouragement“ factor had influencing to (Mean=1.54/S.D.=.595) the subjects to enroll for B.Sc.nursing .However pre educational experience of nursing and religious influence were negligible factors to enroll in nursing, ranging from (Mean 1.23 to 1.40). Majority, two third subjects denied that they enrolled to nursing because „they had no other option

than nursing. It meant that they had other options but intentionally they had chosen nursing with own interest or due to other reasons mentioned above

Fifth objective of the present study was to find out if there is any correlation between perception towards nursing profession among B.Sc.nursing students and influencing factors to enroll in nursing colleges in Western Maharashtra Hypothesis was-

H₂: There is significant correlation between perception towards nursing influencing „Not sure;” responses about nursing profession, (mean=10%) were alarming subjects may not have Knowledge about nursing profession. A combined programme could be fostered between nurse educators and junior college teachers. This would help to ensure both high school or junior college teachers to get accurate information about nursing and nursing education. Even visit to the hospital, college of nursing can be arranged to motivate the potential students to enroll in B.Sc. nursing at nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra.

For every individual sum of responses of 20 questions (Scoring as described in perception scale} in perceptions of nursing (X) and sum number of “Yes” among 14 statement”s responses to find out main factors influencing to enroll (Y) for B.Sc.nursing at Western Maharashtra were calculated. By Karl Pearson correlation coefficient between (X) and (Y) and answer is 0.172, which is statistically significant (P value is less than 0.0001).

H₂: is accepted .It means there is correlation between perception towards nursing and influencing factors to enroll in B.Sc. nursing at nursing colleges of Western Maharashtra.

In conclusion, the researcher would say that, the study shows that majority of the students had good and average perception towards nursing profession. They were attracted to the socio-economic benefits of the nursing career. Majority had expressed that they had chosen the nursing profession because they wanted to be nurses and to help people. Their concept is „service to mankind is service to God.” Though majority of the students say that they were

influenced of nursing is due to job security, availability of jobs at Government and corporate level as well as at international level, good salaries, flexibility in working condition but they are not entirely into the socio-economic benefits, but have willingness to help sick and people in need, to make a difference in the society, get involved in something that matters, get to communicate with people, to get fulfillment, to make self and professional advancement and also to make the best out of life. So, in conclusion, as much as the socio-economic aspect of the profession comes up so much in the study, the feeling of interest, satisfaction, caring, helping, fulfilled dreams come up too and it shows that the students understand what the profession is all about.

The purpose of this study was to provide useful information to nursing college authorities to improve the admissions in nursing colleges, and to retain them in the profession. It was necessary to assess their perception towards nursing and influencing factors made them to take admissions. It would be beneficial to the nursing authorities to foster their perception towards positive or good perception. The factors which are declining their perception as age and seniority increases, need to be search. It is alarming to the nursing educators to „Handle them with care, they will devote themselves. They will love the profession and will encourage others to enroll in nursing profession..provided nursing authorities either in college or in clinical area,to encourage thei positive potential, and guide the students to take the right path, sustain motivation, arouse more enthusiasm, confidence and retain them in this chosen profession. If so, they will demonstrate as mentors and will encourage others to take admissions in nursing and reduce the shortage of nurses.

SUGGESTION'S

Based on this conclusion and these findings the researcher's

Suggestions are-

1. **All nursing colleges shall be aided by the Government.**

It was found that weaker section of the society, take admission to the B.Sc.Nursing program Fees are higher. Hardly there are five Government colleges in Maharashtra. Shortage of nurses is visible, Nursing services are for the welfare of the society. Hence all unaided colleges recognized by Government, Indian and Maharashtra state nursing council and the university may be financially aided by the Government to attract the students.

2. **Social welfare scholarships for all reserve category students-**

Students are facing inconvenience and hardship to pay the fees. Even some students had left the courses for the said reason. Hence provision of social welfare scholarship may be given to all reserve category and financial backward student whether they take education in Government or deemed university affiliated institutions.

This provision is already made for diploma students (GNM) even though they take nursing education in private colleges, but this facility is not given for degree courses.

3. **Mass publicity to the nursing programme to encourage the students.**

Creating awareness about nursing profession among high school and junior college students through lectures, discussions and using electronic media. Giving information is important, instead of assuming that everybody knows about it. For such programmes, Nursing personnel who are in good positions at different level can be used as "Mentors" Marketing through educational fairs and in schools, elaborating about scope in different areas in nursing and encouraging potential

male students and helping them to dissolve the misconception that this profession is for female. Social media like television, cinema should avoid distorting and negative image of a nurse.

4. Admission procedure under MUHS should be simplified.

Government process regarding admission procedure like MH-CET/ASSOCIATION CET and rounds by the central system as admissions to medical colleges, may be simplified, it takes long time till then students take admission to some other discipline and seats are remaining vacant specially in colleges affiliated to MUHS

Recommendations

Further research studies are recommended.

To assess the attitude of students and parents towards MUHS affiliated institutions.

1. .To assesses the perception of of 12th science (PCBE) students.
2. To assess the level of satisfaction among male nurses
3. To assess the influencing factors for change in perception from first year to final year

1. To assesses the perception of of 12th science (PCBE) students as they are eligible for B.Sc.Nursing admissions

XII th science is a turning point to select a career options .Many avenues are open to these students in health sciences like medical, alternative and complimentary courses like ayurveda, homeopathy, physiotherapy, laboratory technicians and nursing..

When one has to take career decision all the information about various options should be given to the interested students in making a career decision. Having career information available for students allows them to make a more informed career decision and ultimately achieve greater career satisfaction. Let them have their own choice. Nursing duties and nurses work, and credit for that work is

neither visible to the public nor to the interested students who are seeking nursing profession as a career.

It is necessary to assess the perceptions of 12Th science students. Perceptions of nursing is one of distorted clarity by 12th science students; thus many students do not have realistic views about nursing and job responsibilities of various cadre in nursing. They are uncertain about the various courses, avenues for scope, personal growth and career. These students are best source of potential group and can be attracted to the nursing . Before informing about career in nursing, it is better to know, how they perceive nursing, their belief, ideas, expectations, aptitude, attitude, and interest, Then only marketing of nursing career should be done.. We observe „career Expo“ stalls in the exhibition.

Students go the stalls as per their interest and eligibility. They are igoure to know pros and cons of this career. Total information about the career, needed patience, physical, mental capacity, compassion and scope in a career, job opportunity, further personal and professional advancement all concepts should be clear to him/her everything to be described in positive manner. If students choose career with own will, they will have greater satisfaction.

It is necessary to find out their knowledge, ideas, beliefs about nursing profession and career opportunities. Therefore it is suggested studies regarding the perception of 12Th science students.

2. To assess the the level of satisfaction among male nurses

This profession is dominated by female. Two third students were female and one third were male.The general public still perceives nursing as primarily a woman's job that requires a nurturing, caring personality. The perception also exists that most men who go into nursing are gay. However Male nurses are entering mainly due to employment opportunities whereas compared to other graduates. It is necessary to know their level of satisfaction and how family, friends,, life partners and society view them. Whether they are satisfied in the job. Results of such study would help further admissions..

Individual cannot be separated from society. It is important to know that the prestige or status offered by the public is considered while choosing a profession. Nursing is dominated by females; it is viewed as “feminine profession”. Females have natural instincts of caring, helping and devoting nature, even in our „Patriotic society“ females have secondary role which is dominated. However due to job opportunities and job guarantee many male students are entering in nursing profession. Some corporate hospitals do not prefer male nurses in the hospitals. In maternity and Gyneac wards only female nurses are allowed though male nurses are taught midwifery, whereas male doctors are allowed to conduct delivery. Even nurses unions are resisting admission of male nurses. As per the researcher’s experience as an administrator, male nurses were very useful to work in psychiatric wards, trauma units and in mobile units like ambulance duties.

It is important to know how public views male nurses either in hospitals, in community. Public includes patients of gender, parents, co workers and male nurse himself even **life patters**. These views would either encourage or discourage the admission flow of nursing.

3 To assess the factors responsible in change of perception from 1 st year to fourth year

In present study,, the researcher found that at the entry of the nursing educational programme, students had „good“ level of perception but as they proceeded to further second, third and fourth year their perception was declining..They were exposed to clinical experience in different wards, and community. They were exposed to different subjects as well as assessment through scheme of examination was followed..They were demonstrated skill tasks in pre clinical labs in classroom settings which to be practiced in the hospital and they were well instructed regarding rules ,regulations, discipline to be maintained in the clinical area.

However their perception was changed in average level. What made them to change their perceptions from first year to fourth year Whether their expectations or their views at the starting were different? Whether reality was something different? Whether change, because of the dissonance between what the student nurses observe in the classroom was compared with actual practice. Or due to technical tasks or experiences they had observed in the world around them where they were exposed. Therefore it is necessary to investigate the factors responsible for change in perception, from first year to fourth year. Result of this study would help to improve the expectarions or situation.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

Research Study Topic: A Study of the Perceptions towards Nursing Profession among B.Sc Nursing Students in Western Maharashtra

Researcher: Mrs. M.I. Momin, Dean and Principal,
D.Y.Patil College of Nursing, Kolhapur

Dear Students,

I am conducting this study for Ph.D degree of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune

Specific Objectives of this study are-

- 1) To assess the perception of B.Sc. Nursing students towards nursing profession
- 2) To identify influencing factors / reasons for enrollment to the nursing colleges

You all are aware that the nurses are the backbone of the healthcare fundamentals in the delivery of quality care for all the inhabitants of a country. The perception of both nurses and nursing as a profession are vital in the successful recruitment and retention of staff in the healthcare industry.

The findings of this study will be useful to provide opportunities for improvement that will ultimately contribute to promoting nursing profession in Maharashtra and in India.

This Questionnaire is divided into three parts.

Part I :is your individual social-demographic data,

Part II :is responses to the statements in five point scale regarding perception

Part III: is check list of Yes/No regarding influencing factors /reasons to enroll in nursing colleges.

Try to fill in all columns. Participation in this study is voluntary.

This questionnaire is anonymous and confidentiality of your responses is guaranteed.

Thank you, for your time and attention to this questionnaire.

Part-I
Socio-demographic data of students

This is designed to elicit the demographic information from respondents consisting eleven items.

Instructions: kindly tick () the most appropriate answer in the bracket given on the right side of each item. The information provided will be kept confidential and used only for this study.

Date: _____

Code No: _____

S.No	Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for chosen option
1	Admission Year a) 2011-12 b) 2012-13 c) 2013-14 d) 2014-15	
2	Age in years a) 18-19 years b) 20-21 years c) 2years and above	
3	Gender a) Male b) Female	

4	Religion and Caste A}Hindu ----if yes 1)Open Caste- 1) Schedule Caste - 2) O.B.C. b) Muslim c) Christian	
5.	Nationality a)Indian b) If any other, specify	
6	Place of Residence a) Urban b)Rural	
7	Marital Status a)Single b)Married c)Divorced/Widowed	
8	Education a)12 th science b)Graduation c)If any other specify	
9	Percentage of marks in 12th PCBE or equivalent a)40 –upto.50% b)>50–60 % c)>60% and above	

10	Father's/guardian's occupation a) Government Service b)Farmer/Worker c)Private Business/Service d) Pensioner e) Unemployed	
11	Family Income per annum(in rupees) a) Upto1,00,000/-(one Lac) b) >1,00,000to 2,00,000(1.1 to 22 Lac) c) >2,00,000/- (2.1 Lac and above)	
12	Any Financial Aid received- a)Received/Applied Government Scholarships b)Bank Loan c)Any other	

PART -II

To assess the perception of B.Sc. Nursing students towards nursing profession

A structured questionnaire of five point scale

Instructions

Dear participant, following are the statements of responses pertaining to one's Perceptions of Nursing as a Profession. I would like to know your perceptions towards Nursing Profession.

Listed below are a series of responses regarding the perception of the nursing profession. For each of the statements, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement by the tick () response that best represents your opinion. The available responses for each item range from “**Strongly Disagree,**” “**Disagree**” “ **Not Sure,**” “**Agree**” to” **Strongly agree**” . Please be assured that there is no right or wrong responses to these statements, and that your individual answers will never be connected with you personally. Your information will be kept confidential and will be used only for the research study.

Read each statement and responses carefully and tick (✓) in the column which most closely reflects your opinion

S.N	Responses to Perceptions of Nursing Profession –	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Not sure 3	Agree 4	Strongly Agree 5
1.	An opportunity to serve humanity.					
2.	Key role in prevention of diseases and promotion of health					
3.	Nurses“ need to acquire the latest technological advances to prevent illnesses and conservation as well as promotion of health of self and others					
4.	Nursing is a medical technical activity					
5.	.Nursing involves caring of Patients and teaching regarding Health					
6.	It is not only taking care of patients but it also requires critical thinking					
7.	It also requires compassion, patience and strength					
8.	Nursing as a noble profession					
9.	Profession is dignified and respectful as well as a way to get due recognition in society					
10.	Nurses are more kind and sympathetic					
11.	Nursing is autonomous.					
12.	Opportunities for personal advancement					
13.	Opportunities to work in other countries					

14.	Good salary, Stable Job, Low Stress and flexible working hours					
15.	A nurse is an important person and nursing is an equally important career to the health care system					
16.	Nursing is well-respected career path.					
17.	Nursing is for low academic achievers and dull students					
18	A suitable profession for females					
19	Nurses are an auxiliary of the Physician					
20	Nursing is not prestigious job					

Part III

To find out main influencing for enrollment to the nursing colleges

S.No	Factors/Reasons influencing to enroll in nursing	Yes	No	Not sure
1.	Desire to help sick and help who are in need			
2.	Service to mankind is service to God			
3.	Own interest/self motivated			
4.	Nursing profession gives 100% job guarantee			
5.	Availability of jobs at regional, national and opportunities to work abroad			
6.	Religious influences			
7.	Relatives/friends are already in nursing			
8.	parental and peer encouragement			
9.	Personal liking, willing to work hard & self-confidence			
10.	Pre-educational experiences of nursing and caring			
11.	Opportunities for Government job with good salary			
12.	Attracted to the socio-economic benefits of the nursing career			
13.	For further personal and professional development			
14.	There was no other option /Choice than nursing			

If you want to add any other reason than above-----

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