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Perceptions of nursing students regarding their Discipline at Kabul University of Medical Science in 2021

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Abstract. Background and Aim: Students' perspectives regarding their Discipline directly affect the quality and quantity of health care and ultimately the health of individuals and society. This study aimed to determine the perspective of Nursing Students at Kabul University of Medical Sciences "Abo Ali ibn Sina" about their Discipline. **Methodology:** A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted among 249 nursing students at Kabul University of Medical Sciences "Abo Ali ibn Sina" by census sampling method. The data collection tool was the University of Minnesota Questionnaire based on the Likert scale. Data were coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS25) software. **Results:** The mean and standard deviation of the student's perspectives regarding their Discipline were 15.85 ± 4.777 respectively, which was higher than the mean exam score. In total, 143 (57.4%) participants had positive perspectives regarding their Discipline, 78 (31.3%) had negative perspectives and 28 (11.2%) were neutral. According to the results of the Kruskal-Wallis test, Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline had a statistically significant difference between marital status ($P=0.005$), Accommodation type ($P = 0.028$), and classes ($P=0.001$). **Conclusion:** The mean score for the perspectives of the population under investigation toward their Discipline was higher than the acceptable level which demonstrates a desirable perspective toward their Discipline among the majority of students.

Keywords. Nurse, attitude, perspective, Discipline, Students

1. Introduction

Because universities have been the source of changes in society in various fields and students as a main pillar of the university in the future will be the main body of various organizations and organs of society, considering the importance of health fields, awareness of student's perspectives towards their the discipline is more importance **Error! Reference source not found.**^[1] Today, the study of attitude as the most important concept of social psychology has a special place in research. Conducting studies that examine students 'perspectives toward their field of study can be useful for predicting social behaviors and interpreting them after they occur. Every year, we see that due to dissatisfaction with the field of study, a large number of

students drop out of school or continue their studies in despair ^[2]. In such a situation, if the education system fails to identify the exact and logical reasons for this issue and take measures to retain students, the health care system will face a serious crisis of shortage of nurses and the financial resources, time, and energy that are consumed. Acceptance and training of this professional force will be wasted ^[3]. Undoubtedly, having a positive attitude is a prerequisite for success in any field of study ^[4]. By recognizing the various factors related to students' perspectives toward their field of study, measures can be taken to modify policies, change educational planning, and student admission capacity, and eliminate or create new fields ^[5]. It should be noted that medical students spend more practical and clinical units than other students to be effective in this profession, so there is a shortage of students who have entered these fields with motivation and conscious choice. This can lead to a decline in the quality of clinical education in these disciplines ^[6]. However, any shortcoming in this profession directly affects the quality and quantity of health care and ultimately the health of individuals and society ^[3]. Nursing students' perspectives toward their field vary according to personal preferences, talents, and needs. Studies show that as we get closer to the final years of our studies, students' perspectives toward their field change based on their actual observations and clinical experience ^[7]. Different values and perspectives that have spread among different health sciences can also affect their perspectives ^[8]. But the most important factors affecting the professional attitude of nursing students are interest in the field of study, fields and educational factors, community attitude, and work pressure ^[9]. Recognizing the factors affecting the attitude of nursing students is one of the necessities that can help us in formulating regulations, providing appropriate facilities, successful planning for training competent nurses, and creating a passionate and motivating environment at the university. However, considering the importance of the issue, no research has been conducted in Afghanistan. Therefore, the present study can fill this scientific vacuity and provide evidence for health policymakers to plan to solve the problem.

Therefore, the goal of this study is to assess the perspective of Nursing Students regarding Their Discipline at Kabul University of Medical Sciences "Abo Ali ibn Sina" in 2021.

2. Methodology

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to assess the Perceptions of Nursing students regarding Their Discipline among 249 nursing students at Kabul University of Medical Sciences "Abo Ali ibn Sina" in 2021 by the senses method. The data was collected by the University of Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire^[10], which was used in several similar studies, including Dargahi, A, et al,^[11] and Rejali et al ^[5]. This questionnaire consists of 2 parts. The first Part 4 questions about sociodemographic characteristics such as gender; marital status; Type of accommodation and class of students and the second part consisted of 5 questions about the Discipline of nursing students from the perspective of students of this university. The questionnaire was validated by experts at the Ministry of Public Health and Kabul University of medical science, Afghanistan. And the reliability of the questionnaire was determined by using Cronbach's alpha. The coefficient was calculated. A coefficient of 0.785 was obtained which indicated the reliability of the questionnaire. In attitude questions for each statement or item, the Likert scale and grading criteria were used. Grading criteria consist of a five-point scale ranging from strongly agree (5), agree (4), have no opinion (3), disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1).

To evaluate the status of students' Perceptions regarding their Discipline, the mean scores of the student's perspectives were compared to the mean exam score, which was 15.

Then, scores less than 15 were considered a negative attitude, Scores equal to 15 were considered neutral and scores higher than 15 were considered a positive attitude. Before distributing the questionnaire, information regarding the purpose of the study was given and consent was obtained from all students. Besides, they were assured that the study is confidential. Data were coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS25) software. Descriptive statistics were used to calculate the frequency distribution, Kruskal–Wallis tests were used to compare independent variables to students’ Perceptions regarding their Discipline, and a statistical significance was assessed at $P < 0.05$.

3. Results

In total, 249 questionnaires were filled. Of the total participants, 152 (61%) students were female, and 97 (39%) were male. the majority 221(88.8%) of participants were unmarried and 28 (11.2%) were married. Moreover, in terms of the settlement, 152 (61%) students lived in private homes and 97 (39%) in the dormitory. As well as, of all participants, 68 (27.3%) students were studying in the First class, 58(23.3%) in the second class, 65 (26.1%) in the Third class, and 58 (23.3%) in the fourth class (table 1).

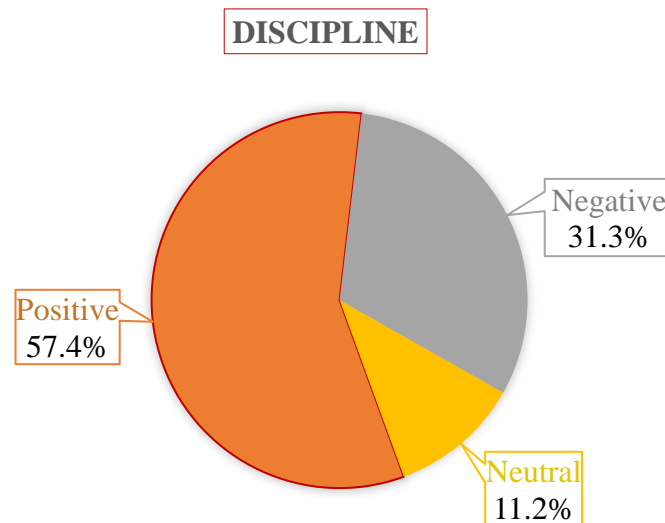
Table 1: Demographic characteristics of participants (n=249).

Demographic Characteristics	Variables	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	97	39
	Female	152	61
Marital Status	Single	221	88.8
	Married	28	11.2
Accommodation Type	Dormitory	97	39
	Home	152	61
Classes	Firs Class	68	27.3
	Second Class	58	23.3
	Third Class	65	26.1
	Fourth Class	58	23.3

The mean students’ Perceptions scores regarding their Discipline were 15.85 ± 4.777 , respectively. By considering the mean score of the test (15), the mean score of students’ Perceptions regarding their Discipline in studied students was higher than the acceptable level.

According to the finding of this study, of the total participants, the majority of 143 (57.4%) students had higher Perceptions regarding their Discipline than the mean score of the test, ie they had a positive attitude towards their Discipline, 78 (31.3 %) had lower Perceptions regarding their Discipline than the mean score of the test, ie they had a negative attitude towards their Discipline And 28 (11.2%) were neutral (Figure 1).

Figure 1: percentage of Students’ perspectives regarding their discipline.



The majority of 185 (74.3%) students agreed or completely agrees with their Discipline. 135 (54.2%) students believed that their Discipline would be more valuable at higher levels. 148 (59.4%) students stated that (I became more interested in this field after starting my studies). Moreover, the majority of 180 (72.3%) students completely disagreed and disagrees with the query expressing “I think there is a positive attitude towards my Discipline in my society”. The details are presented in (table 2).

Table 2: Frequency (%) responses of nursing students regarding their perspectives regarding their Discipline at Kabul University of medical science “Abu Ali ibn Sina” KUMS, Afghanistan, in 2021. (n=249).

Query	Completely agree	Agree	No idea	Disagree	Completely disagree
I agree with the selected discipline	101 (40.6%)	84 (33.7%)	18 (7.2%)	30 (12%)	16 (6.4%)
Presented courses are proportional to the needs and expectations of students	16 (6.4%)	90 (36.1%)	50 (20.1%)	89 (35.7%)	4 (1.6%)
I am more interested after the start of studying in this study field	64 (25.7%)	84 (33.7%)	30 (12.0%)	45 (18.1%)	26 (10.4%)
I think this field is more valuable at higher levels	70 (28.1%)	65 (26.1%)	22 (8.8%)	41 (16.5%)	51 (20.5%)
I think there is a positive attitude towards my Discipline in my society	25 (10%)	27 (10.8%)	17 (6.8%)	69 (27.7%)	111 (44.6%)

A Kruskal–Wallis H test showed that there was a statistically significant difference between the Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline and Marital status ($\chi^2 = 3.778$, $P = 0.005$). Moreover, there was a statistically significant difference between the Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline and Accommodation type ($\chi^2 = 1.139$,

P = 0.028). There was also a statistically significant difference between the Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline and classes (4 = 82.092, P < 0.001), (Table 3).

Table 3: Kruskal–Wallis test for comparison of independent variables to students' Perceptions regarding their Discipline

Demographic Characteristics	Variables	Frequency	Mean rank	P-value
Sex	Male	97	127.05	0.071
	Female	152	123.69	
Marital Status	Single	221	128.15	0.005
	Married	28	100.14	
Accommodation Type	Dormitory	97	118.92	0.028
	Home	152	128.88	
Classes	First Class	68	184.11	<0.001
	Second Class	58	122.28	
	Third Class	65	115.20	
	Fourth Class	58	69.41	

So, the rate of positive Perceptive regarding their Discipline is higher among unmarried students compared to married students. Also, with the increase of the academic class, the Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline became more negative, so the first-grade students had the most positive Perceptions and the fourth-grade students had the most negative Perceptions regarding their Discipline. The details are presented in (Tables 4, and 5).

Table 4: Distribution of participants' Perceptions regarding their Discipline according to marital status.

Demographic characteristics of students			Perceptions of students regarding their Discipline		
			Positive	Negative	Neutral
Marital status	Single	Count	134	69	18
		Percentage	60.6%	31.2%	8.1%
	Married	Count	9	9	10
		Percentage	32.1%	32.1%	35.7%
	Total	Count	143	78	28
		Percentage	57.4%	31.3%	11.2%

Table 5: Comparison of Students' perspectives regarding their Discipline among the four classes.

Demographic characteristics of students			Perceptions of students regarding their Discipline		
			Positive	Negative	Neutral
Classes	First-class	Count	60	2	6
		Percentage	88.2%	2.9%	8.8%
	Second class	Count	32	20	6
		Percentage	55.2%	34.5%	10.3%
	Third class	Count	35	20	10
		Percentage	53.8%	30.8%	15.4%
Fourth class	Count	16	36	6	

Total	Percentage	27.6%	62.1%	10.3%
	Count	143	78	28
	Percentage	57.4%	31.3%	11.2%

table 5 indicates that The level of positive Perceptive among the four classes of nursing students in the first class was much higher (88.2%) than in other classes and vice versa, the level of negative Perceptive was higher (62.1%) in the fourth class.

4. Discussion

This research study aims to assess Nursing Students` Perceptions level toward their Discipline at Kabul University of Medical Sciences “Abo Ali ibn Sina” in 2021. Results of this study indicated that most of the students (61%) were female, which may be due to their interest in the Discipline compared to males. In terms of marital status, the majority of (88.8%) of students were unmarried and (11.2%) were married. The analysis of these findings showed that married students against unmarried students had unfavorable Perceptive regarding their Discipline. Our finding was the same as Meysam Karimi et al^[12], Mahshid Bahrami et al^[13], Abdollahzadeh et al^[14], and Rejali et als^[5]. However, our findings were not the same as the results of Vahabi et al^[15], Mohammadzadeh et al^[16], and Khammarnia ET ALS^[17]. It seems that the sense of responsibility and socio-economic pressures in married students have caused them to have an unfavorable Perceptive regarding their Discipline.

The studies indicated that as we approach the final years of our studies, nursing Students’ perspectives toward their Discipline change according to their clinical experiences^[7]. A Kruskal–Wallis H test showed that there was a statistically significant difference between Perceptions of Nursing students regarding their Discipline classes ($4 = 82.092, P < 0.001$), so that, by rising or promoting higher grades, the negative perspectives of nursing students towards their Discipline increased. These findings are the same as the findings of Qaderi et al^[18], Meysam Karimi et al^[12], Mahshid Bahrami et al^[13], and Abdollahzadeh ET ALS^[14]. The most effective factor in this issue is that the students compare his Discipline with other Disciplines and with the passage of time and the continuation of education and promotion to higher grades, he finds a more negative view of his Discipline, also It can be pointed out that students from other fields and society do not have a good Perceptions towards his Discipline. In this regard (72.3%) of students stated that people in society have an unfavorable view of the field of nursing.

The mean students’ Perceptions scores regarding their Discipline were 15.85 ± 4.777 , respectively. By considering the mean score of the test (15), the mean score of students’ Perceptions of their Discipline in studied students was higher than the acceptable level.

According to the finding of this study, the majority of 143 (57.4%) students had positive Perceptions regarding their Discipline. This result is similar to the result reported in previous studies conducted by Watt CD et al.^[19] in America, Meysam Karimi et al.^[12] in Iran, Mahshid Bahrami et al.^[13] in Iran, Karibe, H et al.^[20] in Canada, Thailand, and Japan, Abdollahzadeh et al.^[14] in Iran, Nazari et al.^[21] in Iran and Samadi et al.^[22] in Iran. These results are inconsistent with previous studies. Ghaderi, M et al, reported that most of the study participants (52.1 %) had a negative attitude toward their Discipline^[18]. While in the present study only (31.3%) of participants had negative Perceptions regarding their Discipline. The result of a similar study conducted among public health students of Kurdistan Medical University, the mean and standard deviation of Students’ perspectives toward the Discipline was $84.26 \pm 23.26\%$, which indicated the negative attitude of the students towards their Discipline^[15]. Also, in a similar study conducted on nursing students of Hormozgan University of Medical Sciences, the results

showed that the mean score of Students' perspectives toward the Discipline was lower than the acceptable level, which indicates that students do not have a favorable attitude towards their Discipline ^[23]. The results of the present study showed that students had positive Perceptions regarding their Discipline. The main causes of these positive Perceptions regarding their Discipline students include their Satisfaction with the choice of their Discipline, the suitability of the courses offered with the expectations of students, interest in the field of study, and students' desire to continue their studies due to being valuable in higher levels. It seems that these factors could enhance students' motivation.

5. Conclusion

Students have positive Perceptions regarding their Discipline. Rising and promoting to a higher class, the Students' perspectives tended to be negative there is the highest level of positive attitude towards the Discipline among the first-grade students and the lowest level of positive attitude among the fourth-grade students.

However, the findings of this study are self-report, so they cannot be generalized to all students and all disciplines. Further studies needed to be done.

6. Recommendations

- Creating a culture in the field of the dignity of the nursing profession.
- Adjusting the admission of students in the field of nursing.
- Honoring the position of the nurse in the work environment and society due to the tedious nature of this profession alleviates students' worries about the future of the job and becomes interested in employment in this field and changes society's view of this field.
- Paying attention to the salaries and benefits of this job and meeting the material needs of this group can create the necessary motivation in students working in this field.
- Do more research on nursing Students' perspectives toward their field of study and career prospects.
- Creating the right counseling system before choosing a field of nursing and also during the study through the relevant professors can create a good perspective on the field of nursing in students and help them choose the right path in terms of future careers and continuing education.

7. Strength

This study was conducted in Kabul University of Medical Science Faculty of nursing classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 all students were male and female.

8. Conflicts Of Interest

"The author(s) declare(s) that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper."

9. Acknowledgments

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