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Nursing Students Attitude toward Research

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Abstract

In health care professions, nurses are responsible for direct patient care. So, nurses must have updated knowledge of new researches and have the ability to refine their own knowledge with new tested and confirmed practices in order to provide better care to patient. The roots of nursing research can be founded back in the work of Florence Nightingale who worked as a very first nursing researcher by collecting the data of soldiers' morbidity and mortality rates in 1850 Crimean war. Cross-sectional descriptive study design was used in this study. A sample size of 133 was selected by using Slovin's formula. Study results shows positive attitude of nursing students toward research.

Keywords: nursing research; nursing students; attitude toward research.

Introduction

In health care professions, nurses are responsible for direct patient care. So, nurses must have updated knowledge of new researches and have the ability to refine their own knowledge with new tested and confirmed practices in order to provide better care to patient. If a nursing student has the knowledge of nursing research than she feel more confident in her job and could provide better nursing care to patient by having the answer to question is your patient and disease management is according to nursing research? (Cannon, 2015).

In Oxford dictionary research is defined as "The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions" (Baldick, 2015).

The roots of nursing research can be founded back in the work of Florence Nightingale who worked as a very first nursing researcher by collecting the data of soldiers' morbidity and mortality rates in 1850 Crimean war. She worked in much organized and systematic way for data collection and to find the answers of her questions. Her hard work results in foundation and sustainability of nursing profession across the world (Moule et al., 2016).

Research is an integral part of graduation nursing programs which is intended to promote students' interest in nursing and also provide a better understanding of nursing research. This research base curriculum enables a nursing student to critically analyze a patient condition and to find out a most appropriate way to maintain and sustain the optimal health of a patient. Research findings promotes students learning and enables them to provide holistic care according to new and modified health care protocols (Furaikh et al., 2017).

Health sciences research is the key to improve the health care and promotes the professionalism of health care providers. Research study is found to be very useful in students' carrier because students involvement in research promotes the tendency to continue research in their later life (Anbari et al., 2015).

Evidence base practice guides the nurses to provide better patient care. The skills acquired in students' life make nursing professionals to collect patient data and analyze for provision of better nursing care. The statistic base decisions serves as a paradigm to make better decisions (Mathew & Aktan, 2014).

Building knowledge of research process is essential to decrease the research related anxiety in nursing students. Most of the nursing students suffer anxiety while

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conducting research because they found it complicated and felt scared. The thing should be kept in mind that students' knowledge can only be gradually progressed according to research steps they go through (Laschinger *et al.*, 2016).

The most common issue to be faced in nursing research is anxiety. Nursing students find it difficult to relate different steps of research. Research is a difficult process but it can be done with true guidance and by using different stress relieving activities which vary from person to person (Parahoo, 2014).

A study conducted in Uganda shows that students have positive attitude regarding learning and doing research. Students understand the importance of research work and shows willingness to continue research in their future lives however the lack of resources and bad teaching/learning aids results in less effective learning process so there is a need to improve the teaching of research and biostatistics (Munabi *et al.*, 2016).

The research conducted in Turkey for knowing the research curriculum importance shows that the students' doing research in their degree program are found to be active afterwards of their study completion. They continue to collect data and analyze for improving evidence base practices. These students are found to be more active not only for research but also for giving patient care at hospital setting because they have refined knowledge as compared to other nursing group having no research base curriculum (Ozum Erkin PhD, Aynur Uysal Toraman PhD, Hatice Simsek PhD, & Ayla Bayik Temel PhD, 2017).

Aim of the Study

Aim of this study was to know the nursing student attitude toward research.

Research Question

What is the attitude of nursing students toward research?

Literature Review

Evidence base practice is the ultimate goal of nursing professions, nursing students must have some positive attitude toward research studies and research findings to perform evidence base practices. Nursing research provides the base for practicing something that is for the patient, relatives, care givers and hospital benefit (Burns & Grove, 2010).

Now a days' nurses are expected to deliver highest quality of care which should cost friendly too. Nurses have to manage the ward and take care of patients for all the time so nurses must have updated knowledge of new researches to meet these high expectancy goals and which is possible only through having positive attitude toward new researches and refining previously learned objects (Polit & Beck, 2004).

Moreover the study results of Pakistan shows that due to unsupportive colleague behavior (49%), non-supportive

organization environment, unavailability of required facilities (49.8%), powerlessness (50%) to bring change in patient care procedure and many nurses feel no self-benefit (48%) from doing research. These factors affecting the nursing research practices in the public hospitals of Lahore. This study also reveals that this negative attitude arises from the diploma discipline where research is not compulsory (Kousar *et al.*, 2017).

According to a research study conducted in Nigeria it was founded that nurses consider the research importance but they don't pay attention toward studying new researches. Results showed that most of the respondents (91%) perceived research as very important in promoting quality of nursing care. However, majority, 93(40%) of them read research articles occasionally and 99(42.5%) read monthly while only 7(3.0%) and 9 (3.9%) claimed daily and weekly reading respectively. Level of education of the nurses and their attitude as learner nurses had an impact on their perception of research utilization (Adejumo & Guobadia, 2013).

Research statistic of a study conducted in Karachi to know the nurses opinion towards research barrier and research utilization shows that the nurses behave according to the attitude they develop as the student nurses. The research result also suggests that there is a need to provide necessary facilities to improve evidence base practice in nursing profession (Mohammadpour *et al.*, 2014).

Furthermore, a research conducted in teaching hospital of Kenya having descriptive study design and using both qualitative and quantitative approaches proves the importance of attitude build toward research during student phase. Result statistics of this study revealed that 20.6% of the nurses were participating in research related to their work and 53.6% of these were implementing research findings to practice. Over 2/3 (70.5%) of the respondents were basing their evidence for practice on the knowledge gained during their nursing school (Mutisya *et al.*, 2015).

Consequently, according to research study conducted in Jordan to know the nursing students attitude toward research shows that nursing students has a positive attitude toward nursing research and evidence base practice. Students had an agreement rate of 75% (using nursing research in clinical practice) to 94% (usefulness of nursing research), majority of the nursing students believes that nursing research is the much needed thing for the development of nursing profession (Halabi & Hamdan-Mansour, 2012).

In addition, the study results of Saudi Arab study also shows the positive attitude of nursing students towards research. The data was taken from three different regional nursing college campuses and it was founded that nursing student consider research an integral part of nursing profession they

perceived it useful for their future life and reported no extra anxiety when thoroughly guided by research faculty. Overall, the results showed positive attitude ($\bar{x} = 2.72$) with a $P < 0.001$, and the majority (74.8%) of students agreed with the overall positive agreement (Halabi, 2016).

Opposite to these researches, research conducted in Ohio State basically addressing imaging sciences baccalaureate programs describes that nursing students had a negative attitude toward nursing research during their student life and some also in their professional lives. The researcher adds that nursing students negative attitude toward research keeps them away from evidence base practices (Tschirner, 2011).

In addition a research work of Iran shows the negative attitude of nursing students toward research as 71% of respondents describes that they were never been in research activities and 61% of the nursing students have never allocated their work hours for research activities. 59% of respondents reported that their English language skills are not good enough to read nursing research articles, which are mostly published in English (Mehrdad et al., 2008).

Materials and Methods

Setting

Lahore School of Nursing (The University of Lahore) Pakistan.

Research Design: Descriptive cross sectional study design was used.

Population

The study population for this research work was the generic and 2-year post RN nursing students of Lahore School of Nursing. The total population was 200 nursing students

Sampling

Convenient, non-probability sampling strategy was used in this study.

Research Instrument

Five point close ended Likert scale base questionnaire was used for data collection from respondents. The questionnaire is adopted from thesis "A Cross-sectional Survey on Nursing Students 'Attitude towards Research". The questionnaire consists of five parts and having 32 total questions to ask about research usefulness, research anxiety, positive attitude toward research, relevance in life and research difficulty (Al Furaikh et al., 2017).

Data Analysis:

Data was analyzed by using the SPSS version 21.0 Tables and graphs will be used along with inferential data analysis.

Study Timeline:

The time for this study was from February 2018 to May 2018 (approximately 4 month).

Result and Discussions

Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the research participants.

The population was selected from Lahore School of Nursing as all 133 students belongs there. 59.1% students were from 4 year BSN degree program and 48.9% students were currently studying 2 year Post RN (BSN). Out of 133 participants the 131 were female and 2 male students also become part of this study. Age analysis shows that the majority of students are of younger age as 81% students were of age group 20-30 which counts for 109 and 18% students were from 30-40 year of age counting for 24 students.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of demographics data

Variables	Number (n)	Percent
Faculty		
Lahore School of Nursing	133	100%
Studying		
4 year BSN	69	59.1%
2 year BSN(Post RN)	64	48.9%
Sex		
Male	2	1.5%
Female	131	98.5%
Age		
20-25 years	29	21.8%
26-30 years	80	60.2%
31-35 years	20	15.0%
35-40 years	4	3.0%

Summed scores were used for calculation of means range, median, mode, variance and standard deviation, with the purpose of conducting descriptive analysis of nursing students attitude toward research. Sample of 133 students was used for the analysis purpose, range of score was 4 as our mean, median, mode and standard deviation are (Mean = 3.45, Mode = 5, Median = 3.53 and SD = 1.176).

The closed ended Likert scale allowed the participants to make choice from strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree. Total number of participants was 133.

First question was **“research is useful for my carrier”** 80.5% (n=107) students agrees that research is useful for their carrier, 11.4% stays neutral and 7.5% students don't consider that research is useful. **“Research is connected to my field of study”** was the second question and students' shows positive respond towards this statement as 63.1% nursing students agreed and only 13.8% disagreed. **“research should be indispensable in my professional training”** the third statement of the questionnaire also got a strong positive response because 82.7% participants agreed to this statement and among them 31.6% were strongly agreed and 7.5% (n=10) disagreed to this. **“research should be taught to all students”** in the response of this statement the 26 respondents (19.6%) goes against the statement and disagreed while the majority 107 respondents (78.5%) of respondent agreed that all students must learn the research while 7 respondents remain neutral. **“research is useful to every profession”** also receive positive response by having 79% agree answers and 10% disagree answers the remaining 11.3 % were neutral regarding this matter. **“Research is very valuable”** only 21 students disagreed and 105 students agreed so this statement also got positive response. **“I will employ research in my profession”** 27.3% students were not willing to employ research in their profession where 48.2% want to employ

research in their nursing profession. **“Research is stressful”** 21.1% (n=28) don't consider the research stressful while a majority of respondents were unsure about the stress causation due to research 51.1% (n=68) and 27.8% (n=37) students perceive research as a stressful task. **“Research is a complex subject”** hat research is a complex subject. **“I enjoy research”** 70.7% (n=94) nursing students strongly agreed to this statement, 14.3% (n=19) agreed to this statement, 4.5% (n=6) stays neutral, 6% (n=8) disagreed and 4.5% (n=6) strongly disagreed to this statement however the statistic strongly shows that most of the nursing students 85% are agreed that they are enjoying research. **“Most students benefits from research”** 36.8% (n=49) nursing students strongly agreed to this statement, 17.3% (n=23) agreed to this statement, 35% (n=49) stays neutral, 17.2% (n=23) disagreed and 9.0% (n=12) strongly disagreed from the statement. **“I make many mistakes in research”** 12% (n=16) nursing students strongly agreed to this statement, 36.1% (n=48) agreed to this statement, 6% (n=8) stays neutral, 17.3% (n=23) disagreed and 28.6% (n=38) strongly disagrees with the statement of doing mistakes in research.

The statistical analysis of this study shows that the most of nursing students have positive attitude toward research and are intended to learn and apply research in their profession and studies. The demographic analysis of this study shows that among 133 total respondents there were only 4 male students and remaining 129 were female students. Statistical evidence also shows that 69 participants were from 4 year BSN program and 64 students were of 2 year post RN degree program. Most of the students belong to younger age group and have positive attitude towards research.

Table No 3 shows the frequencies and percentages for all the asked questions.

Table 3: Frequency and percentage of the participants' response on each items

S. N.	Statement	SD		DA		N		A		SA	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Research is useful for my carrier	5	4.5	4	3.0	16	11.4	59	44.4	48	36.1
2	Research is connected to my field of study	7	5.3	10	7.5	32	24.1	35	26.3	49	36.8
3	Research should be indispensable in my professional training	4	3.0	6	4.5	13	9.8	68	51.1	42	31.6
4	Research should be taught to all students	5	3.8	21	15.8	7	5	52	37.1	55	41.4
5	Research is useful to every profession	12	9.0	1	0.8	15	11.3	54	40.6	51	38.3
6	Research is very valuable	1	0.8	20	15.0	55	7	5.0	42.9	55	41.4
7	I will employ research in my profession	30	21.4	11	5.9	32	22.9	30	22.6	34	25.6
8	The skill I've acquired in research will be helpful to me in future	1	0.8	5	3.8	12	9.0	59	44.4	56	42.1
9	Knowledge from research is as useful as writing	7	5.3	10	7.5	14	10.0	63	47.4	39	29.3
10	Research makes me nervous	14	9.3	29	21.8	36	27.1	31	23.3	37	27.8
11	Research is stressful	0	0	28	21.1	68	51.1	19	14.3	18	13.5

12	Research makes me anxious	3	2.3	3	2.3	12	9.0	54	40.5	61	45.9
13	Research scares me	70	52.6	29	21.8	17	12.8	17	12.8	4	3.2
14	Research is a complex subject	8	6.0	2	1.5	15	11.3	74	55.6	34	25.6
15	Research is difficult	8	6.0	2	1.5	16	12.0	34	25.6	73	54.9
16	I feel insecure concerning the analysis of research data	3	2.3	4	3.0	18	13.5	61	45.9	47	35.3
17	I love research	1	0.3	14	10.5	18	13.5	57	42.9	22	16.5
18	I enjoy research	6	4.5	8	6.0	6	4.5	19	14.3	94	70.7
19	I like research	12	9.0	6	4.5	6	4.5	85	63.9	24	18.0
20	I am interested in research	7	5.3	8	6.2	2	1.5	30	22.6	86	64.7
21	Research acquired knowledge is as useful as arithmetic	41	30.8	68	51.1	6	4.5	15	11.3	3	2.3
22	Research is interesting	11	8.3	13	9.3	6	4.5	59	44.4	44	33.1
23	Most student benefit from research	12	9.0	23	17.2	49	35.0	23	17.3	49	36.8
24	I am inclined to study the details of research	8	6.0	44	33.1	6	4.5	60	45.1	15	11.3
25	I use research in my daily life	2	1.5	51	38.3	5	3.8	64	48.1	11	8.3
26	Research-oriented thinking lays an important role in everyday life	34	25.6	15	11.3	8	6.0	63	47.4	13	9.8
27	Research thinking does not apply to my personal life	37	27.8	34	25.6	7	5.3	40	30.1	15	11.3
28	Research is irrelevant to my life	43	32.3	28	21.1	8	6.0	48	36.1	6	4.5
29	I have trouble with arithmetic	35	26.3	37	27.8	13	9.8	40	30.1	8	6.0
30	I find it difficult to understand the concepts of research	25	18.8	25	18.8	8	6.0	70	52.6	5	3.8
31	I make many mistakes in research	38	28.6	23	17.3	8	6.0	48	36.1	16	12.0

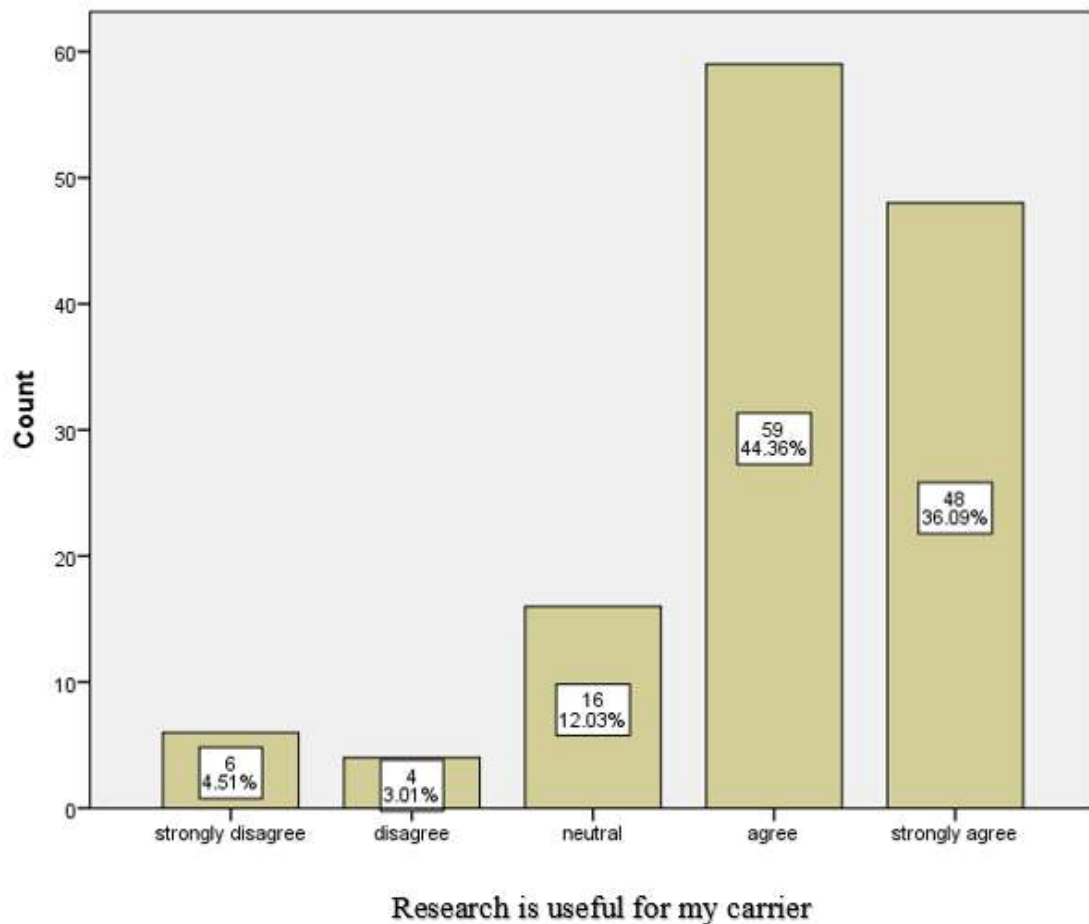


Fig. 1: Research is useful for my carrier (Question 1)

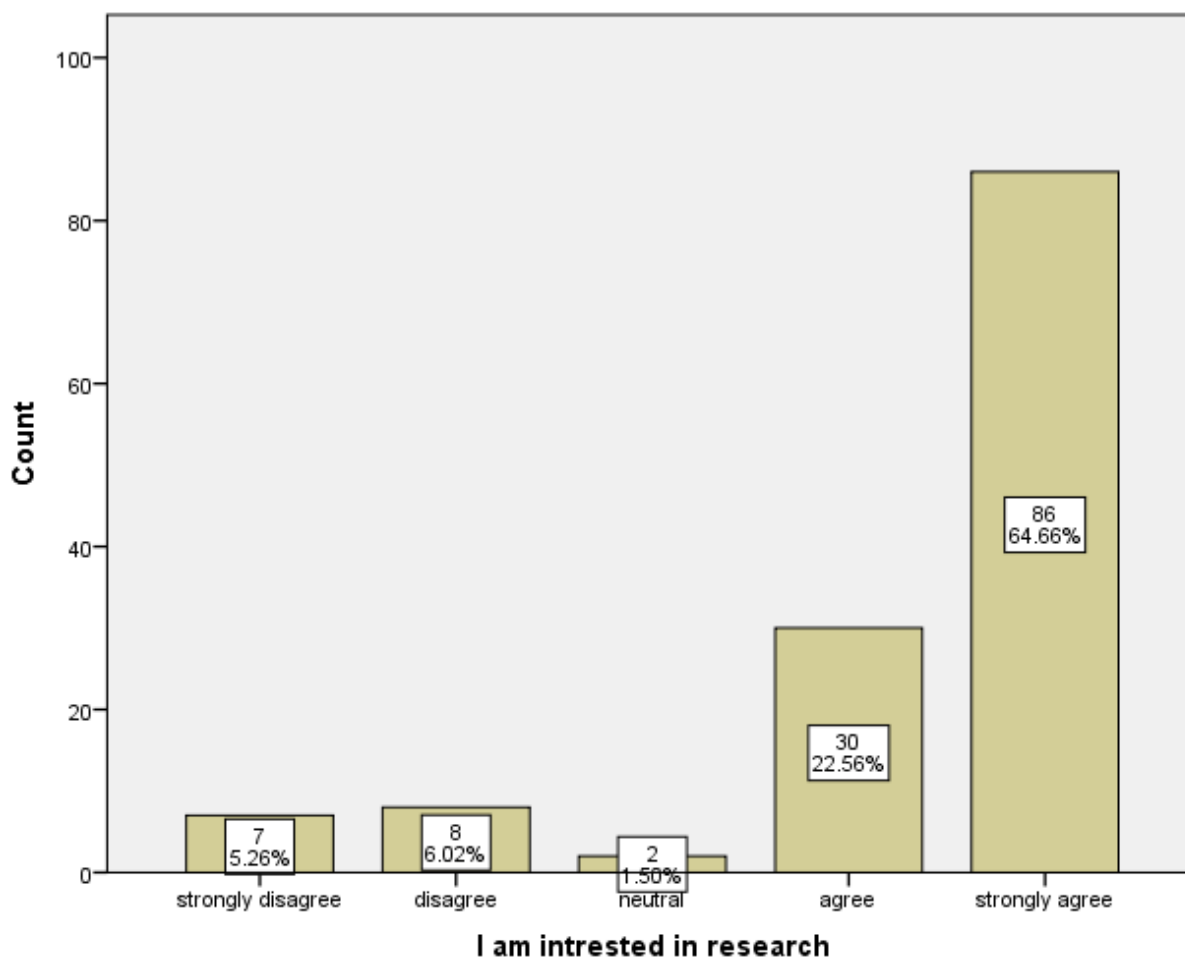


Fig. 2: I am interested in research (Question 20)

Fig. 1 shows that out of total 133(100%) respondents 36.09% (n=48) nursing students strongly agreed to the statement, 44.36% (n=59) agreed to this statement, 12.03% (n=16) stays neutral, 3.01% (n=4) disagreed and 4.51% (n=6) strongly disagreed that research is useful for their carrier.]

It is evident with the data shown in Fig.2 that out of total 133(100%) respondents, 64.66% (n=86) nursing students strongly agreed to this statement. Similarly, 25.56% (n=30) agreed that they are interested in research, 1.50% (n=2) stays neutral, 6.02% (n=8) disagreed and 5.26% (n=7) strongly disagreed the statement which means among 133 total respondents 116 respondents were interested in research and only 15 nursing students were not interested in research. It shows a very positive attitude of nursing students towards research.]

The results of this study co-relates with the study of (Tingen et al., 2009), both of the research studies were carried out to know the understanding of nursing students regarding research work and got positive response. Most of the nursing students knows the importance of nursing research and wants to continue their research practice even after joining professional lives.

Another research study conducted to know the tomorrow's clinical researcher behavior contrasts with this study as the

research conducted by (Badger et al., 2012) shows that nursing students are less attracted in learning and applying research modules in their professional life as compared to other undergraduate students like physiotherapy and radiology.

This research paper explores that although nursing students love to research and want to continue the research practice but they find it difficult to learn the research and faced many problems in getting research concepts, the study of (Brooke, Hvalič-Touzery, & Skela-Savič, 2015) also shows that nursing student are most likely to do research but they find it a difficult task to conduct a research work.

Another research study conducted by (Ertug & Önal, 2014) in Tehran favors the result of this study that nursing students consider the usefulness of nursing research and know that other nursing students are getting benefit from their research work. The nursing students understand the importance of research acquired knowledge.

Table 2: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha based on Standardized Items	Number of Item
.669	34

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