Associations Between Caring Among Nursing Students

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Purpose:
Caring is an emotion. It is a feeling of compassion and an understanding of the difficulties of others. Research indicates that caring behaviors and attitudes are an important part of the knowledge base for nursing students. This descriptive study reports the findings of caring attitudes and behaviors of nursing students using the Caring Dimensions Inventory (CDI). The present study therefore was seeking to expand current knowledge development and to fill the gap as related to whether or not nurses' first choice in profession was nursing. This study builds on the concept of caring and adds to the knowledge base of nursing students and may contribute to further development of the nursing curriculum.

Methods:
Descriptive statistics were computed using the SPSS software to determine the distribution of variables in the sample. Data was then analyzed by using a t-test to determine the difference between the mean CDI scores of nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not. A total of 121 students from accelerated and traditional baccalaureate programs answered the CDI questions. The demographic characteristics were the students’ age (groups 18-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41 and over), gender, race/ethnicity, and planned career trajectory. The independent variable was whether nursing students chose nursing as a first career or not. The dependent variable was the CDI score.

Results:
There was a significant difference on the CDI scores between those nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not. In this sample the CDI had a Cronbach's alpha of 0.87. A total of 62 students chose nursing as their first choice of profession; they scored significantly higher on the CDI (mean 109.97, SD 10.20, p = .02) than those who did not choose nursing as their primary career choice. Out of the 103 females and 18 males; a CDI significance was not found. The oneway ANOVA of race did not show significance as well. However, an oneway ANOVA of age groups showed statistically significance between groups (mean square .44, p = .016). The post hoc multiple comparisons by ages also showed statistically significance on the CDI (mean .23572, p = .004).

Conclusion:
Caring is an essential concept of the nursing curriculum, and may be measured with the use of the CDI. Watson’s theory of human caring may serve as a philosophical context for a humanistic approach to care. Essentially, the results of the study may fill a gap in nursing knowledge in terms of what is known about BSN nursing students’ attitudes and caring behaviors. This study built on a concept of caring that adds to the knowledge base of the nursing students and contributes to future development of the nursing curriculum.
Title: Associations Between Caring Among Nursing Students

Keywords: Caring, Nursing and Students

References:


Abstract Summary: Caring is a feeling of compassion and an understanding of the difficulties of others. Research indicates that caring behaviors and attitudes are an important part of the
knowledge base for nursing students. These findings explore caring in nursing students using the Caring Dimensions Inventory (CDI).

Content Outline:
1. Introduction
   1. Caring is an emotion. It is a feeling of compassion and an understanding of the difficulties of others.
   2. Research indicates that caring behaviors and attitudes are an important part of the knowledge base for nursing students.
2. Body
   1. It is imperative that the nursing student receives an education grounded in caring.
   2. The aim of nursing education is to prepare a student with a caring science viewpoint in mind so that ultimately the nurse can grow into a caring professional.
   3. NCLEX (2015) has as one of its goals that beginning nurses have competencies in assessment of client needs as well as caring.
   4. Data was analyzed using a parametric statistical t-test to gauge the difference between the mean CDI scores of nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not.
   5. There was a significant difference on the CDI scores between those nursing students who chose nursing as a first career and nursing students who did not.
   6. A total of 62 students answered yes to nursing being their first choice of study with a mean of 109.97 and a SD of 10.196 and 2-tailed statistical significance of 0.020.
3. Conclusion
   1. Nurse educators can seek creative solutions for preparing nursing students for the challenges of caring for their patients.
   2. Caring is an essential concept of the nursing curriculum.
   3. The results of the study may fill a gap in nursing knowledge in terms of what is known about age, gender, race/ethnicity, prior care of older adults, and planned career trajectory as related to BSN nursing students’ attitudes and caring behaviors.

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Author Summary: Dr. Patricia Patrician is my mentor during the Veteran Affairs Quality Scholar fellowship. She is a faculty member at UAB School of Nursing and a Senior VAQS Scholar Faculty member.