



## Perception of Clinical Setting As A Learning Resource Among Nursing Students A Cross-Sectional Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Clinical learning and competency development are essential part of the nursing curriculum. Hands on learning situations are necessary in nursing education, where the students directly care for patients within the relevant setting. The objectives of the study were to; (i) To assess the perception of clinical setting as a learning resource among nursing students. (ii) To determine association between perception of clinical setting as a learning resource and selected socio-demographic and academic variables. The researcher used a quantitative approach and non experimental descriptive design. One ninety six nursing students were selected using total enumeration. The data was collected by using Sociodemographic and Academic data Performa and Modified Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment scale. The major findings of the study were; (i) 65.31% of under graduate nursing students proved to have good level of perception and 34.69% have average perception. (ii) There is significant association between gender, year of study and perception of clinical setting as a learning resource.*

**KEYWORDS :** perception, clinical setting, learning resource, nursing students, descriptive study

### Introduction.

The clinical learning environment constitutes an initial area of professional practice for nurse and student. Nursing education occurs in many different settings and formats. Clinical field placements are another essential part of the nursing curriculum because clinical education is vital to the curriculum of preregistration nursing courses. During clinical field placement; students are expected to develop competencies in the application of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values inherent in the nursing programme.

Many nursing students perceive the clinical experience as anxiety provoking. Student anxiety in the clinical setting is an area concern for nurse educators. Nursing students perceive the practice setting as the most influential context for acquiring nursing skills and knowledge. Clinical placement provides students with optimal opportunities to observe role models practice by oneself, and reflect on what is seen, heard, sensed, and done.

In any clinical practice setting, the role that any clinical teacher plays is providing meaningful learning experiences to facilitate the development of competence and professional behaviors of the student must be examined.

Clinical education is a vital component of the curriculum of preregistration nursing course and provides student nurses with the opportunity to combine the cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills. Various studies have suggested that not all practice settings are able to provide nursing students a positive learning environment. The purpose of this study was to assess the extent to which nursing students perceived themselves as having learned specific clinical behaviors and the extent to which role modeling was perceived to have been a factor in learning those behaviors and to assess nursing students' perceptions of hospital setting as a learning resource.

### Materials and Methods

#### Objectives

- To assess the perception of clinical setting as a learning resource among nursing students.
- To determine association between perception of clinical setting as a learning resource and selected socio-demographic and academic variables.

#### Assumptions

- Subjects will give honest response to the questionnaire.
- Majority of students have the perception that the clinical setting as a good learning resource.

In this study the researcher used a quantitative approach and non experimental descriptive design. The setting of the study was Sree Gokulam nursing college, Venjaramoodu Trivandrum. The population of the study was nursing students from SGNC. Subjects were nursing students those who satisfy the inclusion criteria. The sample of the study was 196 students from first year, second year, third year and fourth year students of SGNC.

### Tools and techniques

#### Tool-1

Section A: Sociodemographic and Academic data

Section B: Modified Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment scale

Section A: Sociodemographic and academic data

The sociodemographic and academic data of the undergraduate nursing students of SGNC include age, gender, year of study, area of residence, Type of family, Father's education, Father's occupation, Mother's education, Mother's Occupation, Monthly income, Marital status, Percentage of marks, attitude towards selection of course, presence of family member in nursing profession and academic position as a first graduate in the family.

Section B: Modified Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment Scale

The Modified Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment Scale of nursing students include 30 items likert scale in that 30 are positive statements with options strongly agree, agree, no opinion, disagree, strongly disagree.

### Data collection process

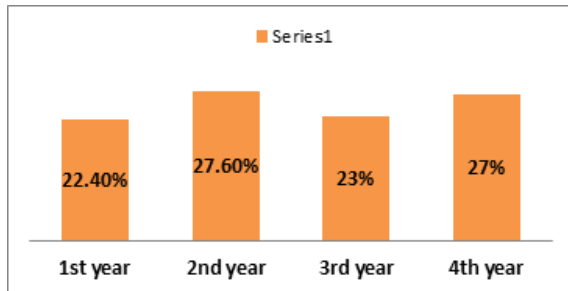
Data collection was started after obtaining prior permission from the ethical committee of SGNC, from principal of SGNC and respective class co-coordinators of first year, second year, third year and fourth year BSc nursing.

After obtaining individual consent from students and explained all the things, sociodemographic, academic data and Modified Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment Scale were given for the assessment of nursing students regarding perception of clinical setting. The likert scale was used in this present study for scoring the response of each subject. The minimum score is 30 and the maximum score is 150.

### Results

The major findings of the study were: the data showed that majority of nursing students i.e. 45.9% of the students between the age of 20-

21 years, 90.3% of the students are females and 27.6% from second year.



The data revealed that most of the students i.e 95.9% of them were unmarried and 39.8% of nursing students resided in rural areas. The data showed that majority 89.80% of the nursing students belong to nuclear family.

The data showed that majority 37.80% of the nursing students father's occupation is clerical/shop owner/ farmer, 61.20% mothers are unemployed and 49% have a monthly income <10000 rupees per month. The data showed that majority 63.8% of students have no family member in nursing profession, 67.3% of students selected the course with a positive attitude, 35.7% of students have percentage of marks between 61-70% and 68.4% of students are the first graduating member of their family

Perception of clinical setting as a learning resource among nursing students showed that 4.55% of first year nursing students have average perception.95.45% students have good perception. In case of second year nursing students, 14.81% have average perception and85.18% have good perception. 75.56% of third year nursing students proved to have average perception 24.44% have good perception. 40.67% of fourth year nursing students have average perception and 54.71% have good perception. Finally 65.31% of students have good perception about clinical setting as a learning resource 34.69% has average perception.

**Perception of clinical setting as a learning resource among nursing students**

Sample characteristics	frequency	perception		Level of	
		average percentage	frequency	good percentage	
Year of study	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2	4.5%	42	95.45%
	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	8	14.8%	46	85.18%
	3 <sup>rd</sup> year	34	75.5%	11	24.44%
	4 <sup>th</sup> year	24	45.28%	29	64.44%

Chi-Square test showed that there is significant association between gender, year of study and perception of clinical setting as a learning resource as proved by X<sup>2</sup> test (P value > 0.05)

**Discussion**

In the present study, perceptions of clinical setting as a learning resource of undergraduate students were found to be good (65.3%) and average (34.7%). Chi-Square test showed that that there is a significant association exists between age and perception and also year of study and perception.

This was supported by study which was conducted by Charneia Ellie on perception of students on clinical setting as a learning resource and the study finding suggest that nursing students have good perception about clinical setting

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