



Research article

## A descriptive study to assess the attitude of nursing students towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry in selected mental health setting in Delhi

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### ABSTRACT

Current descriptive study is result of pilot study conducted among 60 nursing students in psychiatry & rehabilitative center of Delhi to assess their attitude towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry. Convenient sampling method is used to allocate the samples and data were collected with help of Google form. Findings of the study revealed that nursing students attitude towards mentally ill people and psychiatry is in higher side from minimum which indicates favorable attitudes towards psychiatry. There is no significant association between attitude towards mental ill patients and selected socio demographic variable. There is no significant association between attitude towards Psychiatric and selected socio except pursuing course. There is negative correlation found between attitude towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry.

**Keywords:** psychiatry, negative & positive attitude, different religion, correlation

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### INTRODUCTION

The term Attitude refers to people's perception towards social world. People can have positive or negative view to any issues, ideas, objects, a definite behavior, or whole social group. Some attitudes are quite firm and unwilling to change, while others may be unstable and show considerable inconsistency based on the situation (Schwarz & Bohner, 2010) [1]. Attitude is defined as 'a mental tendency that is expresses by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favor or disfavor (Eagly & Shelly 2017) [2]. This definition includes concept of negativity and positivity. The negative attitude, discrimination and stigmatization have always been the challenge before treating. Naton, Drori & Hochman (2015) [3] conducted study on addressing associative stigma among psychiatric nurses. The findings of study confirmed the nurses who are working in psychiatric settings shown more positive attitudes towards mental illness than general medical nurses. Balhara & mathur 2013 [4] conducted a study which on a tertiary care nurse training institute in India. The results showed that the most of the nursing students from all four groups had a favorable response towards mental illness. Current pilot study was undertaken in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of PhD at Desh Bhagat University, during the year 2018-2021.

### Objectives of the study

1. To assess the attitude of nursing students towards the mentally ill patients
2. To assess the attitude of nursing students towards psychiatry
3. To find out association between attitude towards the mentally ill patients with selected demographic variables, and to find out association between attitude towards psychiatry with selected demographic variables
4. To co-correlate the attitude of nursing students towards mental illness and psychiatry.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive research approach was adopted for current pilot study. Pilot study includes 60 diploma and undergraduate nursing students who have who have attended psychiatric nursing training at Tulashi Health Care facility (Psychiatry & Rehabilitative Center), Delhi and who fulfilled the inclusion criteria.. Convenient sampling technique was used to allocate samples. Structured attitude scale towards mental illness and psychiatry were developed and utilized for data collection. The reliability of attitude scale towards mental illness was found to be 0.905, reliability of attitude scale towards psychiatry was found to be 0.860 through split half internal consistency method. Ethical permission granted from institutional

ethical committee. Data has been collected through Google form within 15 days' time period in month of October 2020.

Findings of The Study: Major findings are:

### Findings related to sample characteristics of nursing students

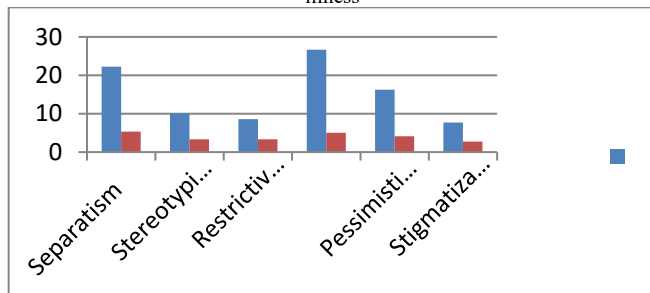
The baseline data of the students indicate that majority of age group below 21 year is 75% whereas 25 % above 21 years. In respect of gender participants are 100% are female. In respect of religion majority of participants are Hindu is 66.7%, Christian is 13.3%, Buddhism is 11.7%, Muslim is 6.7% and Sikh is 1.7%. In respect of Background/domicile majority of participants are belongs to rural area 85% and from urban 15%. In respect of pursuing course majority of GNM Student 73.3%, B.Sc. Nursing student 26.7% and no participants from P.B. B.Sc. Nursing students. In respect of earlier posting attended at mental health setting, majority of participants is Yes 95% and No 5%. In respect of personal history of psychiatry illness majority is No 86.7% and Yes 13.3%. In respect of family history of psychiatry illness majority is No 86.7% and Yes 13.3%.

### Assessment of attitude towards mental illness

Table1. Assessment of attitude towards mental illness

Attitude of Mental Illness	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	S.D
	60	34.00	131.00	91.58	17.59
Separatism (asmi-1)	60	9.00	33.00	22.25	5.34
Stereotyping (asmi-2)	60	4.00	17.00	10.10	3.33
Restrictiveness (asmi-3)	60	4.00	17.00	8.60	3.33
Benevolence (asmi-4)	60	8.00	32.00	26.68	5.03
Pessimistic Prediction (asmi-5)	60	5.00	24.00	16.25	4.11
Stigmatization (asmi-6)	60	4.00	16.00	7.70	2.74

Figure 1: Column diagram showing assessment of attitude towards mental illness

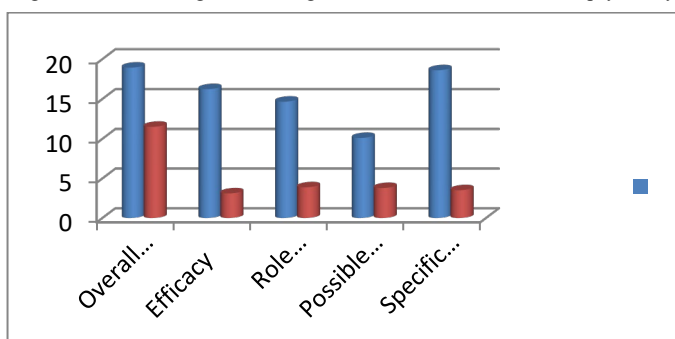


### Assessment of attitude towards psychiatry

Table2. Assessment of attitude towards psychiatry

Attitude towards psychiatry	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	S.D
	60	57.00	116.00	18.93	11.51
Overall merits of psychiatry (atp-1)	60	12.00	24.00	16.23	3.11
Efficacy (atp-2)	60	7.00	24.00	14.66	3.88
Role definition and functioning of psychiatrists(atp-3)	60	8.00	24.00	10.11	3.79
Possible abuse and social criticism (atp-4)	60	5.00	20.00	18.60	3.51
Specific medical school factors (atp-5)	60	11.00	24.00	18.93	2.79

Figure 2: Column diagram showing assessment of attitude towards psychiatry



### Association between attitude towards mentally ill patients and selected demographic variable

There is no significant association found between nursing students' attitude towards mentally ill patients and selected demographic variable.

### Association between attitude towards psychiatry and selected demographic variable

The study shows that there is no significant association found between attitude towards Psychiatric and selected socio demographic variable except pursuing course.

### Assessment of correlation between attitude towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry

There is negative correlation found between attitude towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry.

### DISCUSSION

Poreddi, Thimmaiah, Chandra & Badamath (2015)<sup>[5]</sup> conducted a descriptive cross sectional study on 94 undergraduate nursing students. Most of participants believed that people with mental illness are unpredictable (80.2%) and they cannot dandle too many responsibilities (71.5%), more likely to commit crimes (84.5%) and are violent (44%). So, significant negative relationship found with future career and course effectiveness.

In current study, there is no significant association found between nursing students' attitude towards mentally ill patients and selected demographic variable with favorable attitudes towards mentally ill patients ( $91.58 \pm 17.59$ ).

Wakil, Abdulmalik, Salawu & Ahidjo (2009)<sup>[6]</sup> conducted a cross sectional survey among 100 final year nursing students and found no significant relationship between attitude and gender but significant relationship found between age group & general knowledge of psychiatry. In current study, there is no significant association found between attitude towards Psychiatric and selected socio demographic variable except pursuing course (GNM or B.Sc. Nursing) with favorable attitudes towards mental illness ( $18.93 \pm 11.51$ ).

### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study sample was confined only to the nursing students who attended psychiatric clinical training at Tulashi Health Care, Delhi. An attitude scale towards mental illness and psychiatry constructed by the investigator was used to collect information regarding attitude towards mentally ill patients and psychiatry; the responses were therefore restricted to attitude towards mental illness and psychiatry and only limited samples was studied as there was limited time available for data collection.

### CONCLUSION

After the detailed analysis, this study leads to the following conclusion

In context of attitude towards mental illness, mean of all domains is in higher side from minimum which indicates favorable attitudes towards mental illness. In context of attitude towards psychiatry mean of all domains is in higher side from minimum

which indicates favorable attitudes towards psychiatry. There is no significant association between attitude towards mental ill patients and selected socio demographic variable. There is no significant association between attitude towards Psychiatric and selected socio demographic variable but significant association found between nursing students' attitude towards psychiatry and pursuing course (GNM or B.Sc. Nursing). There is negative correlation found between attitude towards mental illness and psychiatry. Pilot study results and reliability of tools found it feasible to continue to conduct main study.

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