

Knowledge and Attitude toward older adults among Nursing Students

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ABSTRACT

Background: In all countries of the world, the elderly population is growing, One of the priority of the nurse's work is to provide care for elderly people and this care requires special skills and knowledge to deal with them.

Aim: To ascertain the level of knowledge and attitude against older adults among Mosul City / Iraq nursing students.

Method: A survey was conducted of (120) university students from Mosul / Iraq nursing school. The Kogan Attitudes towards Older People Scale (KAOP) and the original Facts on Aging Quiz (FAQI) of the awareness test scale palmore were used to characterize nursing students' awareness and attitude towards older adults.”

Results: The study findings indicate that nursing students have relatively poor knowledge level and accepted attitude towards old age people .

Conclusion: The study results indicate that the respondents from Mosul City / Iraq nursing students hold low awareness and limited negative attitude against older adults.

Keywords: knowledge, attitude, older adults.

INTRODUCTION

International, the ageing population is growing and the 65 or more adults are the fastest rising age cluster with substantial increases especially in developing nations^{1,2}. Throughout the United States, the percentage of the senior citizens is predicted to exceed 88 million by 2050³. According to estimates by the Central Statistics Bureau for 2018, the proportion of the elderly population in Iraq has reached (3%), which means that Iraqi society is a young society. The number of older persons reached 1.2 million in 2018, accounting for (3%) the percentage will rise to 3.5% in 2020 as a result of the improved health status of the population and continue to rise to 4.4% in 2030⁴. One of the priority of the nurse's work is to provide care for elderly people and this care requires special skills and knowledge to deal with them^{5,6}. Ageism define "is perpetuated by the portrayal of older people as frail, ill, suffering mental deterioration, poor and dependent, and the alternative portrayal of living affluent life styles and scrounging off the welfare state"⁷. Nurses are at the head of generous care to the elderly a specialty in nursing students must be information about caring for the older adults people⁸. Nursing students with experience of working with older people have more supportive attitudes and nursing students who have completed community health nursing would have more awareness and attitude towards specific syndromes which affect elder adults^{9,10}. Also few papers and researches focusing on aging awareness and attitude. Nursing students lack vocational experience to interact with elderly citizens. There is no clear picture of the awareness and attitude of the elderly situation among nursing students, awareness and attitude, and issues of old age, all of which inspire the researcher to undertake this analysis. The aim of the report was to evaluate level of (KT) nursing toward the old age in Mosul City/Iraq.

METHODOLOGY

“This was a descriptive study conducted among nursing students in university of Mosul / Iraq. The target sample

was 4th stage /course community health nursing. Descriptive checks were used, consist of (120) students were 47 Male and 73 Female. Researchers requested students' participation and informed them that they will be asked questions related to knowledge and attitude of nursing students towards aging. Period of data collection first January 2020 extended from end February 2020. This instrument adapted by the researcher consist of three main parts: Part one, The questionnaire was prepared encompassing three parts: Part I: The general information questionnaire included 3 items: gender, age and marital status , Part II: “Kogan Attitudes towards Older People Scale” (KAOP)⁽¹¹⁾. A translated and revised Arabic version of the attitude toward the elderly, the KAOP was scored on a 6-points Likert scale: 1: "strongly disagree", 2: "slightly disagree", 3: "disagree", 4: "agree", 5: "slightly agree" and 6: "strongly agree", the KAOP is a 34 items Likert scale with 17 positive and 17 negative statements. The range of score was within (34 to 204). Part III: The aging knowledge questionnaire: the revised Arabic version of the aging knowledge questionnaire. was translated on the knowledge test scale palmore's original Facts on Aging Quiz (FAQI) compiled by Palmore in 1977⁽¹²⁾. The content involves the knowledge of physiological and psychosocial aspects of the old age, there are 25 items, Score ranges from (0 to 25) points "correct", 1 points, "incorrect", 0 points. Information were analyzed through using the (SPSS: V:25) program. Attitude nursing students toward older adults were described using the (Frequency, percentage, Means, Standard deviation, range of score and Chi squared test). Mean of score was used to assessment level of knowledge of nursing students toward aging.”

RESULTS

The demographic data is as in Table 1 total of (120) nursing students (male (47), female (73), this table agree with (Nasir, et al., 2021)¹³. Mean of age (22.6), standard

deviation were (0.81) (Table 2). Table 3 mean knowledge score was 24.68 ± 1.87 with the range of (9-25).

Table 1: Mean, proportion of Nursing student's Kogan Old People scale ratings.

Nursing Students	Number %
Age	
21-24 Years	69(57.5%)
24-27 Years	33(27.5%)
27-30 Years	18(15%)
Gender	
Male	47(39%)
Female	73(61%)
Marital status	
Married	27(22.5%)
Signal	84(70%)
Widowed	9(7.5%)
Mean±SD score	22.6±0.81

Table 2: Kogan's attitudes to the elderly scale ratings

Att	Range	n%
"V.Negative"	"34–62.3"	2 (1.67)
"Negative"	"62.4–90.7"	4 (3.34)
"S.Negative"	"90.8–119.1"	55(45.84)
"S.Positive"	"119.2–147.5"	50(41.66)
"Positive"	"147.6–175.9"	8(6.66)
"V. positive"	"176–204"	1 (0.83)

Table 3: Mean score of regarding knowledge

Level of knowledge	n	Mean±S.D, Range
Poor(9-15)	66(55%)	21.68 ± 1.57
Average(15-19)	41(34%)	Range: (9-25)
Good(19-25)	13(11%)	

Table 4: Amount and per cent of students in the (KAOP) agree with the negative assertion

Negative statements	M		F		χ ²	p-value
	N	%	N	%		
1N	11	23.4	22	30	6.7	.001
3N	24	51	39	53.4	7.3	.005
5N	31	69.9	25	34.2	8.5	.005
7N	13	27.6	47	64.4	3.7	.001
9N	10	21.2	39	53.4	11.6	.005
11N	14	29.7	28	38.6	10.7	.001
13N	5	10.6	13	17.8	6.3	.003
15N	2	4.25	9	12.3	7.4	.001
17N	7	14.8	16	21.9	12.6	.001
19N	6	12.7	11	15	4.8	.007
21N	6	12.7	14	19.2	6.8	.001
23N	24	51	61	83.5	3.1	.001
25N	10	21.2	26	35.6	12.6	.001
27N	6	12.7	17	23.3	13.8	.005
29N	11	23.4	23	31.5	7.8	.001
31N	3	6.4	19	26	10.1	.003
33N	8	17	18	24.7	9.7	.005

About half of the study sample (55%) had poor knowledge regarding to know toward of old age. 41% of the study sample had average knowledge, and 11% of the study sample had good knowledge. Table 4 reveals to the: "Most elderly people stick to their old ways and are unable to change" (65.90%); "The elderly have something different from most people and have difficulty understanding people and things." (51%). Table 5 indicates that the most widely accepted optimistic statements were: "Most elderly people prefer to hold old things in themselves and offer advice only

when asked to do so" (51%); "Most elderly people are clearly very different from each other" (34%).

Table 5: Amount and per cent of students in the KAOP agree with the positive assertion

Positive statements	M		F		χ ²	p-value
	N	%	N	%		
2P	5	10.6	7	9.6	7.5	.005
4P	7	14.8	17	23.3	13.3	.005
6P	6	12.7	13	17.8	10.5	.005
8P	8	17	20	27.4	11.7	.001
10P	13	27.6	35	47.9	8.6	.003
12P	7	14.8	13	17.8	11.7	.001
14P	6	12.7	22	30.1	13.3	.005
16P	11	23.4	23	31.5	4.4	.005
18P	12	25.5	18	24.6	7.9	.005
20P	24	51	13	17.8	16.7	.003
22P	9	19.1	17	23.3	13.5	.001
24P	11	23.4	23	31.5	11.6	.005
26P	16	34	34	46.6	9.3	.005
28P	9	19.1	19	26	3.7	.003
30P	7	14.8	20	27.4	5.4	.001
32P	13	27.6	21	28.8	21.3	.001
34P	7	14.8	17	23.3	10.4	.005

DISCUSSION

The population age of 65 years is increasing rapidly worldwide, for the purpose of caring for elderly people among graduated nursing students will have appropriate information and skill about elderly caring during the college education course. The present research was conducted to assess awareness and attitudes towards elderly nursing students. This study found that there was no relationship between level of knowledge and attitudes among nursing student in Mosul City/Iraq. The study findings reflect negative attitudes of towards the aging population and poor knowledge toward older adults. The attitudes were demonstrated by splitting the performance spectrum into (6) equivalent groups, which revealed that students had "slightly negative" and "slightly positive" attitudes and that the proportion was very small in terms of positive attitudes towards the elderly, indeed 45.84%, 41.66, 6.66, 3.34, 1.67 and 0.83 of scores fell into the "slightly positive" to "slightly negative" "positive" "negative" "v. negative" "v. positive" score ranges this study is similar with study (Younis,2015) in Iraq and the study (Cheong,2009) in Singapore they mentioned highest percentage between range of score to attitude of nursing students and medical students were slightly negative and slightly positive respectively.(Koh 2012 and Baumbusch et al 2012) has reported that nursing students should receive appropriate education and will be able to establish positive attitudes in the treatment and quality of care for older adults in their future professional work .This study similar with study in Spain found in more positive attitudes in female than male students¹⁷. King et al. (2013) observed that student to play a major role in affecting the work with elderly. This study discrepancy with the research in Saudi Arabia (Huda, et al.,2018) found that results suggest that nursing students have fairly good level of information about elderly people.(Suh, et.al, 2012), the study revealed that the respondents had a poor level of awareness about aging because a vast number of students needed information related to aging."

CONCLUSION

One of the drawbacks of this study is the fairly tiny sample used in this research along with nursing students from only one university, which impedes the generalizability of the study findings. However, a larger sample size may help to better results in future, also results indicate that the respondents from Mosul City / Iraq nursing students hold low awareness and limited negative attitude against older adults.

Recommendation: This study may suggest increased size of larger samples and different settings to generalize the findings, recommended educational program for nursing students to increase knowledge to enhance care for older adults' people.

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