

Nursing students' attitudes towards older adult people

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Abstract:

Background: Due to changing demographics in the population, the majority of current nursing students will work mostly with older people after graduation. It is known that most nursing students have little knowledge and interests in working with older people. There is a growing need for motivated nurses to provide care for older people as the quality of care is influenced by their attitudes. **Aim of the study:** Was to assess nursing students' attitudes towards older adult people. **Setting:** Faculty of Nursing, University of Mosul, Iraq. **Subject:** 67 Male and 166 Female students in College of Nursing. **Tools of data collection:** It is a questionnaire sheet including: Section (1) demographic data of the students, age, Stage study, gender, marital status and residences. Section (2) comprised the "Kogan Attitudes towards Older People Scale". **Results:** The mean Score of the first year, Second-year, Third-year and Fourth-year students for negative attitude were 3.58, 3.46, 3.55, and 3.47, respectively. The mean KOPS scores in male and female students were 3.44 and 3.54, respectively. **Conclusion:** This study concluded that the nursing students had minimal negative attitude of toward old people. **Recommendations:** The study recommended that education should focus on increasing positive working experiences with older people. Revision and improvement of the curricula might be needed to enhance the knowledge and attitudes of the Iraq nursing students.

Keywords: Attitudes; Nursing; students; older people.

Introduction:

The population of the elderly is increasing in all countries of the World. This is attributed to be one of the major achievements of mankind in the modern era. ⁽¹⁾ Globally, there are an estimated 605 million people aged 60 years and above. ^(2,3) One out of every ten persons is 60 years or above. By 2050, one out of five will be 60 years or older and by 2150, one out of three persons will be 60 years or older. The older population is ageing, that is, the oldest old (80 years or older) is the fastest growing segment – constituting 11 percent of the 60 years or older age group- and this is projected to grow to 19 percent by 2050. The number of centenarians is projected to increase 15-fold from approximately 145,000 in 1999 to 2.2 million by 2050. Although the population of the elderly is increasing in all countries of the world, until the early 80s, the demographic transition was mostly viewed as a phenomenon of the developed countries. ^(4,5) Literature has however shown that the great majority (two-thirds) of those over 60 years of age live in the developing world; and that

the proportion is rising steadily and will reach nearly three-quarters by the 2030s. ⁽⁵⁾ In 2011, the population in Iraq was 32.2 million; the expectation is that this population will reach 39 million in 2025, and 47.7 million in 2050. The number of old aged in Iraq was about (4.5%) elderly from total population in Iraq. ⁽⁶⁾

The attitude towards older people differs from the attitude towards other patients because older people generally suffer from more than one illness, elderly individuals require more professional or institutional care, and with age they become dependent on others in order to carry out daily life activities as a result of these demographic changes. ⁽⁷⁾ According to support groups for older people, the elderly are treated unacceptably, insensitively, and disrespectfully by health care staff. ⁽⁸⁾ The quality of care for older adults may depend on the attitude of the caregivers ⁽⁹⁾ and health professionals worldwide have a negative attitude toward them, ⁽¹⁰⁾ and hold more ageist attitudes than the general population. ⁽¹⁾ Ageism is quite

prevalent and involves prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, and attitudes during both cognitive and affective processes.⁽¹¹⁾

Nurses and nursing students working with older people express stereotypical views about old people in general.⁽¹²⁾ There are a few reasons for this lack of interest in geriatrics. Many people have negative attitudes about older people. Bodner⁽¹³⁾ has examined and described the literature regarding the origins of ageism and has found that it is common in Western societies. Many different studies have been conducted to examine this phenomenon. Attitudes toward older people may change with various cultural influences, age, and gender. Education is a major cultural influence that has been reported to have either a positive or a negative.⁽¹⁰⁾ Impact on caregivers' attitudes.

Significance of study:

So far, no literature is available in our state on the Attitude of Nursing Students toward old people in Iraq and there is a paucity of studies on awareness, attitude and nurses and nursing students about the elderly. Also few publications and researches that focus on attitude of elderly, there is no clear picture about attitude of old age situation in Mosul city as well as nursing student need to be aware of, attitude and aging problems, all these factors motivate the researcher to conduct present study. Our aim was to find the level of the Attitude of Nursing Students toward old people and to find the association between the demographic factors.

Research question:

What is the nursing students' attitude towards older adult people?

Aim of the study:

The aim of the current study was to assess the nursing students' attitudes towards older adult people.

Subjects and Methods:

Research Design:

A descriptive design was applied in the present study.

Study setting:

The present study was carried out at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Mosul, Iraq.

Study subjects:

The subjects of the present study were 67 Male and 166 Female of students in College of Nursing. Total number of student in College was 233 respondents (First-year 42, Second-year 58, Third-year 52 & Fourth-year 81).

Tools of data collection:

One tool was utilized to collect the data. The questionnaire was prepared encompassing two sections:

- **Section (1):** student age, Stage study, gender, marital status and residences.
- **Section (2):** comprised the "Kogan Attitudes towards Older People Scale".⁽¹⁴⁾ In developing the scale, Kogan assigned older people the status of a minority group, and the items in the scale originated within ethnic minority stereotype research. The KOP is a 34 items Likert type scale with 17 positive and 17 negative statements. However, the scale has been used extensively to measure attitudes towards older people across a range of professional groups.⁽¹⁵⁻¹⁷⁾
- The KOP in our study was scored on a 6-points Likert scale: Strongly agree, 6: Slightly agree, 5: Agree, 4: Disagree 3: Slightly disagree 2, and 1: Strongly disagree. The negative statements were reverse scored, so that higher scores were attributed to more positive attitudes. The minimum score possible was 34 and the maximum score possible was 204.

Validity and Reliability:

Kogan investigated the scale's reliability and reported Spearman-Brown reliability coefficients ranging from 0.66, to 0.83, and inter scale item correlations ranging from 0.46 to 0.52.⁽¹⁴⁾ In addition, Kogan contended concurrent validity by the use of measures of antiauthoritarian and antiminority attitudes. The reliability of

KOP has since been confirmed by other researchers⁽¹⁵⁻¹⁷⁾

Pilot study:

Pilot study was conducted on 10% of the sample. This sample was excluded from the total sample. The pilot study was carried out to identify the barrier that may be encountered during data collection process, estimate the time required for data collection, determine the reliability of the questionnaire and obtain the clarity and the content adequacy of the questionnaire

Fieldwork:

The data collection procedure of this study was executed in two months, from first of February to end of March, 2014. The researcher started by explaining the purpose of the study briefly to the students during the break time between lectures. Each student was asked to respond to a questionnaire sheet under the guidance of researcher. The time consumed to answer each questionnaire sheet ranged from 10-15 minutes.

Administrative and ethical considerations:

Official permissions were obtained to conduct the study. Mosul University of Faculty of Nursing Sciences Research Ethics Board approved ethical consideration for the current study (Number: 91/d/56/67, in 2013/5/12). Meanwhile participants were asked to sign a consent form and were informed that withdrawal of the study at any time was possible. The aim of the study was explained to all participants.

Statistical analysis:

Data were analyzed as Frequency, percentage, Mean, Standard deviation and p Value (Chi squared test).

Results:

Table (1): Shows that 42 first-year, 58 second-year, 52 third-year and 81 first-year nursing students. Their respective mean KOPS scores were 3.58, 3.46, 3.55 and 3.47. The respective mean KOPS scores in male and female students were 3.44 and

3.57. Also mean KOPS scores in single and married students were 3.48 and 3.59. Finally mean KOPS scores in urban and rural students were 3.51 and (3.24).

Table (2): Clarifies that basis of the data obtained in the questionnaires (Cronback $\alpha = 0.751$). The variation of intensity of attitudes was illustrated by dividing the potential range of scores into six equal categories, and this showed that Nursing students held Slightly negative and Slightly positive attitudes towards older people; indeed 51.07%, 47.64% of scores fell into the "slightly positive" to "slightly negative" score ranges.

Table (3): Demonstrates that the most commonly agreed negative statements were: "Most old people would prefer to quit work as soon as pensions or their children can support them" (42.06%); "In order to maintain a nice residential neighborhood, it would be best if too many old people did not live in it" (39.48%); and "Most old people tend to let their homes become shabby and unattractive reassurance" (28.32%).

Table (4): show that the most commonly agreed positive statements were: "Most old people can generally be counted on to maintain a clean, attractive home" (41.63%); "Most old people are very relaxing to be with" (29.18%); and "Old people should have power in business and politics" (26.6%).

Discussion:

The research findings indicate the presence of negative attitudes of undergraduate students towards the aging population. Therefore, the present study was conducted to find the extent of negative attitudes about aging among undergraduate students at the college of nursing, University of Mosul in Iraq and the current study set out to explore the attitudes held by groups of nursing students towards older people. The variation of intensity of attitudes was illustrated by dividing the potential range of scores into six equal categories, and this showed

nursing students held Slightly negative and Slightly positive attitudes towards older people; indeed 51.07%, 47.64 of scores fell into the "slightly positive" to "slightly negative" score ranges.

First year and second years students who had limited knowledge and care of the elderly had a higher mean KOPS negative score, compared to final year who had some theoretical and clinical experience in old people care and was curriculum module and regular visits on geriatric home in community health nursing in final-years. Similar results have been noted in other studies.⁽¹⁸⁻²⁰⁾ The attitude scale had statements that elicited negative responses as well as several that elicited positive attitude responses. The first statement was encouraging, in that almost all students' attitude towards respecting older adults was very positive. Students also responded especially positively towards the statement about dementia and aging as well the statement about older adults' lifestyle choices. The statements with the most negative responses were about aging being depressing and that older adults cannot drive as well as younger people. These topics also need to be addressed in the future in order to educate students and change their attitudes in a positive manner. In our study, female students had more negative scores than males. In a Jordanian study on nursing students' attitudes toward the elderly; females had more negative attitudes than males.⁽²¹⁾ This is in contrast to other studies that report more positive attitudes in female students.⁽²²⁾ Significantly more females than males agreed to the following negative statements: "Old people are set in their ways and are unable to change"; "Old people have too much power in business and politics"; "Old people pry into the affairs of others and give unsought advice"; "To be liked old people must first get rid of their irritating faults"; "Most old people are

pretty much alike"; and "Old people are constantly complaining about the behaviour of the younger generation" Overall, the most commonly agreed negative statements were: " Most old people would prefer to quit work as soon as pensions or their children can support them " (42.06%); "In order to maintain a nice residential neighborhood, it would be best if too many old people did not live in it" (39.48%); and "Most old people tend to let their homes become shabby and unattractive reassurance" (28.32%). This study indicates that nursing students may hold negative attitudes towards the structural context of work and the restrictive practices that can pervade in older people care settings.

On the other hand, the most commonly agreed positive statements were: "Most old people can generally be counted on to maintain a clean, attractive home" (41.63%); "Most old people are very relaxing to be with" (29.18%); and "Old people should have power in business and politics" (26.6%).

Conclusion:

Based on the findings of the present study, it was concluded that the participants from nursing students hold minimal negative attitude of toward old people.

Recommendations:

Findings of the current study recommended that:

- Education should focus on increasing positive working experiences with older people.
- Revision and improvement in the curricula might be needed to enhance the knowledge and attitudes of the Iraq nursing students.

Table (1): Mean Kogan Old People Scale scores of the Nursing student

Nursing students	Mean±SD score
Stage	
▪ First-year (n=42)	3.58±0.86
▪ Second-year (n=58)	3.46±0.76
▪ Thrid-year (n=52)	3.55±0.66
▪ Fourth-year (n=81)	3.47±0.74
Gender	
▪ Male(n=67)	3.44±0.83
▪ Female(n=166)	3.54±0.81
Marital status	
▪ Signal(n=209)	3.48±0.66
▪ Married(n=24)	3.59±0.77
Residence	
▪ Urban(n=183)	3.51±0.81
▪ Raral(n=50)	3.42±0.69

Table (2): Kogan's attitudes towards older people scale scores

Item	Range of scores	Score <i>n</i> (%)
▪ Very negative	34–62.3	0 (0)
▪ Negative	62.4–90.7	0 (0)
▪ Slightly negative	90.8–119.1	119 (51.07)
▪ Slightly positive	119.2–147.5	111 (47.64)
▪ Positive	147.6–175.9	3 (1.29)
▪ Very positive	176–204	0 (0)

Table (3): Number and percent of students agreeing with negative statements in the Kogan Old People Scale

Negative statement	Male (n=67)	Female (n=166)	p Value (Chi squared test)	First-year (n=42)	Second-year (n=58)	Third-year (n=52)	Fourth-year (n=81)	Total (n=233)	p Value (Chi squared test)
1N	12 (17.9)	21 (12.7)	0.371	12 (28.6)	7 (12.1)	6 (11.5)	8 (9.9)	33 (14.16)	0.105
3N	2 (3)	20 (12)	0.047	5 (11.9)	2 (3.4)	8 (15.4)	7 (8.6)	22 (9.44)	0.250
5N	13 (19.4)	29 (17.5)	0.773	7 (16.7)	9 (15.5)	13 (25)	13 (16)	42 (18.02)	0.686
7N	31 (46.3)	67 (40.4)	0.601	18 (42.9)	19 (32.8)	31 (59.6)	30 (37)	98 (42.06)	0.302
9N	17 (25.4)	49 (29.5)	0.632	10 (23.8)	16 (27.6)	15 (28.8)	25 (30.9)	66 (28.32)	0.941
11N	18 (26.9)	31 (18.7)	0.269	14 (33.3)	8 (13.8)	14 (26.9)	13 (16)	49 (21.03)	0.169
13N	7 (10.4)	24 (14.5)	0.472	4 (9.5)	7 (12.1)	7 (13.5)	13 (16)	31 (13.3)	0.833
15N	4 (6)	19 (11.4)	0.245	1 (2.4)	5 (8.6)	4 (7.7)	13 (16)	23 (9.87)	0.148
17N	2 (3)	7 (4.2)	0.670	1 (2.4)	0 (0)	1 (1.9)	7 (8.6)	9 (3.86)	0.061
19N	6 (9)	14 (8.4)	0.906	1 (2.4)	2 (3.4)	5 (9.6)	12 (14.8)	20 (8.58)	0.078
21N	6 (9)	17 (10.2)	0.787	5 (11.9)	3 (5.2)	3 (5.8)	12 (14.8)	23 (9.87)	0.264
23N	27 (40.3)	65 (39.2)	0.915	12 (28.6)	23 (39.7)	18 (34.6)	39 (48.1)	92 (39.48)	0.521
25N	10 (14.9)	28 (16.9)	0.757	5 (11.9)	12 (20.7)	7 (13.5)	14 (17.3)	38 (16.3)	0.734
27N	6 (9)	22 (13.3)	0.414	3 (7.1)	3 (5.2)	6 (11.5)	16 (19.8)	28 (12.01)	0.098
29N	11 (16.4)	27 (16.3)	0.981	3 (7.1)	13 (22.4)	5 (9.6)	17 (21)	38 (16.3)	0.151
31N	3 (4.5)	22 (13.3)	0.073*	2 (4.8)	9 (15.5)	5 (9.6)	9 (11.1)	25 (10.72)	0.481
33N	9 (13.4)	17 (10.2)	0.534	3 (7.1)	7 (12.1)	5 (9.6)	11 (13.6)	26 (11.15)	0.782

Table (4): Number and percent of students agreeing with positive statements in the Kogan Old People Scale

Positive statement	Male (n=67)	Female (n=166)	p Value (Chi squared test)	First-year (n=42)	Second-year (n=58)	Third-year (n=52)	Fourth-year (n=81)	Total (n=233)	p Value (Chi squared test)
2P	10 (14.9)	24 (14.5)	0.937	2 (4.8)	9 (15.5)	6 (11.5)	17 (21)	34 (10.3)	0.182
4P	13 (19.4)	32 (19.3)	0.986	4 (9.5)	13 (22.4)	10 (19.2)	18 (22.2)	45 (19.31)	0.488
6P	12 (17.9)	24 (14.5)	0.575	7 (16.7)	12 (20.7)	7 (13.5)	10 (12.3)	36 (15.45)	0.693
8P	16 (23.9)	39 (23.5)	0.961	8 (19)	10 (17.2)	13 (25)	24 (29.6)	55 (23.6)	0.541
10P	27 (40.3)	70 (42.2)	0.866	12 (28.6)	29 (50)	23 (44.2)	33 (40.7)	97 (41.63)	0.560
12P	14 (20.9)	29 (17.5)	0.615	7 (16.7)	12 (20.7)	13 (25)	11 (13.6)	43 (18.45)	0.557
14P	18 (26.9)	44 (26.5)	0.966	8 (19)	18 (31)	15 (28.8)	21 (25.9)	62 (26.6)	0.760
16P	15 (22.4)	53 (31.9)	0.275	10 (23.8)	15 (25.9)	15 (28.8)	28 (34.6)	68 (29.18)	0.775
18P	17 (25.4)	42 (25.3)	0.993	11 (26.2)	13 (22.4)	11 (21.2)	24 (29.6)	59 (25.32)	0.820
20P	8 (11.9)	12 (7.2)	0.291	5 (11.9)	2 (12.1)	0 (0)	8 (9.9)	20 (8.58)	0.065
22P	15 (22.4)	23 (13.9)	0.182	5 (11.9)	8 (13.8)	8 (15.4)	13 (16)	38 (16.3)	0.954
24P	18 (26.9)	41 (24.7)	0.791	12 (28.6)	18 (31)	8 (15.4)	21 (25.9)	59 (25.32)	0.061
26P	15 (22.4)	34 (20.5)	0.795	4 (9.5)	15 (25.9)	6 (11.5)	24 (26.6)	49 (21.03)	0.068
28P	17 (25.4)	36 (21.7)	0.632	7 (16.7)	10 (17.2)	9 (17.3)	27 (33.3)	53 (22.74)	0.186
30P	14 (20.9)	39 (23.5)	0.733	8 (19)	10 (17.2)	14 (26.9)	21 (25.9)	34 (14.59)	0.689
32P	13 (19.4)	21 (12.7)	0.260*	3 (7.1)	13 (22.4)	5 (9.6)	18 (22.2)	34 (14.59)	0.127
34P	7 (10.4)	18 (10.8)	0.937	2 (4.8)	8 (13.8)	4 (7.7)	11 (13.6)	25 (10.72)	0.435

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اتجاهات طلبة التمريض نحو كبار السن

نصر موفق يونس

مدرس- كلية التمريض- جامعة الموصل- العراق

مقدمة:

بسبب التغيرات الخصائص السكانية في المجتمع، أغلبية طلاب التمريض الحاليين ستعمل في الغالب مع الناس الأكبر سناً بعد التخرج. هو يعرف بأن أكثر طلاب التمريض عندهم معرفة صغيرة ويهتمون بالعمل مع الناس الأكبر سناً. هناك حاجة متزايدة للممرضات لتزويد العناية للناس الأكبر سناً كنعوية العناية تتأثر بمواقفهم.

الهدف من الدراسة:

هدفت الدراسة إلى تقييم اتجاه طلبة التمريض نحو كبار السن.

التصميم البحثي:

تم استخدام تصميم وصفي.

مكان الدراسة:

كلية التمريض- جامعة الموصل- العراق.

عينة الدراسة:

٦٧ ذكر و١٦٦ أنثى من طلبة التمريض والعدد الكلي (٢٣٣) من طلبة الفرقة الأولى (٤٢)، الفرقة الثانية (٥٨)، الفرقة الثالثة (٥٢)، الفرقة الرابعة (٨١).

أدوات جمع البيانات:

تم استخدام استبيان: يحتوى على جزأين:

- القسم الأول: ويشمل العمر، المرحلة الدراسية، الجنس، الحالة الاجتماعية والسكن.
- القسم الثاني: شمل اتجاه كوجن نحو كبار السن.

النتائج:

النتيجة المتوسطة للفرقة الأولى، الثانية، الثالثة وطلاب الفرقة الرابعة لمواقف الناس الأكبر سناً كانت ٣,٤٦,٣,٥٨، ٣,٤٦,٣,٥٥، ٣,٤٧,٣,٥٤ على التوالي. ومتوسط معدل لمقياس كوجن (KOPS) للطلبة الذكور والإناث كانت ٣,٤٤، ٣,٥٤ على التوالي.

الخلاصة:

بناء على نتائج الدراسة الحالية تم التوصل إلى أن المشاركين من طلاب التمريض لديهم اتجاه سلبي بدرجة منخفضة نحو كبار السن.