

PERCEPTION ABOUT THE NURSING PROFESSION, SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS INFLUENCING ON THE PERCEPTION AND PREFERENCE TO CHOOSE NURSING AS A FUTURE CAREER AMONG ADVANCED LEVEL BIOSCIENCE STUDENTS IN THE JAFFNA EDUCATIONAL ZONE, SRI LANKA

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Image of nursing is a known factor in recruitment, retention of nurses in the health sector. The purpose of this study is to determine the perception about the nursing profession, identify the socio demographic factors influencing on the perception and the preference to choose nursing as a future career among Advanced level bioscience students in the Jaffna educational zone. The study was conducted using a structured self-administered questionnaire among 559 students on July 2016. Data were entered into computer software (SPSS version 21). Descriptive statistics and binary logistic regression were performed to describe the results. According to the data, positive and negative perception about the nursing was equally distributed. The perception about the nursing profession were positive in half (50.4%) of the students. There was no statistical significance found between any socio-demographic factors, of

the students and the perception. More than half (59%) of the students did not prefer nursing as their future career. The following findings were obtained from the students who preferred the nursing. Most of them (38.4%) gave third place for the nursing to choose as their future career. "Service mind" was the motivating factor of 41.9% of the students to choose the nursing. Nearly half of the students (48.7%) mentioned that they will select only the Bachelor of Science in Nursing course and most of the students' (34.5%) source of information about nursing was a personal experience from hospital admission. Therefore, it is recommended that to conduct any awareness programme regarding the importance of nursing profession.

Keywords: Nursing profession, Perception, Preference