

Does Culture Impact on Nursing as a Career Choice in Bahrain?

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Objective: To explore the socio-cultural factors that may influence choosing nursing as a future career in Bahrain. Understanding these factors represents seminal work in terms of Bahrain's health services and indeed the international nursing community.

Design: A Triangulation Research.

Setting: RCSI-MUB School of Nursing.

Method: The study sample included all students from the first cohort of 38 nursing students joining a new undergraduate nursing programme in Bahrain and the parents of 10 high school students. Data were obtained through written reflections and focus groups. Ethical approval was received from RCSI-MUB Ethics Committee.

Result: Nursing students and parents viewed nursing as a hard job and not well-accepted socially. Some factors related to the work nature of nurses seem to be rejected by the society, which include shift working and being exposed to the opposite gender.

Conclusion: Some of the issues raised in the study are reflective of the international literature; however, there are fundamental issues particular to the Gulf region, which would require attention in a context of an overall national nursing recruitment strategy.