

Exploring Nursing Students' Attitudes and Willingness to Pursue Home Health Careers

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to assess the attitudes of nursing students toward home care nursing and to identify factors influencing their willingness to work in home health care after graduation. A cross-sectional study was conducted over one month at the University of Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, targeting third-year, fourth-year, and internship nursing students. Data were collected using a validated 28-item online questionnaire assessing attitudes toward home care. Descriptive statistics, Spearman's correlation, and non-parametric tests were performed using SPSS version 27. A total of 183 nursing students participated (mean age 20 ± 3 years); most were female and satisfied with their major (92%). However, 60% reported unwillingness to work in home care. The median attitude score was 115 (IQR = 22). Significant relationships were found between total attitude scores and variables such as age, gender, academic year, choice of nursing as a field, and satisfaction with the major ($p \leq 0.05$). The questionnaire showed high reliability (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.892$). Although nursing students showed generally acceptable attitudes toward home health care, the majority were reluctant to pursue careers in this area. Factors such as age, gender, and satisfaction with the nursing major influenced these attitudes. These findings highlight the need to integrate more home care exposure into nursing curricula to improve career interest in this essential sector.

Keywords: *Home care nursing, attitude, cross-sectional, nursing education*

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