

Empathy and Compassionate Care in Nursing Education: A Study of Nursing Students' Attitudes and Behaviors

Albatool Shaher AlSarayreh, Msc* Waddah Mohammad D'emeh, PhD, MSc** Bushra kh Alhusamiah, PhD, MSc*** Ghayda Alkhotoba, MSc**** Areen Aljarrah, MSc*****

ABSTRACT

Empathy and compassionate care play an essential role in nursing care so they encourage communication effectively, establishing trust with patients and leads to improved clinical outcomes. Therefore, it is important the nursing student understand these concepts and apply them in their clinical work. Nonetheless, the literature supporting the significance of empathy and compassionate care remains limited, reflecting a gap that needs to be addressed, especially in Jordanian settings. The major aim of this study is investigate the levels of empathy, compassionate care among Jordanian nursing students and identify whether there is a relationship between these variables. A total of 337 nursing Students from three major universities in Jordan were included in the study, the study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional design and data were collected using the Arabic translated version of Toronto Empathy Questionnaire and the Caring Dimensions Inventory. The results showed that overall mean empathy score was 47.17 (SD = 7.03) that indicate for high level of empathy. While the mean score for compassionate care was 1.88 (SD = 0.50) also indicates to high levels of compassionate care. The Person's correlation test indicated to moderate statistically significant positive correlation between both variables ($r = 0.56$, $p < 0.001$), which showed that the empathy levels increase when compassionate behavior improves. No observed any significant difference in empathy or compassionate care scores based on sociodemographic characteristics including age, gender, academic year or clinical training area. Nursing students showed high levels of empathy and the caring behavior. Accordingly, nursing education strategies that enhance the empathy and caring behavior, should be developed such as structured clinical sessions and classroom activities. Future Qualitative studies may consider the development of empathy and compassionate care as Students transition into professional practice.

Keywords: Empathy ,nursing education ,compassionate care ,nursing attitude.

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- * Full-time Lecturer, Department of Allied Medical Sciences
Karak University College, Al-Balqa Applied University
Karak, Jordan. Email: Albatoolsarayrah@bau.edu.jo
- ** Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Nursing
School of Nursing, The University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan.
- *** Assistant Professor, Dean's Assistant of Academic Affairs
Faculty of Nursing, Middle East University, Amman, Jordan.
- **** Full-time Lecturer, Department of Allied Medical Sciences
Karak University College, Al-Balqa Applied University, Karak, Jordan.
- ***** Nursing student, RN, Jordan University of Science and Technology
Irbid, Jordan,