



An exploratory study to assess the knowledge of plagiarism among the nursing students from selected nursing colleges of Pune city

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/nursing.2024.v7.i1.B.376>

Abstract

Background: Plagiarism is considered as an act of 'fraud' there is need to create awareness about Plagiarism among junior researchers & students who are conducting the research as a part of their degree course. Because of the requirement of the curriculum, pressure of the study, variety of source of Literature materials, unclear writing instructions can lead to plagiarism among the nursing students. With the uses of various software and as it is made mandatory the plagiarized work can be easily identified investigated and punished. This article provides information regarding knowledge of plagiarism among the final year nursing students.

Methods: In this study a quantitative approach with Non-experimental exploratory research design was used. Research variable was knowledge of plagiarism. The setting of the study was selected nursing colleges of Pune city. Population was final year students of nursing course. Sample size was 330 nursing students of selected colleges of Pune city. Non probability convenient sampling technique was used. Structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The survey questions were prepared in Google forms. The survey questionnaire consisted of two sections. First section was regarding demographic data of the participants; second section had 20 questions about knowledge of plagiarism. The survey link was given to all participants after their consent. Validity of the tool was done by all experts from nursing field. Reliability was done by test-retest method. Reliability coefficient for knowledge questionnaire was 0.8. Pilot study was conducted on 10% of the total sample and the study was found feasible. Data analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: This study shows 246 participants were female and 84 participants were male students. 241 participants knew that citing the source, write in own words, using plagiarism check are some of the steps to prevent plagiarism. 60% to 70% participants new the correct answer that when student fail to cite properly or put the content in his own wards it is known as unintentional plagiarism, using standard research tool without author's permission is allowed in the research, paraphrased passages still require citation because the ideas came from another source, even though you are putting them in your own words, while paraphrasing the content you should not just replace few words but present the content in your own words, copyright is a set of exclusive rights granted to the creator of an original work and 10 to 15% plagiarism is allowed for thesis as per the policy of institute.

Conclusion: From the above findings, the researcher concluded that majority of the participants that is 101 participants had good knowledge, 199 participants had average knowledge about plagiarism and 30 participants had poor knowledge about plagiarism. It suggests there is a need to create awareness about plagiarism among the students to generate good quality research work.

Keywords: Plagiarism, research, knowledge, nursing colleges

Introduction

"When you have wit of your own, it's a pleasure to credit other people for theirs" Criss Jami

Many people may think of plagiarism as copying another's original words, or borrowing someone else's original ideas as though they are their own. However, terms such as 'copying' and 'borrowing' can disguise the seriousness of the offense. According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 'plagiarism' means: "To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own, to use another's production without crediting the source, to commit literary theft, and to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source. In other words, plagiarism

is considered as an act of 'fraud' there is need to create awareness about Plagiarism among junior researchers & students who are conducting the research as a part of their degree course.

Paraphrasing only the words of an original source is not sufficient to prevent plagiarism. One must properly credit to the source whenever he or she borrows someone else's original ideas or work. However, majority of the cases of plagiarism can be prevented by crediting to the source. Simply disclosing that a certain idea or words have been borrowed from another's original work, and giving the readers the information necessary to find the source again, is usually enough to avoid plagiarism.

So, this study is planned to assess the knowledge of plagiarism among nursing students involved in research process. The problem statement for the present study is “An exploratory study to assess the knowledge of plagiarism among the nursing students from selected nursing colleges of Pune city”. The objectives are to assess the knowledge of plagiarism among the nursing students and to find out the association of findings with selected demographic variables. The assumption for the study was nursing students may have some knowledge of plagiarism.

Need of the study

There are many researches being conducted all over the world. Many of the students are now involved in research activities, mostly as a part of their curriculum. The nursing curriculum of the final year students also requires the nursing students to conduct research for the fulfilment of their course. In the process of their project work is has been observed the students tend to copy the work of other researchers without given any acknowledgement to the researcher. Most often this mistake occurs unknowingly, very rarely it is done on purpose therefore the researcher has taken up the topic of assessing the knowledge of nursing students regarding plagiarism.

Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge of plagiarism among the nursing students.
2. To find out the association of findings with selected demographic variables.

Assumptions

Nursing students may have some knowledge of plagiarism.

Methods

In this study a quantitative approach with Non-experimental exploratory research design was used. Research variable was knowledge of plagiarism. The setting of the study was

selected nursing colleges of Pune city. Population was final year students of nursing course (Third year B. Sc. Nursing, Second Year P.B.B.Sc. Nursing & Second year M.Sc. Nursing, and Third year GNM students) from selected nursing colleges of Pune city.

Sample size was 330 nursing students of selected colleges of Pune city. Non probability convenient sampling technique was used. Structured questionnaire was used for data collection. Online survey was conducted using Google forms to assess the knowledge regarding plagiarism among the final year nursing students. The tool was in English language. The survey questions were prepared in Google forms, which is easy to fill by the participants. The survey questionnaire consisted of two sections. First section was regarding demographic data of the participants; second section was having 20 questions about knowledge of plagiarism. The survey link was given to all participants after their consent. Validity of the tool was done by all experts from nursing field and reliability was done by test-retest method. Reliability coefficient for knowledge questionnaire was 0.8. Pilot study was conducted on 10% of the total sample. As there was no issue in conducting pilot study, the study was found feasible. Data analysis was done by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results

This section is divided into two parts. First Section describes demographic variables. Second section describes about knowledge regarding plagiarism among nursing students. Third Section deals with the association of findings with selected demographic variables.

Section I: Demographic data

The Fig 1 shows that 125 participants were from T.Y.B.Sc. Nursing course, 121 participants were from TY GNM course. 42 participants were from S.Y.M.Sc. Nursing and 42 were from S.Y.P.B.B.Sc. Nursing course.

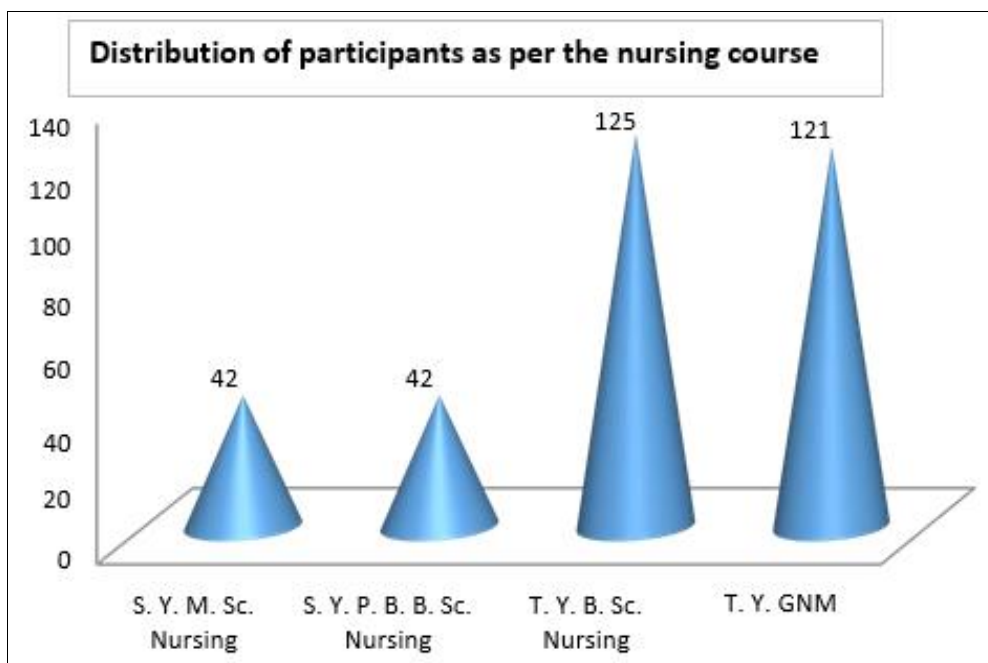


Fig 1: Distribution of participants as per the nursing course

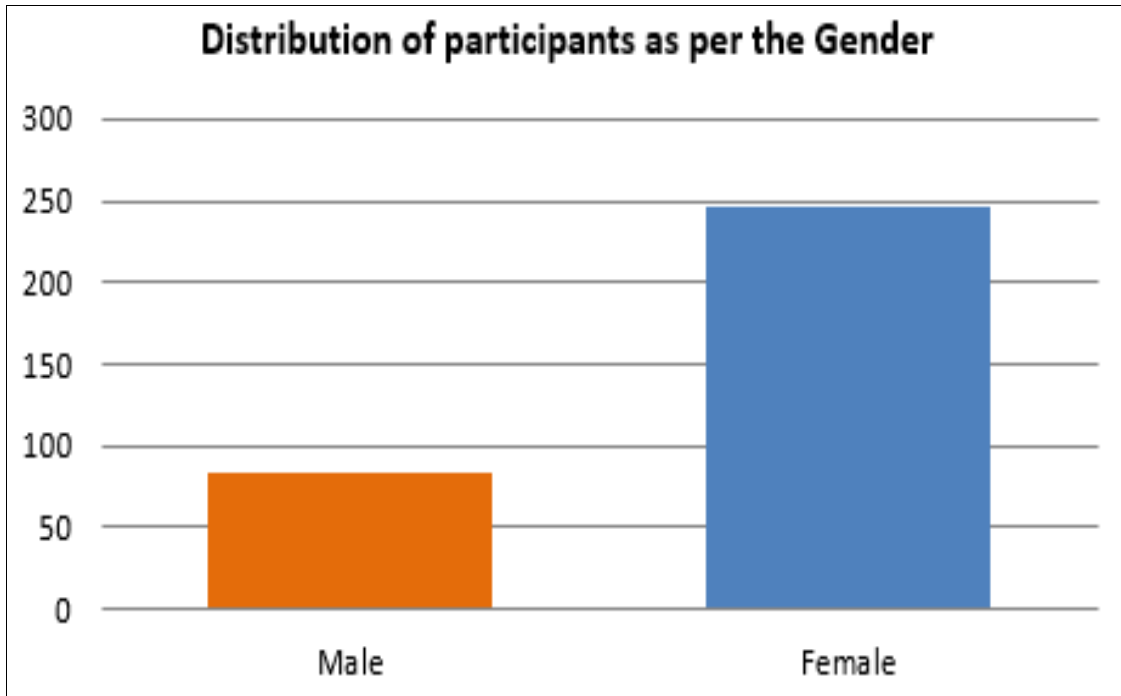


Fig 2: Distribution of participants as per the Gender

Above figure shows that 246 participants were female and 84 participants were male because nursing profession has more female students than male students.

Section II: Knowledge of Plagiarism

Table 1: Distribution of participants as per the knowledge

Sr. No.	Statements	Frequency of Correct Answer	Frequency of Wrong Answer	Frequency of Don't Know
1	It is right to publish your same article twice in two different journals.	137	147	46
2	It is acceptable to publish the same article in Marathi & English in two different Journals.	88	204	38
3	When you copy the research content from internet without acknowledgement will be considered as plagiarism.	198	106	26
4	If you present the idea as a new idea which was already published by other person will be considered as plagiarism.	193	103	34
5	10 to 15% plagiarism is allowed for thesis.	211	76	43
6	Copyright is a set of exclusive rights granted to the creator of an original work.	212	78	40
7	Copyright law protects the original ideas as an intellectual property.	196	90	44
8	Taking passages from your own previous work without adding citations is known as self-plagiarism.	183	84	63
9	While paraphrasing the content you should not just replace few words but present the content in your own words.	207	67	56
10	Paraphrased passages still require citation because the ideas came from another source, even though you are putting them in your own words.	220	58	52
11	Paraphrasing of the content is done so that no one will know the source of information.	119	156	55
12	Plagiarism is illegal & person can face criminal action.	182	99	49
13	Software are used to check plagiarism e.g. Turnitin & Urkund	194	47	89
14	Cite your source, write in your own words, use plagiarism check are some of the steps to prevent plagiarism	241	38	51
15	When you are including important phrase quoted by other person, use quotation marks around the text to avoid plagiarism.	171	95	64
16	We can copy any image from internet to use in PPT or project report.	198	103	29
17	We can copy any music & use it for creating our own video with background music.	108	186	36
18	Using standard research tool without author's permission is allowed in the research.	205	102	23
19	When student fail to cite properly or put the content in his own wards it is known as unintentional plagiarism.	203	63	64
20	When student copy the assignment, it is also considered as plagiarism.	181	116	33

Table I show that 241 participants knew that citing the source, write in own words, using plagiarism check are some of the steps to prevent plagiarism. 60% to 70% participants knew the correct answer that when student fail to cite properly or put the content in his own wards it is known as unintentional plagiarism, using standard research tool without author’s permission is allowed in the research, paraphrased passages still require citation because the ideas came from another source, even though you are putting

them in your own words, while paraphrasing the content you should not just replace few words but present the content in your own words, copyright is a set of exclusive rights granted to the creator of an original work and 10 to 15% plagiarism is allowed for thesis as per the policy of institute. Maximum that is 60 to 80 participants did not know the type of software used for plagiarism check, how the paraphrasing is done and what is self-plagiarism.

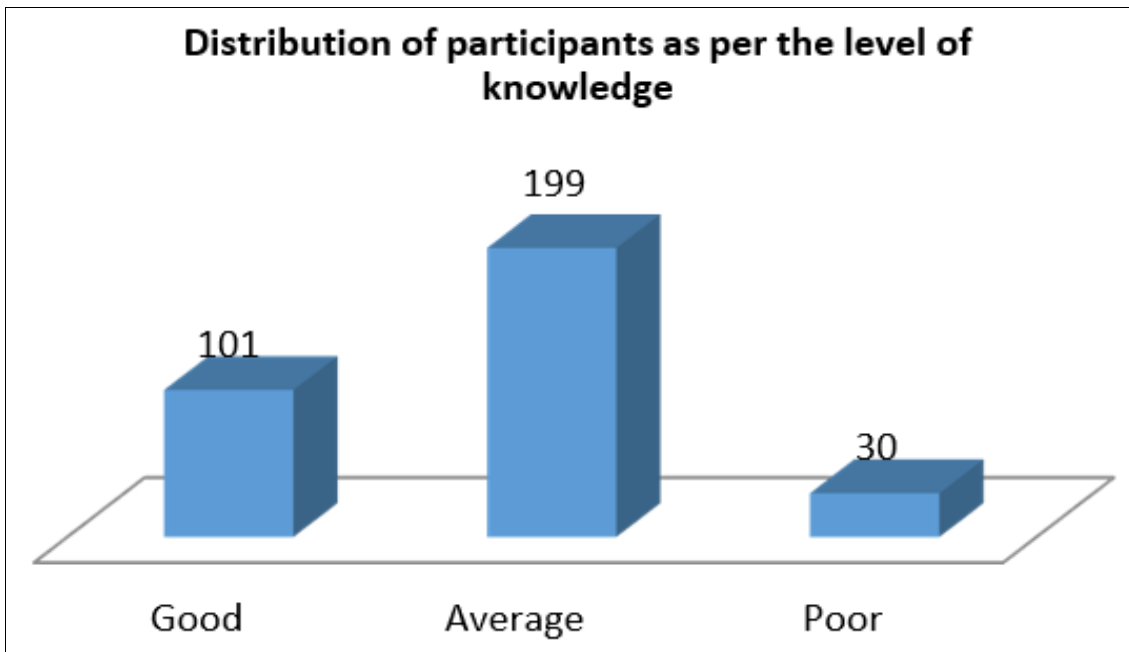


Fig 3: Distribution of participants as per the level of knowledge

Above figure shows that 101 participants had good knowledge, 199 participants had average knowledge about plagiarism and 30 participants had poor knowledge about plagiarism. It suggests there is a need to create awareness about plagiarism among the students to generate good quality research work.

Section III: The association of findings with selected demographic variables.

There was no association found between the findings and nursing course and gender of the participants.

Discussion

As every profession has research to advance and improve their practice, Similarly Nursing Research has the ability to reform health care, through the evidence-based practice and ensure better standards of caregiving. Therefore, the students of nursing in their final year such as 3rd year B.Sc., 2nd year M.Sc. and P.B.B.Sc. and 3rd year General Nursing and Midwifery are supposed to conduct research following all the Steps of Research. In the process of doing research, it is important to inculcate in their minds that Plagiarism is to be avoided and is an offence. The present study was conducted on all final year student to know their knowledge on Plagiarism. A total of 246 nursing final students were included from different courses in the present study.

A study conducted on 378 undergraduates at Nigeria. The result of the study stated that knowledge on Plagiarism is

good, most of the respondents feel that Plagiarism is a criminal act. Gender has no impact on awareness of Plagiarism. In the present study there were 246 participants out of which 84 were male and 162 were female participants.

A study conducted by B Price, stated how students can avoid plagiarism during their research work. It explains how plagiarism may increase during the course work and what are the ways to ensure the research work meets the required writing standards.

A study conducted by Holly Carter et al on Plagiarism in Nursing education and the ethical implications in practice stated the struggle of nurse educators to handle the impact of plagiarism, it provides with some practical learning strategies and guidelines to handle these issues. Many higher institutions express the importance of plagiarism and come up with policies to discourage the act and practice of plagiarism; however, the students’ awareness on plagiarism diverse and the nursing educator uniformity in dealing with it also varies.

A study conducted in 2021 by Mary Bless G et al. among 304 Filipino nursing students to find the factors affecting the intention to plagiarize. Finding of the study stated generally there is a low intention to plagiarize. The influencing factors identified were internet literacy, attitude, moral obligation and past behavior. In the present study we have done a survey of knowledge of nursing final year students regarding plagiarism, in that we found 101 participants had

good knowledge, 199 participants had average knowledge about plagiarism and 30 participants had poor knowledge about plagiarism.

Conclusion

Plagiarism is the most common type of offence in academic research writing. Plagiarism may not be eliminated entirely but with additional knowledge and awareness, with updated specific strategies and constructive guidance this concern can be addressed in a manner that will help the student, the educator and university minimize cheating. The Educators should inculcate in the young researcher's mind the importance of academic honesty. The present findings of the study suggest there is a need to create awareness about plagiarism among the nursing students to generate good quality research work.

Ethical Approval

Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional ethics committee. Each and every subject was explained about the study, the research purpose and their written consent were obtained. The study did not collect the name of the respondents on the questionnaire form to ensure confidentiality. Voluntary participation and privacy were ensured during data collection.

Acknowledgement

Our deepest appreciation goes to the Principal, College of nursing, and Pune for the administrative support and guidance. We also would like to acknowledge the participants as without their participation study was not possible.

Authors Contribution

Dr. Anita contributed to the conception and design of the research proposal and tool. Dr. Archala interpreted the relevant literature and drafted the article. Researcher contributed in data collection process, review of literature and accepts accountability of overall work.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Financial Support: Self-funded

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How to Cite This Article

Nawale A, Khemnar A. An exploratory study to assess the knowledge of plagiarism among the nursing students from selected nursing colleges of Pune city. International Journal of Advance Research in Nursing. 2024;7(1):94-99

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