

Exploring the knowledge toward older people in the new generation of nursing students

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Introduction: Nursing students will be the one of the most important staff in the future medical care system. However, according to the increasing elderly population and changes in society, technology and environment, it is necessary to have a better understand of new generation nursing students' aging knowledge.

Purpose: To understand new generation nursing students' aging knowledge and its influence factors.

Method: It was a cross-sectional study. The data were collected in 2018 from a college of nursing students (15-20 years old). Two classes were randomly selected for each grade (grade1-5). The response rate was 82.8% (n=418). Excluding incomplete questionnaires, there were 400 participants in this study. The structured questionnaire contained sociodemographic data and Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz (FAQ)-Taiwan version.

Result: The FAQ included three answer options, namely "True", "False" and "Don't know". The "Incorrect" and "Don't know" responses were assigned zero points. Total scores were from 0 to 25. The mean of the FAQ was 10.84 (SD 3.21) in the study. The higher percentage of correct answers was on the items of 2, 12, 4, 6, and 1 (Table-1). The items of 20, 19, 23, 18 and 11 were the most incorrect response. The higher proportion of "Don't know" was on items of 25, 8, 24, 21 and 20. The lowest percentages of correct answers were item 20 (The majority of medical practitioners give low priority to the aged) (10.7% correct), and item 7 (At least 10% of the aged are living in long-stay institutions) (15.6% correct). The study indicated the nursing students who were the higher grade ($r=0.2$, $p=0.0001$), having the experiences of clinical practice ($r=0.17$, $p=0.0003$) and being a volunteer for interaction with elderly ($r=0.11$, $P=0.027$), might have a better understanding in older adults.

Conclusion: Young generations of nursing students have a weaker understanding of the elderly, but it might be helpful to raise awareness through education, clinical professional practice and promotion of interaction with the elderly.

Biography

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