Motives for choosing the nursing profession among males

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Background: Nursing is considered as a feminine profession and men still constitute a small minority of this population. This lack in men raises the question, which factors influencing male students to choose in nursing studies. The study has two main goals: (1) to examine the main causes of male choice in nursing, (2) to recognize the factors that related to negative stereotypes and attitudes regarding the choice of men in nursing as a career.

Methods: The study included 167 nursing students who completed a questionnaire built for the study (116 women, 50 men). The questionnaire included 40 questions that examined perceptions and gender attitudes towards the nursing profession and also sociodemographic data.

Results: There were a number of differences between men and women in the factors that influencing choosing the profession. Men chose the profession more because of external factors such as, salary, stability in the work place and promotion opportunities. Women also chose nursing because an external factors but more because of an internal factors, such as pleasure and the desire to do something significant in their lives and help others.

Conclusions: There are differences between men and women in the motives for choosing a nursing profession. In order to encourage men to choose in nursing, it is important to emphasize the external factors such as salary, job stability, and promotion opportunities at the workplace. It is also worth to raise the image of male nursing in the media. With the changes taking place in the healthcare system, nursing education programs are attracting fewer students and active recruitment of young men may be a means of addressing nursing shortages.

Key words: Men in nursing, nurse recruitment, masculinity

Biography: Dr. Keren Grinberg is a lecture in the Department of Nursing, Ruppin Academic Center, Israel. Her expertise is in the follow research domains: Children's health/ Inequality between subgroups consumption of health services / health promotion, Pain syndromes in women and women's health, Palliative care, Quantitative Sensory Testing (QST) of pain. In addition she has experience in the study of nursing education.