

ABSTRACT

Background:The feminine temperament of nursing has been so prevailing, that the caring icon of the profession has been used to represent the archetype of femininity. comparatively few males than females seek a career in nursing as men only constitute between 5% and 10% of the workforce in the UK and USA.

Objective: The aim of this study was to assess the factors affecting the number of male nurses in Apac District Local Government.

Method: A descriptive cross sectional study was employed to assess the factors affecting the number of male nurses in Apac District Local Government. A total of 35 male nurses in Apac district were included in this study using non probability, convenient sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 17.

Result: From the assessment done, the notion that men are not supposed to be nurses had a significant association with number of nurses with P-value of 0.006 and feeling about caring for a female patient also had a significant association with number of nurses with P-value of 0.026. Role model was found to have a significant association with the number of male nurses with a p-value of 0.044. Most of the respondents in this study mentioned that people regard male nurses as doctors and hence the care they provide is over rated. This could probably be because in peoples' eyes, any female health worker is a nurse and any male is a doctor and they assume that doctors are more knowledgeable about what they do and give better care compared to the nurses who are always female.

Conclusion: Respondent joined nursing because of the enthusiasm, love and inspiration for the profession as well as the feeling of giving care to the sick and the needy hence saving lives.

Misperception that the profession is not appropriate for men was found among the male nurses. Hence schools and community career counselors need to clearly explain and initiate career opportunities available for males entering nursing to degrade the negative perception towards nursing as entirely female occupation.