

Need for English Proficiency of Nurses: A Study

G. Sharada

Research Scholar

Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University

Lecturer, Govt. Degree College, Siddhipet

Abstract

English has become the primary language of instruction in the Indian educational system in the fields of science and technology. Only English-language publications are available in the vast majority of scientific fields, including the aforementioned as well as nuclear science and technology, medicine, and a variety of others. While some works have been translated into regional languages, the majority of the vocabulary remains in English. As a result, the language has developed into a passport to knowledge and a solid career in nearly every field, both locally and globally. The present article throws light on the need for English language proficiency for nursing students. For GNM nursing students, the experience of teaching English to nursing students brought a new perspective on their English-language demands. One of the main reasons for this is that GNM students who have been studying English for the past ten years have been shown to have difficulty conversing in the language on a regular basis.

Key words: English language, nursing students, vocabulary, medicine, scientific language, etc.

Profession of Nursing

Traditional education was replaced by modern education, which led to the creation of many different types of specialised courses and a good source of jobs. All of these specialised courses are made to meet the needs of a growing population and to bring in money from other countries by serving them. Across the country, new services have sprung up like mushrooms to meet the needs of a growing population and bring money into the country. There was a lot of growth in the service sector thanks to the rise of professionalism, which led to a lot of new specialised classes with the title "professional courses." To make people experts in their

fields, professional courses list core skills and terminology that are specific to the service. So, it seems that English is the language of choice for most professional courses because it is not only the universal language, but it is also known around the world to be the scientific language, too! All of the professional courses are now taught in English.

India's population growth necessitates more hospitals in the health sector. An increase in hospital staffing is required to keep up with demand. The Indian Nursing Council, which regulates the nursing profession, recommends a nurse to bed ratio of 1:3. In reality, supply does not match demand, resulting in scarcity. There is a nursing shortage in several places around the world for various reasons. Because Indian nurses are capable of moving over the country in pursuit of work, nursing schools have been extensively disseminated to generate more experts.

India offers two nurse entry-level programmes. Before becoming a General Nurse Midwifery, most nurses finish a three-year diploma programme (GNM). Most public hospitals exclusively hire GNMs (diploma holders) as staff nurses. Due to the nursing crisis, companies are now hiring GNMs instead of BSc nurses, provided they have sufficient technical and communication abilities. Getting required experience allows them to migrate. Despite the global shortage of nurses, India has seen a tremendous increase in the number of nursing education colleges in recent years. Currently, almost 80% of nurse education is commercial and the state has minimal government institutions.

Nursing requires fluency in English. For these people, English is vital. This includes inter-professional education, where medical terminology is engrained in English. Also, as a universal profession, it requires a common language, and English is the lingua franca. This course requires a +2 standard as per the Indian Nursing Council, the regulatory organisation that oversees the nursing profession. To get into the programme, they must already have a working knowledge of the English language. The nursing student's weekly activities necessitate the use of all four language macro abilities: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, respectively. Prior to class, students are required to have completed scholarly readings and research references. In fact, when it comes to writing genres like self-reflection pieces, reports, essays, and charts, which they rely on to carry out their evaluation responsibilities, they are utterly insubstantial. Both oral presentations, verbal shift handovers, and classroom discussions fall short of what they should be able to do.

However, in informal interviews with nursing teachers, nursing professionals, and doctors, the researcher revealed that the importance of English communication skills in the nursing field is significant. A nurse's day-to-day responsibilities include listening to instructions, informing others and inquiring, interpreting practical information into layman's language for patients, documenting patient's history and nursing care plans. GNM nursing students, particularly those from rural backgrounds, are having difficulty understanding their textbooks and writing clinical assignments, according to reports. The GNM students lack the prescribed English textbook, specific supplement material, or activity-based education, as a result of these deficits.

Checking, treating, and preventing illness and other physical and mental issues are all part of health care. Individuals will be cared for by a team of experts and paraprofessionals who will work together to ensure their health. Nursing is one of the health care specialists who are trained to satisfy the needs of both individuals and populations. Nursing now encompasses much more than only the care of the sick, as opposed to how it was in the past. Nurses play a significant role in the early recovery of the patient among all other health care workers. Providing health care to individuals, families, and communities is the primary responsibility of a nurse. Patients' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being are all intertwined in modern nursing practise, and nurses are expected to fulfil a variety of duties in order to meet these interrelated requirements.

Throughout human history, it has become clear that nurturing is essential to the survival of life. Nursing, on the other hand, is strongly linked to the survival of the human race. In the eyes of many, nursing is both the oldest and the newest art form or profession there is. The Latin term for "nourishing" was the inspiration for the word "nurse." According to evidence from ancient societies and mythology, the roots of medicine and nursing are intertwined. Finding out where English communication skills are needed and how the various language skills components integrate into nursing education and beyond is important in an attempt to define the role that English communication skills of nursing students play. Understanding the current trends in nursing education and the metamorphosis that has taken place from the past to the present is critical to this evaluation.

In Henderson's definition, "the unique function of the nurse" is to help the person, whether he is sick or well, do the things that would help him get better or die peacefully if he

had the strength, will, or knowledge to do them on his own. For the most part, nursing skills were developed by pure intuition. As an illustration, consider a mother who is astute enough to feed her family nutritious food. There will always be a learning curve when it comes to caring for her family. To avoid diarrhoea and vomiting, she changes her diet to include plants and herbs that have a calming impact on the digestive system. As a result, the mother has the foresight to design a dietary strategy for her family. There are many ways in which families produced recipes and treatments that have been passed down for generations. This practise was practised for many years. This task appears similar to a nurse who takes care of her patients. The responsibility of a nurse lies thus in the service to be rendered and strong verbal abilities with doctors, patients, and colleagues as well.

English proficiency courses for Nurses

The goal of English language instruction in professional settings is to provide students with the skills necessary to communicate effectively in English in a variety of professional settings. Studies on the need and importance of English communication skills at work should be carried out. The examination of therapeutic, verbal, and numerical communication skills in clinical settings and hospitals has been the subject of numerous research papers in recent years, all of which recommend for nursing students to get communication skills training while they are still in school.

Simultaneously, anyone who is interested in teaching English can easily incorporate it into their lessons. The need for a nurse to be fluent in English is underscored by factors such as interviews performed in English in corporate hospitals, communication with doctors, nurses, and patients, advanced nursing education, and opportunities to work abroad. Nurses' inability to communicate effectively with doctors and patients would be fatal. So greater emphasis should be laid on English language which would prove the importance of English and its role, and thus aid educators and health universities to revise their policy about English if discovered so.

Every professional nurse should be expected to have a scope of practise and a set of standards that serve as a model for the members and the public they serve. This scope of practise is inclusive of all facets of nursing practise, including general and specialty. The American Nurses Association states that a nurse's capacity to practise the full scope of nursing is defined by their education, experience, role, population served, and communication

abilities. Nursing practise is characterised by the "who," the "what," the "where," the "when," the "why," and the "how" of nursing. Complicated and dynamic nursing requires technical and interpersonal communication ability to address these difficulties.

Effective communication is to be used in a variety of formats across the nursing profession, and both verbal and written communication are critical. Communication is classified into two types: verbal and nonverbal. Body language, gestures, and other non-verbal signs of the human body are all examples of non-verbal communication. Verbal communication is accomplished through the use of words, sounds, and letters, whereas non-verbal communication is accomplished through the use of body language, gestures, and other physical cues. Due to the diversity of people, they must interact with in a hospital-like atmosphere, they must be proficient in all aspects of communication. Patients must be able to comprehend the medical language in order for the information supplied to be correct. Listening is also a critical communication skill in nursing. Each day concludes with a variety of interactive sessions with a variety of people including patients, attendants, doctors, lab technicians, and other hospital personnel, all of which are facilitated through active listening. Additionally, the nurse is responsible for written communication or charting, which is critical for ensuring care continuity.

Effective nursing communication is crucial not just for accurate diagnosis and treatment, but also for patient satisfaction surveys. Lindsay Margaret Macdonald (2010) discussed the qualities of good verbal communication and identified several elements that emphasise the necessity of communication. According to patient satisfaction surveys, poor communication and a lack of information are frequent complaints. Nurses must possess superior interviewing skills in order to make accurate diagnoses. Psychosocial factors become more significant when the patient is treated as an individual rather than as a collection of symptoms, which is why communication is critical in nursing. Numerous research studies, she notes, have examined the benefits of delivering information, including improving adherence to drug and treatment regimens and lowering tension, discomfort, and worry.

Establishing such a relationship requires effective communication. Patient contentment is another factor that contributes to or accelerates the patient's rehabilitation. As a result, dialogue can be used to treat specific conditions. Therapeutic communication is the use of certain techniques that enable the patient to express feelings and ideas while also

showing acceptance and respect. Numerous nursing theorists feel that when a nurse listens to a patient's worries, predicts and meets their needs, and informs the patient of the expected course of events, the quality of care improves.

Relationship establishment refers to the initial engagement between the nurse and the client, which may occur when trust and comfort are developed. Additionally, the relationship is formed when the nurse and the patient have a common understanding of one another and the expectations of care. The connection may be severed for a variety of reasons, including patient recuperation, nurse relocation, or patient death. This time period may have an effect on both the nurse and the patient. Excellent communication is essential across all three phases of interpersonal interactions in order to create positive relationships with patients and produce positive outcomes. Numerous studies examining the function of interpersonal interactions determined that they contribute to patients receiving the best care possible. While a patient is receiving care, a nurse-patient connection ensures the patient's comfort and promotes optimal healing. Relationships between the nurse and the patient's family may develop as a result of the nurse's positive interpersonal interaction with the patient. This assists in educating the family and bringing comfort to the patient's relatives. A nurse's ability to communicate effectively is critical for the formation of positive relationships and nursing rapport.

Interpersonal communication is the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and feelings between two individuals, often face to face. Telephone conversations, job interviews, and classroom discussions are all examples of this. Nurse-patient interaction, nurse-doctor interaction, and nurse-attendant interaction are all fairly common in nursing practise. Students enrolled in nursing programmes must be able to read and comprehend a large amount of material in order to succeed. Academic literacy is a requirement for nursing school success. Academic literacy is defined as the capacity to read and comprehend academic texts. Reading competency includes the ability to infer, connect concepts across texts, and pick and summarise the most significant aspects in a text. Academic literacy, as a group of nursing leaders points out, comprises not only the ability to read a book and comprehend its fundamental meaning, but also the capability to go further into the text's deeper meaning in order to draw conclusions or inferences. Not only does reading improve one's vocabulary and comprehension, but it also increases one's literacy, which helps students excel in nursing

school. Students must be able to evaluate and synthesise the material they are learning in order to be good nurses.

Writing, apart from reading, is a part of academic activities. It is essential to pass nursing exams like that of any other exams. So, the skill of writing good essays is important for every nursing student. But it is not always possible to use the same technique of writing in nursing practice. The nursing student should be aware of different types of techniques in writing as a part of their routine activities. The nurses should be swift enough in changing their styles of writing according to the demand prevailing.

Conclusion

Thus, it is important for a person in the profession of a nurse to be strong at the language skills as it is one of the challenging roles in the present day. Nursing is a collaborative activity that necessitates good communication between nurses and patients, physicians, and other health care providers. Both oral and written communication are valid modes of communication. Medical errors can be minimised by excellent communication between members of the health care team. Thus, in light of this significance, research can be conducted on many subjects such as doctor-nurse, nurse-nurse, and nurse-patient communication in order to establish various communicative methods relevant to these themes. Unlike other professional degrees, medical education does not include an English component. The literature on medical communication underlines the critical nature of nurses' communication abilities. Thus, a study can be undertaken to ascertain the role of English communication in the medical field, as well as to conduct a needs analysis and recommend approaches to build the syllabus.

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