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## Surgical technology students' attitude toward their field of study

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### ABSTRACT

*Student's attitude to their field of Study is one of the important factors which affects their educational achievement. To achieve any goal and success a positive attitude in that field is required. For achieving any goal and success a positive attitude in that field is required. So then we have to make a positive attitude for students toward their field of study. This study aimed to investigate the attitude of students toward their field of study in Zahedan University of Medical Sciences. This was a cross-sectional study. The participants were 62 students which they were included to this study by census sampling method. Data were collected through a questionnaire designed by Abdollahzadeh et al.. Finally the data were analyzed by SPSS v.19 through descriptive statistics and T-test. 58.1 % of subjects were males and 41.9 % were females. They had an age average of 21.65±1.63. The students had a positive attitude toward their field of study. There wasn't any significant relationship between age and semester and, attitude toward the field of study ( $p>0.05$ ). But there was a significant relationship between sex and attitude toward the field of study ( $p=0.01$ ). Seniors and females had more positive attitude toward their field of study. Students in this study had a positive attitude toward their field of study. But we can recognize the factors which make negative attitudes for students and reduce them. So then we can change their attitude better than now.*

**Key words:** Attitude, field of study, students, surgical technology.

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### INTRODUCTION

Health care organization workers have a sensitive role in the society. So then they must be trained well to help people in best way in the society (1). Nurses include a huge part of professional human resources. This group has the most interactions with clients (2). Attitude toward the field of study is one of the personal factors which affects the scientific achievement and knowledge improvement of students (3, 4). To achieve any goal and success a positive attitude in that field is required (5). Some students may not change their attitude toward their field of study even after graduation (6). Attitude is a neuropsychiatric preparation state which is organized through experiences, and it has a dynamic impact on a person's response to all objects and situations related to them (3). Attitudes would change in different periods of life. Studies had shown that the attitudes mostly change when you are students (7). Many of students would quite their education or get Desperate to continue it every year. This is cause of dissatisfaction with the field of study (8). According to Changezee et al. study about 12% of medical students would fail at least one of their semesters during their education. This failure would have many losses for the society, students and families (9). Bahar's study had shown that a quarter of students are in danger of educational failure (10). Sanaei nasab's study proved that only 43% of students were satisfied with their field of study (11). Being interested in the job, educational factors and backgrounds, class attitude and workload are most important factors which affect the professional attitude of nursing students (12). Katsuki mentioned in his study that nurse's attitude toward their job can directly affect their job burnout. Nurses who had a positive attitude toward their job had less job burnout according to

Katsuki's study (13). But the study of Hajiamini and colleagues had shown that only 25.28% of nurses had a positive attitude toward their job (14). When nurses are not interested in their job the quality of services would reduce. This quality reduction would have huge losses for the patients and clients. Also it can make the nurse demoralized and lead him to an indifferent and depressed individual (15). If someone is not interested in his job it would be hard for him to continue it, may be it would be impossible for him (16). This could lead to wasting the financial and intellectual capitals (17). Descriptive information about present status are necessary for making beneficial changes (18). It has not found any information about surgical technology student's attitude toward their Field of Study in Zahedan and also there were limited studies conducted in this field, the researchers decided to carry out this study to investigate surgical technology student's attitude toward their Field of Study in Zahedan University of Medical Sciences.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This was a cross-sectional study which investigated the attitude of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> semester surgical technology students toward their field of study in 2015. 62 students were included to this study by census sampling method. Only students who passed 1 year of their course and they were not guest or transferred students could enter this study. Data collecting was through a questionnaire which had two parts. First part included demographic information (sex, age, and semester). The second part included educational attitude questions designed by Abdollahzadeh and colleagues. Validity of this questionnaire was proved and its reliability was calculated in Cronbach's alpha (0.8) and intergroup correlation (0.8) method (8). This questionnaire had 26 items which were answered using a 5-point Likert scale (1= completely opposed, 2= opposed, 3= no idea, 4= agree, 5= completely agree). The scores range were divided from 26 to 130. According to range of scores the mean was calculated 78. Scores less than 78 were considered as negative attitudes and scores more than 78 were considered as positive attitudes. We went to the classes for data collecting. After explaining the aims of study for the subjects and getting their satisfaction questionnaires were given to them. Finally the data were analyzed by SPSS v.19 through descriptive statistics and T-test.

## RESULTS

The participants were 62 students of operation room students. The females students were 36 and 26 were males. The age mean was  $21.65 \pm 1$ . The subjects were (%63. 34 ) in 4<sup>th</sup> semester and 28 students were in 8<sup>th</sup>. The attitude toward the field of study's total score average was  $87.01 \pm 9.20$  among students. 58 students had positive attitude toward their field of study (93.5%).

T-test was used for the demographic information and the results are shown in table 1.

**Table 1. Relation between demographic information and ethical climate**

Demographic information	Percentage	Educational attitude mean score	P value	Statistical test	
Gender	Female	58.1	89.50	0.01	T-TEST
	Male	41.9	83.57		
Semester	4th semester	54.8	85.35	0.11	T-TEST
	Seniors	45.2	89.03		

According to the results of this study there wasn't any significant relationship between semester and age, and educational attitude ( $p > 0.05$ ). But there was a significant relationship between gender and attitude toward the field of study ( $p = 0.01$ ). Seniors and females students had more positive attitude toward their field of study. Table 2 shows the students opinion according to questions of educational attitude questionnaire. No idea, agree and completely agree were considered as positive opinions and completely opposed and opposed were considered as negative opinions.

**Table 2. Positive answer to the educational attitude questionnaire by the students**

educational attitude questionnaire	Positive answer (Percent)
I am interested in my field of study	91.9
I have chosen this field by complete awareness	67.7
If I take part again in universities admission test I will chose this field again	66.1
I got familiar with this field before coming to university	37.1
This field is more difficult than other fields in the university	77.4
The clinical units in this field are more than other fields in the university	77.4
This is a good field in society's viewpoint	67.7
I can't do the responsibilities of this field in operating room	29.0
There is no relation between clinical and theory units in this field	72.6
Operating room is full of stress for me	54.8
I prefer to work in operating room on behalf of other hospital wards	83.9
There are less chances for continuing education in this field	77.4
I can earn needed knowledge in this field	90.3
I can earn needed clinical abilities in this field	95.2
I have a better attitude toward this field now in comparison with when I entered this field	90.3
There are less human resources in this field than other fields	93.5
There is no Proportionality between student's admission and faculty members in this field	83.9
My lecturers are not up to date in this field	62.9
Staff and surgeon's bad behavior makes a negative attitude to this field for me	69.4
My field satisfies my spirit	80.6
There are no good references in this field and this makes a negative attitude for me	80.6
There are good job opportunities for this field	88.7
I have chosen this field just for continuing my education	50.0
This field has a lower social position in comparison with abroad	74.2
Corporation between surgeons and operating room staff gives me a good sense	83.9
Working with unconscious patient is a positive points in this field	88.7

## DISCUSSION

The results of this study had shown that most of surgical technology students had a positive attitude toward their field of study. These results are consistent with Rajali and colleagues study which was conducted in in Esfahan's health school (1) and Alizadeh and colleagues study which was conducted in nursing and midwifery school of Azad Islamic University of Rasht (7). While the results of Jamali's study had shown that the students mostly had a negative attitude toward their field of study (3). Irvani's study was conducted on medical students in Jahrom university of medical sciences. The results of his study had shown that students had a negative attitude toward their field of study (19). These two results were not consistent with present study. This difference in attitude can be cause of this that we need much more nurses in our country and they will be easily employed so then they would have a positive attitude toward nursing. As Samadi mentioned in his study, indiscriminate admission of students in the field of health could affect their attitude toward their field of study. Subjects in this study were not satisfied with their clinical environment (17).

Another study was conducted by Hakim on nursing students of Jondi Shapour University of Medical Sciences. The results of this study had shown that the students were not satisfied with their field of study (20).

According to Glossop student's satisfaction with clinical and educational environment could prevent quitting education by students (21). Nasaj's study had shown that physician's social status decreasing especially General physicians and also poor quality in education and hospitals could make negative attitudes (22). According to the questions of the questionnaire more than 90% of subjects said that "they like their field of study" in this study. This was consistent with Nasaj et.al study (22).

In the study of Absollahzade et al. most of students agreed with this question "there are less possibilities for continue this field of study in higher levels" (8). While in present study most of student agreed with this question "I have the ability to earn the needed clinical skills".

Students in this field of study were also disappointed about continuing their education. Today the Master of Surgical technology is available for Iranian surgical technologists so then their attitude may become much more positive.

Another question which students mostly agreed with was this "in my opinion working with unconscious patients is one of the positive points of this job". This result was consistent with Abdollahzade's study (8).

Questions bellow were disagreed by most of students in this study:

"I cannot handle responsibilities in this field in the operating room", "I was familiar with this field of study in high school before the university admission test" While in Abdollahzade's study these questions were disagreed by most of students.

"I was familiar with this field of study in high school before the university admission test", "If I was able to take part again in universities admission test I would chose the same field", "I have chosen this field just to continue it in higher levels" Training methods and clinical environment could affect these attitudes (21). The results of this study had shown that there wasn't any significant relationship between age and semester, and their attitude toward their field of study ( $p > 0.05$ ). This was consistent with Rajali's study (1). But there was a significant relationship between sex and educational attitude in present study which was consistent with Nasaj (22) and Hadavi's (18) study. Males had a negative attitude toward their field of study in comparison with females in this study. This result also was consistent with Chahri (23) and Nassaj's (22) study. The educational attitude may be affected in this part of study cause of male's responsibility to their families in our culture, or better employment situations for females (22). The results of this study had shown that the seniors have a better attitude toward their field of study in comparison with 4<sup>th</sup> semester students. This result was consistent with Chahri's study which investigated the first semester and senior nursing student's attitude toward their field of study (23). But it was not consistent with Abdollahzade's study which investigated surgical technology student's attitude in Tbariz (8) and also it was not consistent with Nassaj's study (22). According to the results of questions most of students didn't have enough information about their field of study. After entering in this field they got more information and their attitude changed to positive.

66.7% of students had a positive attitude toward their field of study in this study. This result was more than Chahri (23) and Abdollahzade's (8) study and less than Fattahi (7) and Samadi's study (17). Directors and managers should plan for making positive attitude in students to prevent problems such as educational failure and changing fields of study. Good and positive attitude toward the field of study would make positive attitude toward the job and this positive attitude would make motivations for helping the society and that job. So then having a good attitude in toward field of study could result in giving better services to clients in healthcare providers. Recognizing the factors which affect the attitudes could be helpful for planning to train better healthcare providers (1). Since students are from groups of talented, elite and builders of tomorrow any country, the extent of the students' achievement is considered as the successfulness criteria of scientific and academic achievement in every educational system (24). So then we suggest to do bigger studies on this field and also managers and directors must plan tasks for making positive attitudes for students.

## CONCLUSION

The results of this study could make change in manager's decisions. Students in this study had a positive attitude toward their field of study. One item of learning is change of attitude. The trainer or teacher should also evaluate the levels of achieving these goals during and after educational course (25). But the researchers can recognize the factors which make negative attitudes for students and reduce them. So then we can change their attitude better than now.

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