

HELPING ATTITUDE AMONG NURSES WORKING IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

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Abstract

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Helping attitude is a quality within the individual that is useful for the person who gives, as well as who receives. Nursing is a profession within the health care sector focused on the care of individuals, families and communities. The present study aims at finding the level of helping attitude among nurses who are working in government hospitals, and in private hospitals. The participants of the study include 60 nurses. Purposive sampling method was employed for the collection of data. The participants were administered using Helping Attitude Scale (HAS) developed by Gary S. Nickell, Minnesota State University Moorhead in the year 1998. Obtained results were analysed using independent samples t-test. The result indicates that there is no significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among nurses working in government hospitals and nurses working in private hospitals. Helping is a very kind behaviour and all the nurses no matter which place they are working or serving for, their nature of helping others, remains the same.

Keywords: Helping Attitude, Nurses, Government Hospital, Private hospital

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Introduction

Helping is something that is expected to be voluntary. Helping attitude is predisposition of helping behaviour (Hasan, 2010). Helping behaviour can be defined as voluntary actions to help other people, with or without expectation of rewards (Hasan, 2010).

Helping Attitude is the willingness and concern for welfare of others, refers to voluntary actions intended to help others,. It is nothing but caring about the welfare of other people and acting to help them. Altruistic behaviour can be motivated by personal egotism or it can be prompted by “pure” empathetic desire to benefit another person, irrespective of personal gain (Batson, 1991; Batson, Ahmed & Lishner, 2009). Helping attitude is a positive attitude and a person who indulges in such positive acts enjoys helping others and this might also reduce many kinds of negative emotions that happen in their day to day life. Helping behaviours are considered as beneficial the one individual who helps because it is likely that the individual who helps another individual will experience the joy and happiness of helping others. Helping attitude is such a quality which the individual possess which benefits the giver that is the one who provide help as well as the receiver who receives the help. It is the characteristic of unselfish concern for the welfare of others not putting themselves first but being willing to give their time or money or effort for others, for the benefits of others. Such a person with helping attitude can enhance positive thought as well as positive self-esteem. On the other hand, peoples helping attitude involves expectation or exchange of material goods as well as social goods like service, love, information status. (Baron & Byrne, 1999). The study of Helping Attitude has its root in the works of early Social psychologists. Research conducted over the last few years has shown that the positive emotions and attitudes like optimism, helping attitude, love, and hope have tremendous impact on well-being but the study of positive attitude and emotions have a very short past. Because most of the time the study of negative aspects like schizophrenia, truancy, alcoholism etc. have been getting more importance.

Nickell (1998) defined helping attitude as the beliefs, feelings and behaviours related to helping people. Altruism, often used as a synonym for helping behaviour, can be defined as actions or behaviours that are intended to benefit another person (Snyder, Lopez & Pedrotti, 2011) Helping attitude or behaviour is an established noble behaviour in many cultures and is an important

feature of many religions throughout the world. Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi (2000) consider altruism to be an important process which fosters the collective well-being of the society. Attitudes are of very much crucially important in the nursing career. Nursing is one among the careers in which the level of helping attitude and altruism is expected to be high. Nursing activities includes protection, promotion, improving health and abilities, prevention of illness/injury, alleviation of suffering, diagnosis, treatment, and advocacy for care of individuals, families, and communities (American Nurses Association, 2013). Nurses should display attributes of respect, compassion, wisdom, sensitivity and care (Rudolfsson & Berggren, 2012). Caring is important in nursing (Gray, 2008). Finfgeld-Connett (2008) explains

caring as an interpersonal process characterised by expert nursing, interpersonal Sensitivity and intimate relationships. It is important that nurses should have positive attitudes towards the patient care and only then good quality care. The working situations of government hospital nurses and private hospital nurses are different. For the government Nurses

The major benefits include monetary benefits, Job Security, Job Satisfaction More exposure and more experience. Disadvantages of working in government hospitals are long working hours and Shortages of resources. For the Private Nurses the major benefits includes Better technology and Multi-tasking. The disadvantages are that their salary is comparatively lesser than that of the government nurses. Moreover, their exposure to cases is limited due to limited strength of patients (Violanti, 2010)

Review of literature

A study showed that when nurses perceive patient care as being central to their work, their job satisfaction improves (Hamid et al., 2014). Another study showed that the nurses were moderately satisfied with their work and generally had positive attitudes towards nursing care. There was a positive correlation between attitude towards nursing care and job satisfaction (Nyirenda & Mukwato, 2016)

Method**Research Question:**

What is the level of Helping Attitude among women working in government hospitals and private hospital?

Aim:

To study the level of Helping Attitude Among female nurses working in government and private hospitals

Objective:

To assess the level of Helping Attitude among Government and private hospital nurses

Hypotheses:

Ho-There is no significant difference in the level of helping attitude among female nurses working in government and private hospitals.

Variables:

Independent variable:

- Government and Private Hospital Nurses

Dependent variable:

- Helping attitude

Sample:

Purposive sampling method is used for the study. The sample was selected from various government and private hospitals situated in Trivandrum, Calicut and Kasaragod districts of Kerala.

Table 1: *Sample composition*

| Group | Number of participants |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Government Nurses | 30 |
| Private Nurses | 30 |
| Total | 60 |

Inclusion criteria:

- Female Nurses who have an experience of 5 years and above.

Exclusion criteria:

- Nurses who have salary below Rs.10,000 and above Rs.50,000 at present .
- Nurses above the age of 45.
- Retired nurses

Research design:

Research is Exploratory in nature and the Sample Survey Research Design is adopted

Assessment Tools:

Helping Attitude Scale: Helping Attitude Scale (HAS) was developed by Gary S. Nickell, Minnesota State University Moorhead in the year 1998.

Scoring Key:

To score the Helping Attitude Scale (HAS) first reverse the scores for the following items: 1,5,8,11,18,19. For example, a score of “1” becomes a “5.” Next add up all twenty scores to obtain the total HAS score. This score should range from 20 to 100 with a neutral score of 60.

Personal Data Sheet:

The personal datasheet was prepared by the researcher. The data sheet contains Socio-demographic details like Name, Age, Income, tenure of work, Sector of work (government or private) Education, etc.

Procedure:

The assessment was done individually. The Purpose of the study was explained to the participants. The participant’s willingness to participate in the study was ascertained after the establishment of rapport. The socio-demographic details was collected. The participants were briefed about the inventory and was provided with clear instructions. After the completion of administration of Helping Attitude Scale the inventory was collected and was checked for any kind of omissions. Then the scoring was done for the responses obtained and interpretation was made.

Ethical issues:

- The research has been approved by the department review committee.

- Written consent was obtained from the participants of the research.
- The participants were assured about the confidentiality of the information provided by them.
- The obtained data has been used only for the purpose of the research.

Statistical Analysis:

Independent Samples t- test

- To find out the level of Helping Attitude among Government and Private hospital nurses

Results and discussion

The results obtained were analyzed using Independent samples t-test. The independent sample t-test was used to understand the significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among nurses working in Government and Private Hospitals.

Socio-demographic details

Age

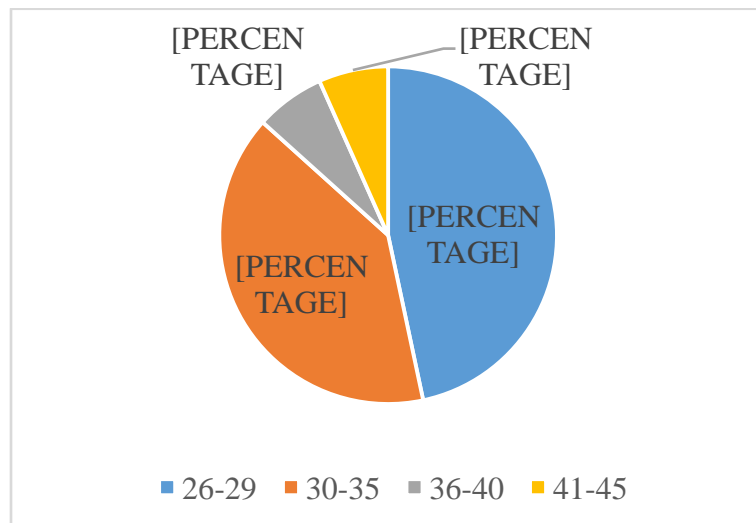


Figure 1: Age of Government hospital nurses

The age of Government hospital nurses indicates that 47% of participants falls under the age range of 26-29 and 40% falls under age range of 30-35 and 7% falls under the age range of 36-40 7% falls under the age range of 41-45.

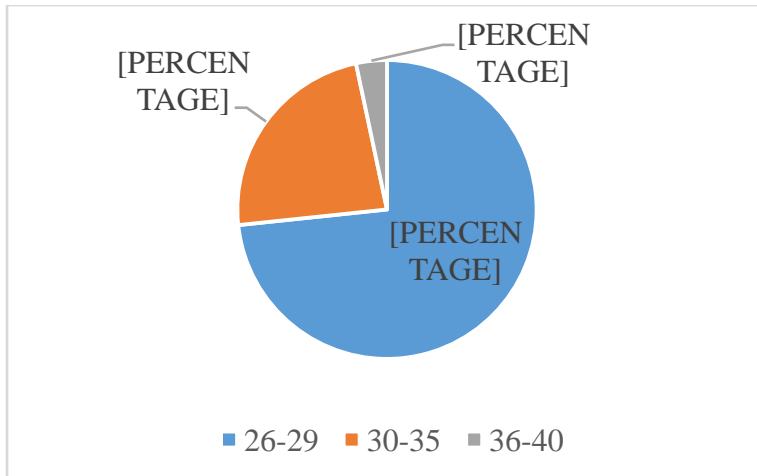


Figure 2: Age of Private hospital nurses

The age of Private hospital nurses indicates that 73% of participants falls under the age range of 26-29 and 23% falls under age range of 30-35 and 4% falls under the age range of 36-40.

Tenure of work

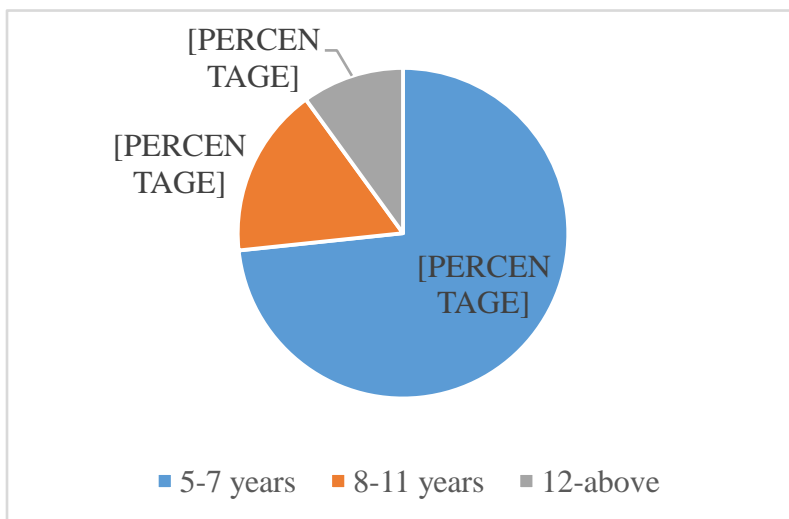


Figure 3: Tenure of work of Government hospital nurses

The tenure of work of Government hospital nurses indicates that 73% of participants falls under the year range of 5-7 and 17% falls under year range of 8-11 and 10% falls under the year range of 12 - 17 years.

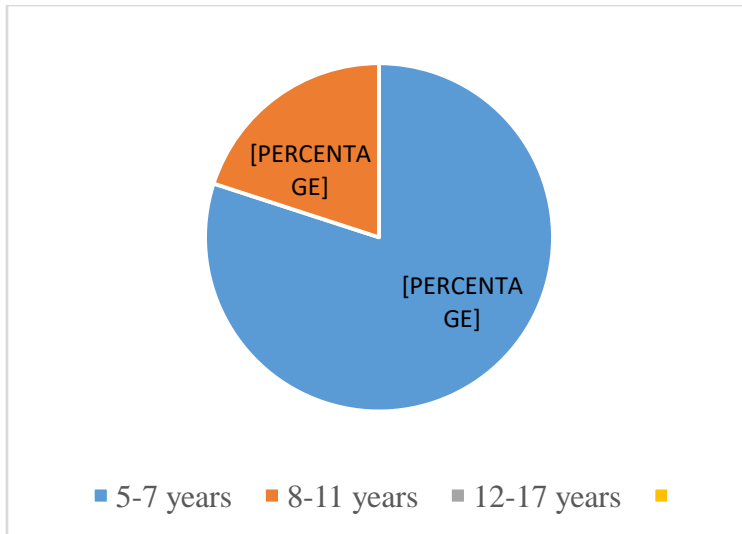


Figure 4: Tenure of work of Private hospital nurses

The tenure of work of Private hospital nurses indicates that 80% of participants falls under the year range of 5-7 and 20% falls under year range of 8-11 and 0% falls under the year range of 12-17 years.

Income

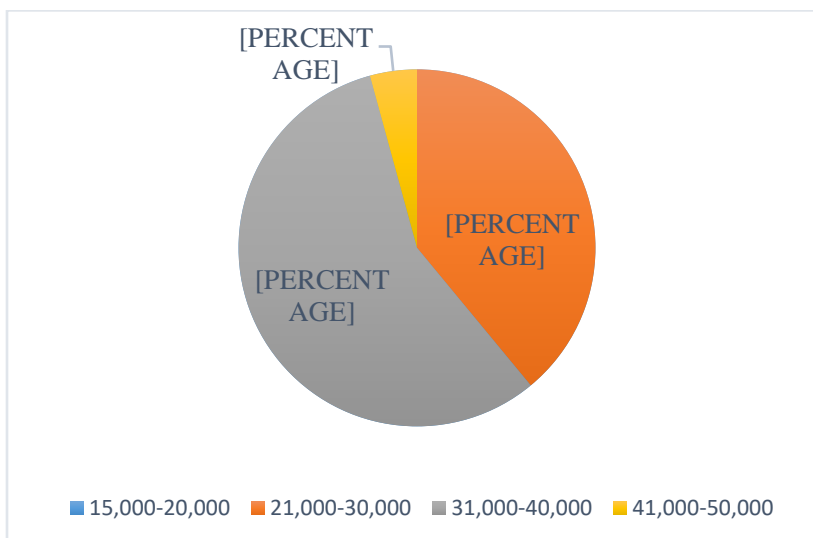


Figure 5: Income of Government hospital nurses

The income of Government hospital nurses indicates that 0% of participants falls under the range of 15,000-20,000 and 39% falls under range of 21,000-30,000 and 57% falls under the range of 31,000 – 40,000 and 4% falls under 41,000-50,000 per month.

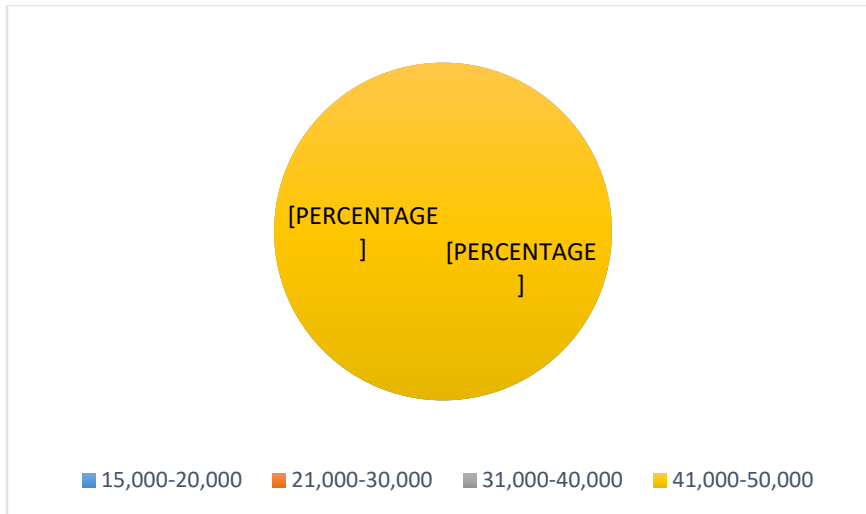


Figure 6: Income of Private hospital nurses

The income of Private hospital nurses indicates that 67% of participants falls under the range of 15,000-20,000 and 33% falls under the range of 21,000-30,000 and 0% falls under the range of 31,000 – 40,000 and 41,000-50,000 per month.

Variable

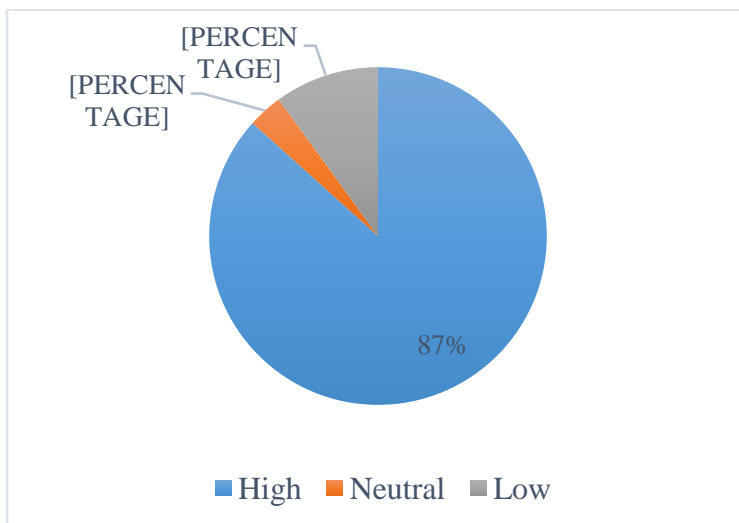


Figure 7: Level of Helping Attitude among Government Nurses

The level of helping among Government hospital nurses indicates that 10% has low level of helping attitude and 3% has neutral level of helping attitude and 87% with high level of helping attitude.

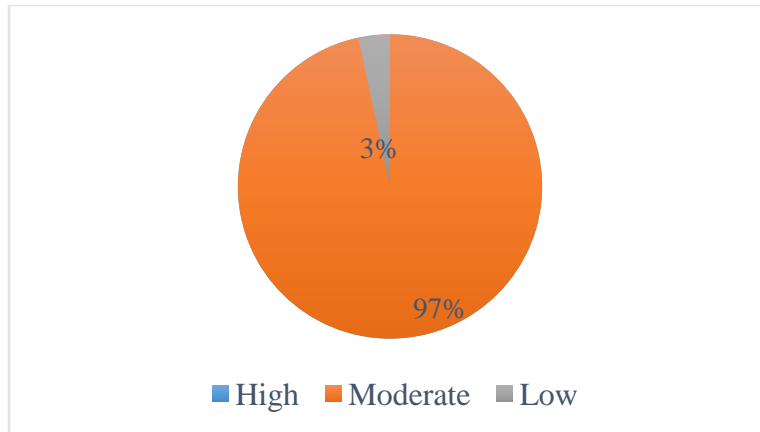


Figure 8: Level of Helping Attitude among Private Nurses

The level of helping among Private hospital nurses indicates that 3% has low level of helping attitude and 0% has neutral level of helping attitude and 97% with high level of helping attitude.

Table 2: *Mean, Standard Deviation and t value for Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses.*

| Groups | N | Means | SD | t | df | Significance |
|----------------------------|----|-------|-------|------|----|--------------|
| Government hospital nurses | 30 | 78.03 | 8.946 | .192 | 58 | .848 |
| Private Hospital Nurses | 30 | 77.63 | 7.059 | | | |

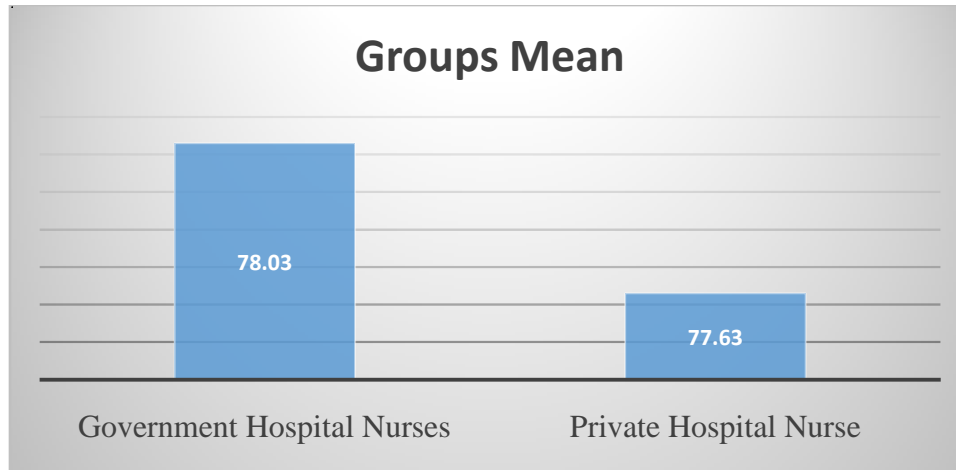


Figure 9: Mean for Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses.

The hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses was tested using independent samples t- test. The obtained t value is .192 which is not significant. Thus, the obtained result indicates that there is no significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses. Hence, the null hypothesis stating that there is no significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses is accepted.

Conclusion

The findings of the research shows that there is no significant difference in the level of Helping Attitude among Government hospital nurses and Private hospital nurses. The results also shows that as the tenure of work increases there is an increase in the level of helping attitude. Also the findings shows that as the salary level increases there is an increase in the level of helping attitude among both government nurses and private nurses. Even though the overall findings of the study indicates that work setup has no influence on helping attitude in the level of helping attitude, the government nurses have higher level of helping attitude compared to private nurses.

Limitations

- Very small sample size.
- Samples collection was restricted only to the state of Kerala.

- Only Quantitative research methods are used, and not qualitative research methods.
- The researcher have not taken other domains into consideration like sociodemographic details like marital status, Socio Economic Status etc. which may have influence in their helping attitude.

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Scope for further research

The study can be extended using longitudinal research.

Qualitative research methods can be done for improving the quality of the paper.

Implications

The findings of the research can be used in order to improve the level of helping attitude among nurses, intervention techniques can be done so that level of helping attitude is improved.

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