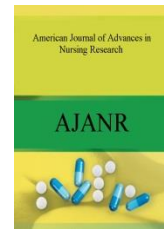




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### PERCEPTION OF NURSING STUDENTS TOWARDS OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED CLINICAL EXAMINATION (OSCE) IN PRACTICAL NURSING EXAMINATIONS

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Nursing is a skill based profession and hence assessment of skill in nursing should be 100% objective and focused. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a highly objective method and studying how the nursing students perceive it as an important evaluation tool is important. The aim of the study was to assess the perception of nursing students towards OSCE in practical Nursing assessments. The Research design used was a Non-Experimental descriptive correlational design and the samples were B.Sc(N) Students. The study was conducted at a selected college of Nursing in Coimbatore and the sample size was 70 in II year & III year B.Sc (N) Students. A Non-Probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the samples. The data collection instrument was the attitude likert scale used to assess the perception of nursing students towards OSCE. **Results:** The results showed that (77%) from 2nd year and (46%) from 3rd year had favorable perception and (23%) from 2nd year and (54%) from 3rd year had unfavorable perception towards OSCE as an assessment tool in practical Nursing Examinations. There was a statistically significant difference between the II year & III year Nursing Students perception ( $t = 0.00$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** The findings revealed that almost all Nursing students perceived OSCE to be a good and objective assessment tool for practical examinations in Nursing.

#### INTRODUCTION

Nursing is a complex, skill oriented profession. Present examinations in nursing are subjective and elaborate. It is high time for nursing to implement a new type of assessment. Objective assessment in nursing is the need of the hour.

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OSCE - Objective Structured Clinical Examination is a method of assessment which is highly objective. Medical schools in the past in the early 1990's had used OSCE as an evaluation tool to assess critical thinking skills, decision making, Judgement skills and situation identification skills among students.

In today's world, students always prefer to have a unbiased mode of assessment. This is because the competition among students to excel keeps increasing. A good test ensures student's full participation in test and



holds a positive attitude in among them. Nursing students always welcome the right method and right time to the present situation to implement OSCE. Implementation of OSCE in nursing courses as a method of skill assessment is to followed by colleges of Nursing for under graduate and Post graduate students.

### Need for the Study

Nursing education needs to integrate theory into practice for safe patient care.

OSCE is one way of the evaluation method which slowly decreases the gap present between the knowledge and practice.

JiJi.D.J.et.al(2020) conducted a descriptive study to assess the nursing student's attitude on OSCE. The participants were 150 B.Sc (N) students. The results showed that 118(85.51%) of nursing students had a favourable attitude and 19(13.77%) had a moderately favourable attitude towards OSCE. The mean score being 85.71 with S.D. 8.50. The study shows students proficiency for OSCE over traditional practical examination pattern.

The authors feel that OSCE can be well practised in all Nursing Educational Institutions for practical skills evaluations. The authors have taken up the study as a beginning step towards implementation of OSCE for clinical assessment in practical examinations. The authors believe that a well framed and implemented OSCE is too good a tool for assessment and hence can be made a mandatory part of curriculum.

### Statement Of Problem

A Study to Assess the Perception of Nursing Students towards Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in Practical Nursing Examinations at Selected College, Coimbatore.

### Objectives

1. To assess the level of perception of nursing students.
2. To associate the selected demographic variables with perception scores of nursing students.

### Operational Definition

#### Perception:

Attitude and opinion towards OSCE as an assessment tool in practical nursing assessments as given by the nursing students.

### Objective Structured

#### Clinical Examination (OSCE):

Objectives Structured Clinical Examination is a method of objective assessment within a short time eliciting critical thinking and skills oriented.

## PRACTICAL NURSING

### Examination:

This is an examination conducted for evaluation after practical clinical postings in Medical-Surgical Nursing over a specific time period for nursing students.

### Nursing students:

IInd year and IIIrd year B.Sc (N) students studying in college of Nursing under The T.N. Dr. MGR. Medical University Curriculum and those who had clinical experience in the Medical &Surgical units of a selected hospital.

### Hypothesis

HO1: There will be a significant difference in the levels of perception among II year and III year B. Sc (N) nursing students.

HO2: There will be no relationship between selected demographic variables and perception of nursing students towards OSCE.

### Inclusion Criteria

1. II and III year B.Sc (N) students who were willing to take part in the study.
2. II and III year B.Sc (N) students who had completed their Medical - Surgical Nursing clinical experience during the clinical posting period.

### Exclusion Criteria

1. II and III year B.Sc (N) students who were absent on the day of study.

### Study Approach And Design

The study approach adopted was a quantitative research approach with a non experimental Descriptive design.

### Study Setting

GEM Institute of Nursing Education and Research, Coimbatore is a private Institution which runs the B. Sc(N) degree program under The T.N Dr. M. G.R Medical University, Chennai.

### Sampling Technique Used

The sampling technique adopted for the study was the purposive sampling technique.

### Samples

II year and III year B. Sc (N) students were enrolled as samples of the study.

### Sample Size

The sample size consisted of 70 nursing students.



## VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TOOL

Faculty Experts in the field of Medical-Surgical Clinical Nursing validated the content of tool.

Reliability was established using Test – retest reliability method.

### Data Collection Tool

Self Administered Questionnaire was used to collect data

**TOOL 1:** Selected Demographic variables of participants

**TOOL2:** Attitude scale: 5 point Likert scale

The Likert scale had 20 statements 10 positive related to OSCE as useful and 10 statements about OSCE as not useful. Both statements had equal scores. Overall scoring of attitude was divided into 3 levels as Good, Fair and Poor.

### Data Analysis

Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

### Ethical Clearance

Ethical clearance was sought from the concerned authorities. Consent to participate was obtained from the individual nursing student.

## RESULTS

**Table1:** Highlights the description of demographic variables. The findings show that majority (86%) of participants belonged to the age group of 18 – 20yrs, majority (96%) were hostellers and majority (86%) had previous exposure to OSCE.

**Table2:** Highlights the level of perception of nursing students to OSCE. Majority (74%) in II yr and (85%) in III yr B.Sc (N) students perception towards OSCE as an assessment tool for practical examinations.

**Table3:** Highlights the comparison of perception among nursing students shows that between IIyr and III yr Nursing students there was no statistically significant difference of the perception towards OSCE as an assessment tool at ( $t=0.00$ ,  $p<0.01$ ).

**Table4:** Highlights the association between II yr and IIIyr Nursing student's perception scores and their demographic variables. This reveals that there was no statistically significant association of demographic variables and perception of II yr and III yr B. Sc (N) students ( $\chi^2 = 11.421$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ) and ( $\chi^2 = 6.43$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ) respectively.

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Demographic Variables of Nursing Students.**

Demographic Variables	Category	II year B.Sc.(N)(n= 35 )		III year B.Sc.(N)(n= 35 )		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
Age	18 - 20	34	97	26	74	60	86
	21 - 23	1	3	9	26	10	14
Residence of Students	Hostellers	34	97	33	94	67	96
	Day scholar	1	3	2	6	3	4
Previous Exposure to OSCE	Yes	25	71	35	100	60	86
	No	10	29	0	0-	10	14

**Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Level of Perception towards OSCE among Nursing Students in II & III year.**

Perception Scores	Favorable		Non Favorable	
	f	%	f	%
II year (n = 35 )	6	17	29	83
III year (n = 35 )	3	9	32	91

**Table 3: Comparison of Level of Perception towards OSCE between II & III year Nursing Students.**

Perception	Mean	S.D	Mean Difference	Independent (Unpaired) 't' Value
II year B.Sc.(N) (n = 35 )	8.74	3.13	0.29	$t = 0.00$
III year B.Sc.(N) (n = 35)	8.74	2.84		

Significant at  $p < 0.01$

**Table 4: Association of Level of Perception of II & III yr Nursing Students Towards OSCE with Selected Demographic Variables**

Demographic Variables	Group	Favorable		Non Favorable		Chi – Square& df Value
		f	%	f	%	
Age	II Year	15	43	20	57	$\chi^2 = 11.421$



<b>Residence of Students</b>	<b>B.Sc(N)</b>	6	17	29	83	df = 4
<b>Previous Exposure to OSCE</b>	<b>(n=35)</b>	6	17	29	83	
<b>Age</b>	<b>III Year</b>	10	29	25	71	$\chi^2 = 6.43$ df = 4
<b>Residence of Students</b>	<b>B.Sc(N)</b>	3	9	32	91	
<b>Previous Exposure to OSCE</b>	<b>(n=35)</b>	3	9	32	91	

Significant at  $p < 0.05$

## CONCLUSION:

The study assessed the perception of nursing students towards OSCE in practical assessments. Among the students studied, majority (61%) i.e.(77%) II year and (46%) III year students preferred OSCE in practical examinations with a statistical significant difference between the II and III yr Nursing students. The mean

difference was (0.29,  $p = 0.05$ ). Hence OSCE can be made as a standard assessment method in practical nursing examinations. All schools and colleges of Nursing can implement this method across, as the nursing students on the whole perceive it to be a good and objective method of assessment.

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