

Factors Influencing Passing Rate of PSU Nursing Graduates in Nursing Licensure Examination

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Abstract- This study sought to determine the factors influencing the passing rate of Pangasinan State University nursing graduates in Nursing Licensure Examination (NLE). It used the descriptive method of research with a questionnaire checklist as the data gathering tool to answer the sub problem. The respondents included nursing graduates of PSU from 2008 to 2012. To make the data more comprehensive, the results were interpreted in a tabular form after which frequency distribution percentage and AWM were utilized. The study revealed that majority of the nursing graduates are 20 to 22 years old, female, with some whose fathers are college graduated and with Php 20,001 & above monthly income. Furthermore, the study showed that there is no significant relationship between family factors and study habits to the individual passing rate of nursing graduates. However, there is significant relationship between social factors and the individual passing rate of the nursing graduates.

Keywords: Individual, Performance, Respondent

INTRODUCTION

The Pangasinan State University (PSU) Institute of Nursing is recognized as a competent and primary institution that provides quality nursing education in Region I. Its mission involves producing nursing graduates who are epitomes of the true essence of professional nursing who can perform their nursing function competently and efficiently in any healthcare setting (Institute of Nursing, 2013).

As of 2012, the Institute attained a passing rate of 93.75% for the first takers and 85.71% over-all passing percentage as revealed by Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC).

The Nursing Licensure Examination (NLE) is a major requirement to become a registered nurse (RN). After four years of hard work in school and clinical settings, one step away to become a registered nurse is to pass the NLE. There are some factors affecting the nursing graduates' performance in board examination. Some of these factors are personal, family, social, and study habits.

Knowing how influential these factors could be in the board performance of the nursing graduates could help the graduates enhance their chances in passing the NLE. This, in turn, could sustain the Institute's overall performance in the board examination. It is based on this premise that the researchers consider this study necessary.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study determined the factors affecting the passing rate of nursing graduates in the NLE. The respondents were 46 nursing graduates in PSU Bayambang Campus from 2008 to 2012 who took the NLE for the past three years. It sought to

find answers to the following questions: 1) What is the profile of the nursing graduates in terms of age, sex, educational attainment of parents and economic status? 2) What is the individual passing mark of the respondents in the NLE by subject area? 3) What are the factors affecting the performance of nursing students in the NLE in terms of family factors, social factors and study habits? and 4) Is there a significant relationship between the identified factors influencing the performance during NLE and the individual passing rate of nursing graduates.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Descriptive method of research was used to determine the different factors that influence the passing rate of nursing graduates in the NLE. According to Polit and Beck (2008), this method describes the nature of the phenomena under investigation after survey of current trends, practices, and conditions that relate the phenomena. The subjects of the study were 46 nursing graduates in PSU Bayambang Campus who passed or failed in the NLE from 2010 to 2012. The researchers made use of a questionnaire in gathering the data. The questionnaire was composed of three parts: the first part deals with demographic profile; the second part is the percentage result by subject area of the nursing graduates; and the third part is about the factors that influence their passing rate in the NLE. The researchers made a letter to the respondents to secure their consent to be part of the study. For the nursing graduates who are working abroad, the questionnaire was uploaded in the Facebook account PSU-Institute of Nursing Alumni. The purpose and the contents of the questionnaire were carefully explained to the respondents to allow greater understanding and ensure accuracy of data.

To answer problems one and two, frequency counts and percentages were used. Average weighted mean (AWM) was

used to answer problem number three while Likert scale was used to describe the factors that may affect performance of the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the data gathered with the corresponding analysis and interpretation. The manner of presentation is in accordance with the statement of the problem.

Table 1 Profile of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (p)
Age		
20-22 y/o	25	54.35%
23-25 y/o	18	39.13%
26 years old and above	3	6.52%
Total	46	100%
Gender		
Male	20	43.48%
Female	26	56.52%
Total	46	100%
Educational Attainment of Father		
Elementary Graduate	1	2.17%
Elementary	1	2.17%
Undergraduate		
High School Graduate	10	21.74%
High School		
Undergraduate		
Vocational	8	17.39%
College Graduate	19	41.30%
College Undergraduate	4	15.22%
Total	46	100%
Highest Educational Attainment of Mother		
Elementary Graduate		
Elementary	1	2.17%
Undergraduate		
High School Graduate	6	13.04%
High School	1	2.17%
Undergraduate		
Vocational		
College Graduate	34	73.91%
College Undergraduate	4	8.17%
Total	46	100%
Economic Status		
Php. 20,001 & above	18	39.13%
Php. 15,001-20,000	11	23.91%
Php. 10,001-15,000	6	13.04%
Php.5,001-10,000	6	13.04%
Php.5,000 and below	5	10.87%
Total	46	100%

Table 1 shows that most of the respondents are within the age bracket of 20-22 years old with the frequency of 25 or 54.35% while the age bracket 26 and above has the lowest rate of 6.52%. On gender, 26 or 56.52% are females, while only 20 or 43.48% are males. As to the educational attainment of the fathers of the respondents, most of them are college graduates with frequency of 19 or 41.30%. It is worthy to note that none of the fathers is a high school graduate and there is only one elementary undergraduate. With respect to educational attainment of mothers, there are 34 or 73.19% who are college graduate, one or 2.17% is an elementary graduate and there is also one high school undergraduate and vocational graduate. In terms of the monthly family income, 18 of the respondent or 39.13% have a monthly family income of Php. 20,001 and above while five or 10.87% have an income of Php. 5,000 and below.

The results indicate that many nursing graduates in PSU Bayambang are 20-22 years old and are predominantly female. The findings above is the same with the findings of the National Statistical Coordination Board (2004-2005) statistic on "Enrolment of Women and Men by Discipline Groups, Sex and Year", which revealed that there were 302,758 women enrolled in medical and allied education wherein 14, 271 are men. This also indicates that nursing is a female dominated program. It shows that the fathers of the respondents value higher degree of education to improve security, demand and forthcoming family necessities. Same is through with mothers of the respondents, majority also value education and are capable of guiding and teaching their children in their pursuit of higher education and most of the families are also capable of sustaining the needs of the family.

Table 2 Percentage Result of Nursing Graduates in Nursing Licensure Examination Per Subject Area

Subject	Frequency	Percentage
Fundamentals of Professional Nursing Practice		
Below 70		
71-73	5	10.87%
74-76	3	6.52%
77-79	17	36.96%
80-82	16	34.78%
83-85		
86 and above	1	2.17%
Total	46	100%
Community Health Nursing & Care of Mother and Child		
Below 70		
71-73		
74-76	9	19.57%
77-79	10	21.74%

80-82	17	36.96%
83-85	9	19.57%
86 and above	1	2.17%
Total	46	100%

**Care of Clients with
Physiologic and
Psychosocial
Alterations**

Below 70		
71-73		
74-76	5	10.87%
77-79	14	30.43%
80-82	16	34.78%
83-85	9	19.57%
86 and above	2	4.35%
Total	46	100%

**Care of Clients with
Physiologic and
Physiologic and
Psychosocial
Alterations**

Below 70		
71-73	1	2.17%
74-76	8	17.39%
77-79	15	32.61%
80-82	15	32.61%
83-85	6	13.04%
86 and above	1	2.17%
Total	46	100%

**Care of Clients with
Physiologic and
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Below 70	1	2.17%
71-73		
74-76	9	19.57%
77-79	16	34.78%
80-82	17	36.96%
83-85	3	6.52%
86 and above		
Total	46	100%

rating of 86 and above in Part C. These results imply that most of the graduates have difficulty in the exam, since most of graduates got a rating of 77-82 on the different parts of the exam.

Table 3 Factors Influencing Passing Rate of PSU Nursing Graduates in the NLE

A. Family Factors	AWM	Interpretation
1.Encouragement of family members in passing the exam	4.46	Highly Influential
2. Provide an event conducive to the review	4.09	Influential
3. Conflict among family members during review	3.89	Influential
4. Financial problems of the family	3.57	Influential
5. Family member support	3.54	Influential
Overall Weighted Mean	3.91	Influential
B. Social Factor		
1.Belief and expectation from friends	4.59	Highly Influential
2. Motivation from friends, instructor, neighbor and other relation	4.53	Highly Influential
3.Pressure from the school rating	4.09	Influential
4. Pressure from the IN instructors and faculty from colleges	3.85	Influential
5.The effect of having harmonious relationship	3.65	Influential
Overall Weighted Mean	4.14	Influential
C. Study Habits		
1.Praying regularly before the review	4.80	Highly Influential
2.Having enough rest and sleep before review	4.78	Highly Influential
3.Following a study habit pattern	4.74	Highly Influential
4. Observing proper stress management/ recreational/ unwinding activities like watching TV or movies before review	4.67	Highly Influential
5.Using mnemonic and coding	4.43	Highly Influential
6.Joining group review	4.07	Influential
Overall Weighted Mean	4.58	Highly Influential

It can be gleaned from the table that 17 or 36.96% of the respondents have a rating ranging from 77-79, on FPNP. On CHN and CMC, 17 or 36.96 % have a rating ranging from 80-82. In the Part A of the exam, 16 or 34.78% have a rating of 80-82; for Part B, 15 or 32.61% got a rating of 77-79 and 80-82; while for Part C, 17 or 36.96% got a rating 80-82 and 16 or 34.78% got a rating of 77-79. It is also worthy to note that of the 46 respondents, only one or two got a rating of 86 and above on the different parts of the exams, and there is none who got a

This implies that the expectation of the family member in their passing of board exam is very important to them. As a whole, family factors were considered influential by the nursing graduates in their performance to the NLE. Along social factors, motivation from friends, instructors, neighbors and other relations are highly influential to their performance. This may mean that relatives, friends and other significant people of the nursing graduates are a source of challenges and inspiration to them which made them aim high and do their best during the NLE. On study habits, praying regularly before the review was highly influential to them.

Table 4 Relationship between Identified Factors Influencing the Passing rate during Nursing Licensure Examination and the Percentage Result of Nursing Graduates

Variables	r-value	Interpretation
Family factor	-0.009	Not significant
Study Habits	0.202	Not significant
Social factor	0.042	Significant

**Tabled value
of $r = 0.05$**

Family factor have “negligible relationship” as indicated by the computed value of r which is -0.009. Although the study habits have a high degree of correlation, the r revealed the lesser value of 0.202 which means that there is no significant relationship with their passing rate during the NLE. The other variables are highly related with their individual passing rate as indicated by their respected computed r value. This variable and the corresponding coefficient of correlation is Social factor (0.042) which clearly implies that only social factors directly affected the passing rate during the NLE.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The profile of the respondents encompasses that most of the respondents belong to the age bracket of 20-22 years old and majority of them are female. Most of their parents re college graduates with an estimated monthly income of Php. 20,001 and above. Most of the respondents excel in Fundamentals of Professional Nursing Practice, Community Health Nursing and Care of the Mother and Child and Care of Clients with Physiological and Psychosocial alterations (Part C). Family factors and study habits are not influential on the passing rate of the nursing graduates. Social factors have a significant relationship and are most influential during the performance of the nursing graduates in taking the NLE.

On the light of the conclusions, the researchers recommend that nursing schools must give priority on male nursing graduates during admission to match the quantity of female nursing graduate. Review centers in the Institute of Nursing as well as the nursing graduates should be more focused on Care of Clients with Physiological and Psychosocial Alterations

(Part A), and Care of Clients with Physiological Alterations (Part B); during their review to enhance the nursing graduates’ knowledge on the said areas and increase the passing percentage on these subject areas. Institute of Nursing and clinical instructors should come up with a review program. The significant others, instructors and colleagues must limit their expectations and pressures to the nursing’ graduates to limit anxiety and be more focused on the review.

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