

Humanistic Insights of Korean Nursing Students

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research study investigated the humanities insights of Korean nursing students. Participants in this study were 184 nursing students. Data were collected from November 1 to 7, 2024. The humanities insight score of nursing students was 3.34 out of 5 points. History had the highest score in the field of the humanities. Various educational methods should be developed to foster the humanities insights necessary for nursing students to practice the essence of nursing.

Keywords: nursing students, humanities, insights.

INTRODUCTION

The humanities is an academic field that deals with human thought and culture and is ultimately an academic discipline that studies humans [1]. Although humanities insights are not clearly defined socially, they refer to the degree of knowledge and interest in elements of humanities such as history, philosophy, and art. Assuming that the more you are exposed to literature and acquire more knowledge, the stronger the humanities insights become [2].

As the humanities are emphasized in medical education, doctors who are well-versed in scientific medicine and mature as cultured individuals are required [3]. Additionally, in nursing, in response to the demand for nurses' humanities insights, the Korean Accreditation Board of Nursing Education established humanities and social sciences as essential basic subjects for nursing, along with natural sciences [4]. This was to enable understanding and reflection on the roles of humans, society, and nurses and to acquire the capabilities of cultured individuals and professionals [5].

Education to cultivate humanistic insights is expanding because humanities start from deep reflection on society and a broad view of the world, so they should be incorporated into the medical field [6]. The cultivation of humanities insights increases communication and empathy skills and improves nurses' job performance ability [7].

This study aimed to evaluate nursing students' humanities insights and provide essential data for setting the humanistic direction needed for future nursing education.

METHODS

Study Design

This was a descriptive research study that investigated the humanities insights and abilities of Korean nursing students.

Participants and Data Collection

The participants in this study were 184 second-year nursing students from two urban areas of Korea. Data were collected from November 1 to 7, 2024. The questionnaire comprised a structured form.

The study's purpose and methodology were explained to participants before distributing the questionnaire to uphold ethical standards. Only those who voluntarily participated and provided written consent were included in the study.

Survey and Data Analysis

The questionnaire used in this study comprised 13 items. It includes four areas: reading, history, literature, philosophy, and arts. Kim (2014) [8] developed a tool for measuring humanities insights.

The questionnaire was a self-assessment of humanities insights, and the responses to the questions were measured on a five-point Likert scale, with 1 being "not at all" and 5 being "very much," with a higher score indicating a higher level of humanities insight. Collected data are presented as the mean and standard deviation.

RESULT

Score of Humanistic Insights of Nursing Students

The results showed that the total score for nursing students' humanities insights was 3.34 points (out of 5).

Reading insights were 2.82 points. Historical insights were 3.84 points, literary and philosophical insights were 3.82 points, and artistic insights were 2.89 points. The humanities area with the highest score was history, and the area with the lowest was reading (Table 1).

Table 1: Score of humanistic insights of nursing students

Items		Mean \pm SD
Reading insights		2.82 \pm 0.89
1	I read at least one book per month in the humanities (history, philosophy, literature, etc.).	3.02 \pm 0.84
2	I like discussing humanities topics (history, philosophy, literature, etc.) with my friends.	2.82 \pm 0.69
3	I like writing about humanities (history, philosophy, literature, etc.).	2.62 \pm 0.52
historical insights		3.84 \pm 0.92
4	I have at least one event in the flow and events of history (Korean history, world history, etc.) that interests me.	3.88 \pm 0.86
5	I can tell other individuals about those events in history	3.80 \pm 0.94
literature & philosophical insights		3.82 \pm 0.86
6	I know at least one philosopher, whether Western or Eastern.	3.86 \pm 0.86
7	I can tell others a lot about that philosopher and the philosophy he advocates.	3.80 \pm 0.84
8	I know at least one famous Western or Korean literary work.	3.83 \pm 0.82
9	I can tell others about that work quite a bit.	3.80 \pm 0.80
artistic insights		2.89 \pm 0.74

10	I have sufficient knowledge and can talk about the movements in art history, such as Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Expressionism, and Cubism.	2.88±0.72
11	I visit art exhibitions at least twice a year.	2.84±0.76
12	I can talk a lot about the history of music, including Baroque and Rococo music.	2.92±0.72
13	I attend music performances at least twice a year.	2.90±0.76
Total		3.34±0.60

DISCUSSION

This study aimed to determine the level of humanistic insights in nursing students and to help establish the humanistic direction required for nursing education.

As a result of this study, the average score of humanistic insights of nursing students was 3.34, higher than the 2.67 points in the study conducted by Hong (2017) [9] using the same measurement tool. It also scored higher than the 2.48 points in the study conducted by Ha & Jeon (2016) [5] targeting nurses.

South Korea's nursing education curriculum can explain these results. According to the accreditation standards of the Korean Institute of Nursing Education Evaluation, the nursing college education program in Korea must include at least eight credits for humanities and social sciences as the significant basic subjects when composing the curriculum and at least 25 credits for liberal arts subjects are required [1]. Therefore, this appears to be the result of the nursing education curriculum, which has changed since the government-approved nursing education accreditation evaluation was attempted in 2013. Students' humanistic insight scores have greatly improved because of the application of the curriculum for more than 10 years. Therefore, increasing the proportion of humanistic participants in the nursing curriculum could increase humanistic insights.

This study is significant because it explored humanistic insights into nursing, which are essential in occupations caring for others, especially in individual-centered academic fields. It can be considered that various activities to increase humanistic insights to have the essence of nursing, respect for humanity, and the mindset as a nurse can affect nursing workability. Humanistic insights should be continuously promoted through extracurricular activities and operating subjects to expand humanistic insights into nursing education.

One limitation of this study is that the tool used to measure humanistic insights was not developed for nursing college students, limiting the interpretation of the research results. However, follow-up studies should be conducted to confirm these findings. In future studies, we will propose the development of a humanities measurement tool for nursing students. Additionally, because the results were obtained by randomly selecting participants from one university, caution is needed when expanding the application of the research results.

CONCLUSION

The humanities insight score of nursing students was 3.34 out of 5. Measures should be taken to foster the humanities insights that are necessary for nursing students to practice the essence

of nursing. Creating an educational environment to improve humanities insights and implement various educational programs that apply teaching and learning methods is essential.

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