



An ethnographical study on the academic experiences of Chinese male nursing students



Zenobia C.Y. Chan*, Ying-Tung Chan, Ho-Zhi Yu, Yat-Fung Law, Wai-Ming Woo, Chun-Tung Lam

School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Accepted 29 August 2013

Keywords:
Anthropology
Life experience
Male student
Nursing education

ABSTRACT

Because there have been very few recent studies focusing on the nursing studies of Chinese male learners in Hong Kong, this paper reports some findings on the educational experiences of such students from a local university, giving them a chance to voice out their concerns and express their feelings. In this qualitative ethnographical study, 18 second- to fourth-year male nursing students were recruited by purposive snowball sampling and invited to participate in individual semi-structured interviews for the collecting of data. The taped recordings were transcribed and translated. Following this, five themes were identified for content analysis. The findings of this study suggest that people would be more likely to accept male nurses; and male nursing students would be more able see their role as nurses with the acceptance of some feminine subjects in the nursing curriculum. This study provided male nursing students the chance to express their thoughts and experiences on nursing education, which will suggest further modifications to the curriculum design and implementation.

© 2013 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Introduction

Nursing in Hong Kong is dominated by females; however, as in most countries, Hong Kong has an increasing number of male students being admitted into nursing programmes, according to statistics from the [Hong Kong Department of Health \(2010\)](#). Noting that the percentage of males in nursing remains low, some studies have focused on the gender differences in nursing (e.g., [Stott, 2007](#); [Dyck et al., 2009](#); [Ali and Naylor, 2010](#)). [Neilson and Lauder \(2008\)](#) have also given some reasons for why high achievers in secondary school were hesitated to choose nursing programmes. However, since different regions have different cultures, the findings may not necessarily be applied to Hong Kong. For example, according to the Chinese traditional culture, Hong Kong people see sexual propriety as an important issue, in which both genders should not be too intimate ([Higgins et al., 2002](#)). Thus, this study aims to examine the experiences of the male nursing students on the nursing curriculum.

Background

The studies mentioned above presented conflicting ideas about the educational experiences of males with regard to nursing. [Ali and Naylor \(2010\)](#) and [Shulruf et al. \(2011\)](#) showed that female nursing students out-do males in this area. [Alkhasawneh et al. \(2008\)](#), [Tait et al. \(2008\)](#), and [Yuan et al. \(2012\)](#) mentioned that there are insignificant differences between the study preferences of the two genders. However, the difference in achievement may be the result of different study preferences between males and females ([Kelly et al., 2009](#); [James et al., 2011](#)). Moreover, [Dyck et al. \(2009\)](#) revealed that males were more active and assertive in class. Males were also more likely to be the recipients of negative comments than females ([Stott, 2007](#)). All of these insights from various studies may perhaps also apply to Hong Kong, although with some differences.

There are few recent empirical studies on the academic experiences of Chinese male student nurses. The lecture format, the anxiety levels of students, and their performance in college were discussed ([Shiu et al., 2012](#)). [Lui et al. \(2008\)](#) focused on the issue of the professional nursing conduct of baccalaureate student nurses. In fact, the academic experience of the male learners was being neglected. Our research is part of a larger study exploring the educational experiences of Chinese male nursing students who have been admitted to the nursing programme of a local institution.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +852 2766 6426; fax: +852 2364 9663.

E-mail addresses: zenobia.chan@polyu.edu.hk, hszchan@inet.polyu.edu.hk (Z.C.Y. Chan), 09500023D@connect.polyu.hk (Y.-T. Chan), 09571151D@connect.polyu.hk (H.-Z. Yu), 09603976D@connect.polyu.hk (Y.-F. Law), 09541644D@connect.polyu.hk (W.-M. Woo), 09602722D@connect.polyu.hk (C.-T. Lam).

Table 1
Characteristics of the participants.

	Male nursing students (n = 18)	
	Mean (SD)	n (%)
Year of study		
2		1 (5.56%)
3		14 (77.78%)
4		3 (16.67%)
Age	22.94 (1.59)	
Specialties attended		
Medical and surgical units		18 (100%)
Paediatrics		12 (66.7%)
Community nursing service		11 (61.1%)
Obstetrics		17 (94.4%)
Accident and emergency		4 (22.2%)
Operating theatre		4 (22.2%)
Geriatrics		12 (66.7%)
Oncology		1 (5.6%)
Psychiatry		3 (16.7%)
Orthopaedics		3 (16.7%)
Days of clinical placement	88 (45.25)	
No. of participants with relatives as healthcare providers		10 (55.6%)

Methods

Design

A qualitative study applying ethnographical design is suitable for describing the many experiences of the participants, as it emphasizes experiencing and familiarizing oneself with the society and culture of the participants (Chan and Chan, 2010; Lam and Chan, 2011b). In addition, under a naturalistic paradigm, the participants were in a non-manipulated environment. We could also flexibly refine the interview questions when directly interacting with different participants (Lam and Chan, 2011a).

Ethical approval processes

Prior to conducting any kind of research, ethical consideration should be acknowledged. This research has been approved by the Human Subjects Ethics Sub-Committee of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Before starting an interview, the participants were given with a set of consent form and information sheet with thorough explanation on the content of the study, so as to ensure that they had complete understanding on it. Afterwards, the participants signed the consent form and were requested for the permission of audio-recording during interview by describing its research use and ensuring no publication of personal information. Then, the interview began. To ensure participants' privacy, interviews were conducted in separated rooms. Since the recordings would be transcribed into verbatim, to preserve confidentiality, the verbatim were coded by specific terms that were not related to the identity of participants. Only researchers had the authority to access the data collected. Additionally, the data were stored in locked cupboard under strict confidentiality.

Participants and data collection

Eighteen male full-time second to fourth-year nursing undergraduate students with at least 35 days of clinical placements were invited by purposive snowball sampling (Table 1). Individual semi-structured interviews were conducted after the students were informed with the objectives of this study and confidentiality. Informed consents were given prior to their participation. In each

Table 2
Interview guide for the semi-structured interviews.

1. Tell me your experiences when studying the nursing curriculum.
2. Do you have any relatives currently working in the nursing industry? Did they influence you in your decision to study nursing?
3. What are your perceptions about males study nursing? Were there any changes to your perceptions after you started studying nursing?
4. What are the factors that support males in studying nursing or hinder them from doing so?
5. What comments have you received from family members or peers regarding your decision to study nursing?
6. What changes in the perception of male nurses have you noticed in your family members or peers during the course of your study?
7. What aspect(s) of the nursing curriculum are suitable or unsuitable for both genders?
8. What areas of difficulty or ease have you encountered during your nursing studies when compared with female classmates?

interview, two interviewers met with one participant in a classroom for about an hour. The first interviewer was the main person who interviewed the participant, whereas the other one helped to make clarification on the content with the interviewee, so as to avoid any misinterpretation. An eight-question interview guide (Table 2) was used to recall and recount the participants' experiences with the nursing curriculum.

Data analysis

With the permission of the participants, the interviews were digitally recorded to boost the accuracy of transcription. To augment the credibility, all researchers carried out peer checking on all of the transcripts by reading through them, followed by the translation of the transcript from Cantonese into Chinese, and then into English. Employing content analysis, the narratives were then coded by units. After the transcripts had been analysed several times, each narrative with a consensus rating of 0.6 was then selected and reviewed to guarantee confirmability (Waltz et al., 2005; Zhang and Wildemuth, 2009). This approach helped to ensure that the relevant narratives were depicted in an objective and logical manner (George, 2009). Tables 3 and 4 refer to the coding sample and process of arranging the narratives into themes. To enhance the trustworthiness of this study, data saturation was reached without any new themes or ideas emerging after completing the 18 interviews. All data were checked by the supervisor and then reviewed by the research team, thus accentuating the credibility, transferability, confirmability, and dependability of the study.

Results

Five main themes were constructed from the data analysis: factors influencing the choice of nursing; nursing in society's eyes; male students' voices in nursing; the need for gender sensitivity in the nursing curriculum; and areas of difficulty or ease encountered in the nursing curriculum.

Theme 1: factors influencing the choice of nursing

Summarizing the findings, three elements were found to have contributed towards the decision made by male students to enter nursing: "a good and stable income", "satisfactory prospects", and "a professional title".

Good prospects and a satisfactory and stable salary could be the motives for males to study nursing, although a professor told us

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/366948>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/366948>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)