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Професійний статус медичних сестер у контексті соціального сприйняття

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Professional status of nurses in the context of social perception

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Introduction

High-quality services form the core of responsibility towards the public. The more expertise required to deliver a service, the greater the society's dependence on those who deliver it. The general lay public perceives the health-care system as a service provided to the public and is one of the key values of society. This attitude is also associated with the perception of the nursing profession as a prestigious one. It belongs to important professions despite the fact that the status of a nurse in society is not being strengthened and it is not being given the due respect it deserves. The lay public often has distorted information about the work of a nurse, perceiving them only as assistants or doctor's assistants. Even the nurses themselves, by their actions and approach to the patients, influence the opinion of lay people about the nursing profession. Politeness, empathy, professional demeanour, professional knowledge, neat appearance and positive attitude towards one's own occupation influence the evaluation of the profession. A nurse has an irreplaceable place in health care and becomes a superior worker. However, they are constantly "observed" by patients. The prerequisites for performing the function of a nurse are personal maturity, internal stability, and high frustration tolerance. The practice of the nursing profession requires several specific prerequisites that go beyond professional knowledge and technical skills. Key ones include sensorimotor skills such as manual dexterity and physical agility, aesthetic prerequisites such as a sense of neatness of one's own appearance and the aesthetics of the healthcare environment, as well as intellectual skills, which involve analytical thinking and the ability to make decisions in dynamically changing situations. Equally important are social competencies, including an empathetic approach, a positive orientation towards people, and the regulation of verbal and nonverbal expressions, self-regulatory skills such as self-discipline and adaptability, and finally communication skills, which include active listening, the ability to remain silent effectively, or summarize essential information. The nurse should

use all of these competencies to protect the patient from informational and social isolation [1].

Development of legislative changes in nursing education

The Slovak Republic embarked on a path of economic, political, social, and societal changes after 1989. In 1990, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the Principles of Reform of the Structure, Management and Financing of Health Care, which began the process of changes in the Slovak health care system [2]. A significant step towards improving the status of nursing in Europe was the Munich Declaration, which was signed by 48 ministries from the European Region in 2000. The Declaration commits governments to ensuring that nurses and midwives can work independently and at the same time interdependently with a qualified professional [3]. Laws on initial and higher education, as well as on continuing education, are also of great importance for changes in nursing education. The goal of nursing education is quality, which should always be achieved. It is important to promote one's skills and knowledge into clinical practice, as intelligence without ability and will is meaningless and not valued [4].

Legislative changes lead to a formation of autonomous, inventive, creative, self-confident and educated professional nurses who will not only be recipients of changes, but also their generators, implementers of positive and progressive change and rational opponents of negative changes in nursing. The National Nursing Development Plan has defined priorities in nursing in the Slovak Republic and in the international context. The basic principles and program are based on an understanding of the work of nurses in providing for the health and nursing needs of a person. The above priorities, defined in the National Nursing Development Plan, are in line with the overall strategy for the development of the health of citizens of the Slovak Republic and the acceptance of Slovak nursing at the international level [2].

The most important activities that influence nursing and the role of nurses in it are: WHO programs and resolutions focused on nursing and nursing education, international conferences on nursing, of which the Alma-Ata conference (1978), the First International Nursing Conference in Sweden (1989), the symposium in Poland (1993), and the Fifth International Conference in Iceland (1996) are of great importance [3]. An important document for nursing is the Munich Declaration of June 2000, Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005. The six reform laws No. 576-581 of 2004 are the starting point for encouraging changes in nursing.

Changes in nursing were also stimulated by amendments to the aforementioned laws and relevant regulations of the Government of the Slovak Republic, decrees of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, and professional guidelines published in the gazettes of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic. The scope of a nurse's activities in patient care is defined by the function of the law in nursing; this function of the law also differentiates the responsibility of healthcare workers for the care provided, helps to comply with standards of nursing practice, and determines the degree of responsibility of a nurse before the law.

The development and use of standard terminology are one of the essential features of the nursing profession in the 21st century. Just as the medical association fights assertively for the rights and status of the physician, so too must the nursing association patiently fight for the rights of its members [5]. Based on the above legislative changes, professional guidelines and strengthening the position of nurses in the legal system, it can be stated that nursing in the Slovak Republic has undergone significant development towards greater professionalization, standardization and recognition of nurses' competencies.

Despite systemic progress, the societal perception of the nursing profession not only lags behind its evolving reality but fails to reflect the current demands placed on nurses in everyday clinical practice. Consequently, it is necessary to examine more closely how public opinion and media image influence the current status of the nursing profession, as well as the impact of these perceptions on nurses themselves, their professional identity, self-confidence, and the attractiveness of the profession for future generations.

Public opinion and media image of the nursing profession in the 21st century

The nursing profession represents a key pillar of the healthcare system, whose importance goes beyond technical care and reflects a complex combination of scientific knowledge, ethical principles, and psychosocial competencies. Modern nursing is formed on the basis of a multidisciplinary approach, which requires continuous education, a high degree of professional autonomy, and ability to make independent decisions in clinical practice. Despite these aspects, the perception of nurses in the eyes of the general public often remains stereotypical

and insufficiently informed, which can negatively affect not only the social status of nurses but also public's trust in the care provided.

The reflection of the nursing profession in the media and social discourse plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and recognition of this profession, which is regulated at the European Union level and considered one of the most challenging helping professions today. A nurse, as one of the helping professions, is a highly demanding occupation, not only physically and mentally, but also in terms of preparation for the profession and mastery of professional performance. Continuous education is essential [6]. Each of us is a potential patient, so many people are sensitive to what is happening in the healthcare system. It is important that people trust those they will rely on in case of need. Public trust in the nursing profession depends on the responsible behaviour of nurses. They also add that nurses who put patient's interests first deserve recognition and respect.

Nursing is defined as a service to man; therefore, its practitioners are perceived as servants in the eyes of both patients and doctors. This view is very limited. It does not recognize the education, the autonomy of nurses, it only includes their duties, subordination and obedience, not their rights. It is undeniable that nursing is primarily a service, but it is necessary to look at it from other perspectives as well. Experience shows that the lay public does not have enough information about the constantly increasing demands placed on the personal, educational, professional and moral qualities of those performing the nursing profession. Public opinion is significantly influenced by the media, which often leads to misconceptions or distortions about the profession and competencies of nurses [2].

The image of a nurse can be narrowed down to a physician's assistant, or a woman who makes phone calls, drinks coffee, flirts with doctors, and occasionally administers medication. On the other hand, nurses are seen as educated professionals, practical women who can handle anything. People still wonder why the profession is no longer the exclusive domain of women, as it once was. The most realistic picture is formed during personal interaction with the nurse. Their demeanour, appearance, manner of communication, and ability to establish contact indicate what they are really like. Often patients/clients cannot assess nurses' professional knowledge, but their attitude, nursing skills, communication, friendly expression and neat appearance, respect for privacy, and trustworthiness contribute to shaping the image of nurses.

Research methodology

In nursing practice, the position of a nurse is based on scientific knowledge and reliability in providing nursing care. Experts characterize the status of a nurse as being acquired through education and lifelong study. Given this, a purpose of the research was to approach the issue of the perception of the nursing profession by general public. *Based on the research objective, we had set sub-objectives:*

- To determine the difficulty of the nursing profession.
- To map public expectations of the nursing profession.
- To examine whether a personal acquaintance with an individual practicing the profession of a nurse affects the perception of the professional demands of nursing practice by general public.

- To analyse whether there is a statistically significant relationship between gender of respondents and their assessment of the difficulty of the general nurse profession.

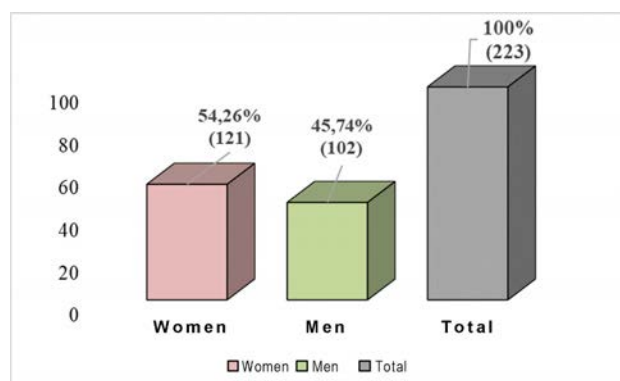
- To determine how the subjective perception of the nursing care provided by a nurse influences public's assessment of the professional demands of the nursing profession. Public expectations of the nursing profession;

Data analysis methods

The research group consisted of members of the general public who met the predetermined entry criteria. Respondents aged 18 and over who were able to independently complete the questionnaire and provide informed consent to participate in the research were included. Inclusion criteria were also the ability to understand the content of the questions and willingness to cooperate during data collection. Respondents were selected through random sampling, ensuring adequate representativeness of the sample with respect to the target population and research objectives. Descriptive statistics methods were applied to analyse the obtained data, which allowed identifying the basic characteristics of the research group and the frequency distributions of the variables. Data processing was carried out using Microsoft Office 2016 spreadsheet software. The research hypotheses were verified using Pearson's chi-square test of independence, suitable for analysing relationships between nominal and ordinal variables. Statistical significance was assessed based on the calculated p-value at a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$.

Demographic data

We divided the respondents based on several criteria: gender, age structure, and educational structure.



Graph 1. Gender of respondents

102 (45.74%) men and 64 (54.26%) women participated in the research.

We found out the age of the respondents through research. The largest age group among respondents was 36 to 55 years, comprising 108 individuals (48.43%), 48 respondents (21.53%) were over 56 years old, 42 respondents (18.83%) were aged 18 to 25, and the smallest group consisted of 25 respondents (11.21%) aged 26 to 35 (Table 1).

Table 1

Age of respondents		
	n	%
18 to 25 years	42	18,83
26 to 35 years	25	11,21
36 to 55 years	108	48,43
56 years and older	48	21,53
total	223	100

Regarding the educational structure, 21 respondents (9.42%) have completed primary education, 115 respondents (51.57%) have completed secondary education, and 87 respondents (39.01%) have completed university education (Table 2).

Table 2

Respondents' education		
	n	%
primary education	21	9,42
secondary education	115	51,57
university education	87	39,01
total	223	100

Results

Based on theoretical knowledge, main and partial objectives, we had set the following hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1. We assume that a personal acquaintance with an individual practicing the profession of nurse has a statistically significant effect on the perception of the professional demands of nursing practice by the general public.

When analysing the relationship between personal acquaintance of a person with the profession of nurse and the assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the general public, a statistically significant difference was found. The value of Pearson's chi-square $\chi^2 = 15.420$ is higher than the established critical value of 3.84 for 1 degree of freedom, which expresses the dependence between the variables. The calculated p value of 8.60722E-05 is well below the significance level of 0.05, which allows us to reject the null hypothesis and confirm that personal acquaintance with a nurse influences general public's perception of the difficulty of this profession. The results suggest that people who are personally acquainted with an individual practicing nursing have a better awareness of the true demands of this profession. Direct contact allows individuals to

Table 3

The relationship between a personal acquaintance with an individual practicing the nursing profession and the lay public's assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession

observed frequencies o			
perception of the demands of the nursing profession	the presence of personal acquaintance with an individual practicing the nursing profession		
difficulty of the profession	yes	no	total
demanding	50	89	139
undemanding	10	74	84
total	60	163	223
expected frequencies n			
perception of the demands of the nursing profession	the presence of personal acquaintance with an individual practicing the nursing profession		
difficulty of the profession	yes	no	total
demanding	37,399	101,60	139
undemanding	22,60	61,399	84
total	60	163	223
p value		8,60722E-05	
χ^2		15,420	
df		1	

Table 4

Perception of the demands of the nursing profession by the lay public, by gender

observed frequencies o			
variables	assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the general public		
gender	demanding	undemanding	total
women	54	67	121
men	85	17	102
total	139	84	223
expected frequencies n			
variables	assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the general public		
gender	demanding	undemanding	total
women	75,421	45,578	121
men	63,578	38,421	102
total	139	84	223
p value		2,80739E-09	
χ^2		35,313	
df		1	

better understand the technical, physical and psychological aspects of nursing work, thereby reducing the risk of biased or simplified assessments. The level of awareness and experience with the real working conditions of nurses are therefore key factors influencing the perception of professional burden.

Hypothesis. 2 We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the gender of respondents and their assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession among the general public.

As part of the testing, we assumed that the gender of the respondents significantly influences the assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession. The hypothesis was verified using Pearson's chi-square test at a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ and degrees of freedom $df = 1$. The critical value of the test is 3.84, while the calculated value $\chi^2 = 35.313$ significantly exceeds it. Also, the p-value (2.80739×10^{-9}) is significantly lower than the established

significance level, confirming the statistical significance of the difference between the sexes. The observed frequencies suggest that men are more likely to consider nursing as a demanding profession, while women are more likely to rate it as undemanding. This result may be influenced by various factors, such as differences in experience, social roles, and perceptions of a workload. Men more often perceive nurses' work as demanding, while women rate it as less demanding, which may be related to their greater experience with healthcare and their perception of this work as a normal part of patient care. On the contrary, men, who encounter this profession less often, may reflect more on its physical and psychological burden, thus evaluating it as more demanding. Based on statistical analysis, we conclude that there is a significant difference in the assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession between men and women, with women evaluating it as less demanding compared to men.

Table 5

Subjective evaluation of the provided nursing care and the public's perception of the demands of the nurses' profession

observed frequencies o			
variables	assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the general public		
nursing care evaluation	demanding	undemanding	total
positive	114	38	152
neither positive nor negative	19	20	39
negative	6	26	32
total	139	84	223
expected frequencies n			
variables	assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the general public		
nursing care evaluation	demanding	undemanding	total
positive	94,744	57,255	152
neither positive nor negative	24,309	14,69	39
negative	19,946	12,053	32
total	139	84	223
p value		2,84623E-09	
χ^2		39,354	
df		2	

Hypothesis 3. We assume that there is a statistically significant relationship between the subjective perception of the nursing care provided by a nurse and the assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession by the lay public.

Hypothesis 3 assumed that there is a statistically significant relationship between subjective perception of nursing care provided and the lay public's assessment of the difficulty of the nursing profession. To verify this, we used Pearson's chi-square test at a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ and degrees of freedom $df = 2$. The critical value of the chi-square for this number of degrees of freedom is lower than the calculated value of $\chi^2 = 39.354$, which indicates the existence of a statistically significant dependence between the variables under investigation. Moreover, the obtained p-value (2.84623×10^{-9}) is significantly lower than the established significance level, which confirms the statistical significance of the observed relationship. Contingency Table 5 shows that respondents who perceived nursing care positively were more likely to rate nurses' work as demanding, while those who perceived it negatively were more likely to rate it as undemanding. This difference may be related to the fact that a positive experience allows for a better understanding of the complexity and burden of nurses' work, while a negative experience may lead to an underestimation of its demands.

Discussion

The nursing profession is often fully appreciated by those who have personally been in the position of a recipient of nursing care. Individuals without direct experience of nursing work often form their attitudes based on secondary sources, especially through media-mediated

images and persistent stereotypes. In such cases, the professional role of a nurse is often reduced to a subordinate position of a technical assistant to a doctor without autonomy and decision-making competences. This distorted view does not reflect the current development of the profession, which is characterized by a high degree of professional independence, competence maturity and responsibility [7]. Insufficient social recognition often results from lack of information and lack of contact with the current clinical reality of nursing [8]. Our research involved a gender-balanced sample of respondents, with a slight predominance of women. The most represented age group was middle-aged respondents, followed by older participants. The younger age category was represented to a lesser extent, with the lowest proportion being young adult respondents. In terms of educational structure, persons with secondary education dominated, while university-educated individuals represented a significant portion of the sample. Respondents with the lowest level of education formed only a marginal part of the research sample. A significant majority of respondents do not know a person practicing the profession of a nurse in their immediate environment, which indicates that their perception of this profession is largely mediated by social discourse or the media. A smaller proportion of research participants have a nurse in their close environment, which gives them a deeper understanding of this profession from direct experience.

The perception of the nursing profession by the lay public indicated a prevailing belief that it is extremely complex and demanding occupation with considerable responsibility. However, a smaller proportion of respondents considered it a profession that does not require excessive effort. The research results show that individuals' personal experience with nurses significantly

influences their perception of the professional demands of nursing practice. Respondents who are acquainted with a person practicing this profession were more likely to reflect on the complexity, responsibility, and burden associated with the practice of nursing. This finding points to the importance of authentic contact with healthcare personnel in forming a realistic image of nursing.

Another finding is that the gender of the respondents affects the way they perceive the demands of the nursing profession. Men more often attributed this job as being highly demanding, while women perceived it as less demanding. This difference may be due to diversity in social experiences, expectations or common cultural ideas about care work. A subjective evaluation of the provided nursing care also proved to be an essential factor. Respondents who had a positive experience with the approach and care of a nurse also perceived this profession as more demanding and complex. On the contrary, negative experiences contributed to a simplistic or underestimating view of the nurse's profession. These findings highlight the importance of nurses' professional behaviour in practice, as the quality of interaction with patients has the potential to influence public perception of their profession as a whole.

The profession of a nurse is a very demanding one; it is affected by high mental and physical demands, low evaluation by the public, difficult nursing studies and unfair financial evaluation. Work on shifts, weekends and holidays also plays its role. Thus, in the eyes of the lay public, the work of a nurse is assessed as a profession with very high demands. A nurse – a professional health worker, is fully responsible for the nursing care provided to patients. In order for it to be performed in a high-quality, responsible, and professional manner, it is determined by the psychological characteristics and personality traits of the nurse.

Each and every patient must feel human interest from the professional and need to trust them. They often find themselves in a situation where they are unable to respond to changes in their health status. In such a situation, the patient naturally looks for a person capable of providing them with help, empathy, understanding, calmness, willingness and kindness, a human approach [6].

Godsey and Hayes (2017) conducted research aimed at identifying determinants that contribute to the weakening of professional self-esteem and social status of the nursing profession. The study interviewed general nurses who pointed out several systemic and individual factors negatively affecting the perception of this profession. The most frequently identified areas included: non-standardized conditions of education, limited opportunities for developing leadership competencies, low levels of professionalism in some work contexts, insufficient and distorted media representation, weak emphasis on building a professional image, the influence of subjective patient experiences, inadequate behaviour by colleagues from other professions, and the presence of gender discrimination. These factors have been perceived

as significant barriers to the formation of a positive image and social acceptance of the nursing profession [9].

Overall, the results indicate that the perception of the difficulty of the nursing profession is determined by individual experiences, personality and sociocultural factors. To increase awareness of the professional reality of nurses, it is necessary to strengthen educational and media activities aimed at presenting the true nature and importance of their work. One of the most frequently perceived shortcomings in the work of nurses is the area of interpersonal contact and behaviour as considered by the general public. This phenomenon can be attributed to the fact that the general public generally does not have the knowledge necessary to objectively evaluate the professional aspects of the nursing profession – such as managing accurate and timely medical records, the implementation of doctor's offices, or solving internal organizational processes. As a result, the public's assessment of the quality of a nurse's performance often focuses on external and immediately observable manifestations, especially the manner of verbal and nonverbal interaction with the patient at various stages of nursing contact – from entering the clinic, during the examination, providing recommendations, to the end of the contact [10].

Šebeková states that the most frequent expressions of dissatisfaction and complaints that patients submit to the Health Care Supervision Authority concern the method of communication with patients and relatives at every level of health care, including nursing [11]. As stated by Plevová et al. (2011), one of the important competencies of a nurse is good communication skills. Proper communication on the part of a nurse helps to resolve even non-standard situations and is a professional skill of every nurse. This includes active and passive listening; the nurse shows that they understand the patient. They ask appropriate questions, encourage the patient to talk, must have a sincere smile, and show interest in the patient [12].

Our research shows that improving the position of nurses in society requires a comprehensive approach at all levels of management. Therefore, it would be necessary for nurses to actively participate in events to promote their profession, present their work in public, be appropriately proud of their profession, and engage in politics. They should be aware that one of the key factors influencing the perception of the general lay public is personal experience with the approach to the patient, to their needs. These factors are necessary to support and strengthen the professional identity and self-esteem of nurses. It is essential that the nursing community actively participates in shaping an authentic and professionally sound image of their profession in the social space. A systematic effort to positively present the professional competencies and importance of the nursing profession through the media, digital platforms, educational institutions, and public discourses represents a strategic tool for increasing its social prestige. Effective and dignified publicity is a key prerequisite for building public recognition, making professional value visible,

and increasing the attractiveness of the general nursing profession.

Prospects of further research

The prospects of further research involve the analysis of nurses' readiness to expand their competencies and continuously enhance their professional knowledge and skills.

Conclusions

The shortage of nurses is a serious global problem that impacts the quality and availability of healthcare. One of the identified determinants of this situation is the social and professional image of nurses, which significantly influences interest in the profession. The results of several research studies show that the social prestige and status of nursing play a key role in individuals' decisions about entering the nursing profession [13]. The perception of the profession as under-recognized or undervalued can directly influence young people's willingness to choose nursing as their professional career.

In this context, it is essential to emphasize that nurses are facing increasing demands and increasing responsibility – not only for the care provided and for the patients, but also for their own professional integrity and the development of nursing as an autonomous discipline. Nowadays, more and more demands are placed on the nurse. Therefore, it is necessary to look for ways to eliminate negative influences. Being a nurse is not easy these days. The constantly increasing demands of employers and patients and growing stress in the workplace, the lack or imprecision of competencies

and working conditions as such (time pressure, lack of personnel or material and technical equipment) and the complexity of interpersonal relationships – all of this causes the term “burnout syndrome” to be used more and more frequently in the nursing profession [14]. For a high-quality performance, in addition to the necessary professional theoretical knowledge and acquired skills, the nurse needs to have certain personal prerequisites. These predetermine the helping professional to perform their work with the necessary responsibility and quality and with a certain amount of prosociality and empathy [15].

Being a nurse is considered to be a very demanding and beautiful profession, or rather a mission. A profession is a job that is performed by a person – a professional, it is a subject of personal interest of a person who performs it regularly. To perform the work, one must have knowledge, i.e. education and of course personal prerequisites. On the other hand, the mission fulfills inner desires, enriches the inside of a person, it is a passion, a conviction, a good and the truest thing that one can selflessly give to another person. A mission fulfills a person. The knowledge, skills and professional competences of nurses often remain invisible in everyday routines. However, their importance comes to the fore, especially in situations of acute need, life-threatening conditions or serious illnesses, when patients and their families fully rely on the expertise, empathy and decisiveness of nurses. This profession can only be practised by those who, in addition to their professional training, also possess deep social sensitivity, ability to empathize and actively listen, are emotionally stable, and are willing to constantly be close to people in their vulnerability.

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Nursing is a demanding profession, and healthcare is seen as one of the key values of modern society. Despite the importance of this profession, its status in society is not always sufficiently appreciated.

Purpose. The aim of the paper is to analyse the perception of nurses' work by general public, focusing on aspects such as nurse-patient communication, social significance and contribution of the profession, required qualities of nurses, and the difficulty of their profession.

Materials and methods. An inductive statistics tool was used to test the hypotheses. We used the chi-squared independence test χ^2 test. We make the decision about the significance of the differences based on the calculated p-value and a significance level of 0.05.

Results. The research confirmed that the nursing profession is perceived mostly positively by the public, but the outdated view of the nurse as a physician's assistant persists. Personal acquaintance with a nurse increased the perception of the difficulty of their job, with women rating it as more difficult more often than men. Patient's subjective experience influenced the evaluation of the profession, with positive experiences leading to a higher appreciation of its demands.

Conclusions. Nursing is a dynamically developing profession that is constantly expanding its competencies and placing higher demands on professional knowledge and skills. Nurses' responsibility for patients, their own work and professional development is constantly increasing. Despite its demands, this profession remains an irreplaceable mission that requires not only professional preparation, but also a high level of empathy and willingness to help others.

Key words: status of nurses, nursing care, public, health care, professional competencies.

Професія медичної сестри є вимогливою, а охорона здоров'я сприймається як одна з ключових цінностей сучасного суспільства. Незважаючи на важливість цієї професії, її статус у суспільстві не завжди достатньо оцінений.

Мета дослідження: мета статті полягає в аналізі сприйняття роботи медсестер широким загалом, зосереджуючись на таких аспектах, як спілкування між медсестрою та пацієнтом, суспільне значення та внесок професії, необхідні характеристики медсестер та складність їхньої професії.

Матеріали та методи. Для перевірки гіпотез використовувався інструмент індуктивної статистики. Для перевірки гіпотез ми використали критерій незалежності χ^2 . Ми приймаємо рішення про значущість відмінностей на основі розрахованого значення p і рівня значущості 0,05.

Результати. Дослідження підтвердило, що професія медичної сестри сприймається суспільством переважно позитивно, але зберігається застарілий погляд на медичну сестру як на помічника лікаря. Особисте знання медсестри посилювало сприйняття складності її роботи, а жінки частіше, ніж чоловіки, оцінювали її як більш вимогливу. Суб'єктивний досвід пацієнта вплинув на оцінку професії, а позитивний досвід призвів до більш високого визнання її вимогливості.

Висновки. Медсестра – професія, що динамічно розвивається, постійно розширює свої компетенції та висуває підвищені вимоги до професійних знань і навичок. Відповідальність медсестер за пацієнтів, власну роботу та професійний розвиток постійно зростає. Незважаючи на вимогливість, ця професія залишається незамінною місією, яка вимагає не лише професійної підготовки, а й високого рівня співпереживання та бажання допомогти іншим.

Ключові слова: статус медичних сестер, сестринський догляд, публіка, охорона здоров'я, професійні компетенції.

Conflicts of interest: absent.

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