

00055 **Motivating Factors Influencing Career Choice Among Nursing Students in Singapore**

Vincent Lim¹, Violeta Lopez², Liaw Sok Ying²

¹Singapore General Hospital, ²National University of Singapore

Aims: The study aimed to explore motivational factors influencing career choice among undergraduate nurses in Singapore. There is no existing research on the motivational factors of undergraduate nurses in Singapore, and the current study contributes to these gaps.

Methodology: A cross-sectional design was employed, and convenience sampling was used to recruit 91 first year nursing students from the National University of Singapore.

Students completed an online questionnaire consisting of demographic questions and questions assessing motivation for choosing nursing. Demographic questions include gender, age, highest level of qualification, and whether nursing was their first choice of university course. Motivation for choosing nursing was assessed using the Healthcare Career Choice scale (HCC; Liaw et al., 2017). Additionally, prestige of university was explored as a potential motivating factor.

Result: Analyses of the mean scores revealed Personal Interest as the most influential motivating factor in choosing nursing as a career. Specifically, participants reported that they chose to join nursing because they were motivated by: (i) desire to help others, (ii) desire for a fulfilling career, and (iii) desire to make a difference in someone's life. Furthermore, the influence of Personal Interest on career choice was greater for older participants and diploma graduates. However, all 6 factors measured by the HCC scale, and prestige of university, were not significantly associated with students choosing nursing as their first course choice. This could be due to a restriction of range, in which all participants chose nursing within their top 3 course choices.

Conclusion: This study revealed intrinsic motivation, specifically, personal interest, as an important influential factor, especially for those with more maturity. This finding has implications for recruitment strategies of prospective nursing students and implications for education curriculum of incumbent nursing students in order to retain them in the nursing profession.