RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF THE GRADUATES OF MASTERS OF NURSING PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

The New millennium has arrived. After a decade of unprecedented change in both health care and higher education and prediction of more to come in future, we lead off the new millennium with a look at nursing education in the midst of this revolution.

Nursing Education and its quality which is evident from the academic achievement of Nursing students foretells the efficiency of services to be provided by these students. The critical need for nurses with additional preparation to work educational settings in supervisory and as clinical specialists and to fulfill the expanded and emerging role of nurse has resulted in the competent Masters preparation at the graduate level.

As a Nurse, for selection in the Masters Programme, a graduate should have the appropriate level of knowledge, attitude and skill. As a post-graduate of Nursing, will be having the authority, autonomy and recognition that shall accompany those responsibilities. She will be developing pride in nursing heritage that can be gleaned only by gaining an understanding of the Nurses who will help shaping the profession.

Thus, the selection of graduates at the Masters level of Nursing is very important for the community as well as for graduates themselves. Valid and appropriate eligibility criteria benefits graduates, the faculty of academic institutions, counsellors, curriculum planners, community and the nursing profession at large. Proper recruitment and selection of students is vital to maintain an ever higher caliber of nursing students [Tanega, 1993]. The Admission of proper graduates to the Masters programme of nursing is very essential issue to nursing educational administrators, because they are responsible and accountable to allow the right students to get selected.

Thus, the words Nurse and Nursing are pronounced with pride with higher academic qualifications like Masters Programme. If the Selection Criteria in the Master of Nursing Programme are valid & reliable, then only the Institutions can select proper students who really make the difference in Health Care.

Objective Of The Study

1. To determine the relationship between selection criteria scores and marks obtained in master of Nursing Programme for Master of Nursing students in terms of:
   - Total internal assessment of all the theory and practical papers.
   - Total university marks of all the theory and practical papers.
   - Grand total (internal assessment and university examination) marks of all theory and practical paper.
   - Internal assessment and university examination marks of each semester examination.
   - Internal assessment and university examination marks of all grouped subjects.

2. To determine the contribution selection criteria scores in the academic achievement scores of Master of Nursing students in different subjects.

Assumptions

This study assumes that:

- Admission eligibility criteria (A.E.C.) for master of Nursing course are basic to selection of applicants with the potential for academic success.
- Students’ personal records and university result sheet provide reliable data.

Methodology

On account of the nature of problem and to fulfill the objectives of the study, the Descriptive Correlational Survey approach was adopted.

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Setting of The Study
The study was conducted at the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing, University of Delhi, New Delhi.

Sample
The sample subjects comprised 146 Master of Nursing students of 10 years [1988–1997 admission year]. As the graduates left the college after successful completion, their records were relied upon for data.

Sampling Technique
The sampling technique was the Total Enumeration Technique.

Tools
A structured proforma for collecting data from records was developed, validated, tried out and reliability was established.

Data Analysis
Frequency and percentage were computed to describe the characteristics of the sample. Co-efficient of co-relation equation was employed to determine the relationship between the scores of selection scores of academic achievement. The multiple regression was computed to determine the contribution of selection criteria scores in the academic achievement scores of Master of Nursing students in different subjects. Co-efficient of determination and co-efficient of multiple determination were computed to estimate the percentage of the effect of one variable on the other.

Significant Findings
[A] There is a significant positive relationship between admission eligibility criteria scores and all the academic achievement scores of master of nursing students
[B] There is a significant negative relationship between the age, professional experience and academic achievement scores.
[C] The scores of admission eligibility criteria of master of nursing programme contributed and influenced significantly towards all the scores of achievement of master of nursing programme.

Implications of the study
[A] Uniform selection criteria for all students for the master of nursing course.
[C] A special remedial / enrichment programme and guidance -counseling service for the older group of students.

Recommendations of the Study
[A] A similar study may be conducted on a larger scale, replicated in a larger sample.
[B] A further study may be conducted covering more than one college of nursing course.
[C] A comparative study can be carried out to determine the academic achievements of graduates among different colleges of nursing.
[D] Further study can be undertaken to know the contribution of seven critical competencies like communication, creativity, explanation, motivation, planning, professionalism, and synthesis along with selection criteria scores on the academic achievement of graduates of the master of nursing course.
[E] A follow-up study can be done to compare the services provided by the graduates according to their individual level of academic achievement during the M.N. course.
[F] A study can be conducted by gathering opinion of the sample subjects (graduates) regarding their self-assessment on their academic achievement during the M.N. course along with record analysis.
[G] A comparative study can be undertaken to determine the level of academic achievement between male & female graduates of nursing in the M.N. course.
[H] A co-relational study may help to identify the relationship between the academic achievement and aptitude for nursing.
[I] A similar study can be carried out on different types of nursing students from various nursing programmes.