

Abstract

Original Article

Nursing Students' Attitudes Toward Research-Development: Does Taking Research Course Make a Difference?

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Objectives: To compare awareness of and attitudes to research and participation in research activities between nursing students taking a nursing research course and those not taking the course.

Methods: A quantitative descriptive-comparative study was conducted in a nursing department of a university in Aegean Region in Turkey between 16 November and 11 December 2015. Totally 860 students were enrolled the study. Of the 380 students took a research course, and 480 did not take course agreed to participate. No sample selection was performed. The participation rate was 60% (n:522).

Results: The mean age of the students was 20.72±0.95 years, 86.3% of the students were female (n=451). More than half (63.4%) of the students taking a research course and 34.5% of the nurses not taking it reported that they participated in a scientific meetings. A significantly higher rate of the students taking the course participated in scientific meetings ($\chi^2=43.12$, p=.000), involvement in a research activity ($\chi^2= 6.55$, p=.001), participated in research as a subject ($\chi^2=5.90$, p=.019) and collected data on behalf of a researcher ($\chi^2=5.99$, p=.016). The students taking the course got the total mean score 121.49±7.30 for the scale and the mean item score 4.19±0.53. Those not taking the course got the mean total score 120.25±6.6 for the scale and the mean item score 4.14±0.54. The former group of the students received higher scores for awareness of and attitudes to research without a significant difference (U=3.219; p:0.33).

Conclusions: Both groups of the students are similar in terms of their awareness of and attitudes to research and advances in nursing. However, a higher rate of the students taking a research course actively contributed to research by joining scientific meetings and research activities and collecting data for another researcher's study.

Keywords: Awareness, attitude, research, research course, nursing students.