



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE PERCEIVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND FACTORS AFFECTING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS OF VARIOUS COLLEGES OF MOHALI PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to assess the perceived learning environment and identify factors affecting academic performance among undergraduate nursing students in Mohali, Punjab. The study explores the influence of educational settings, student characteristics, and institutional factors on academic outcomes. By analyzing data from various colleges, this research seeks to provide insights that can enhance the learning environment and improve academic performance in nursing education.

KEYWORDS: Mohali Punjab, Educational Setting, Faculty Support, Institutional Resources, Clinical Practice.

I. INTRODUCTION

The learning environment in which students are immersed plays a pivotal role in shaping their educational experiences and academic performance. For undergraduate nursing students, this environment is crucial not only for their immediate academic success but also for their long-term professional development. In Mohali, Punjab, various colleges offer nursing programs, each with its own unique learning environment, which can significantly impact students' academic outcomes and overall satisfaction with their education. Understanding how these environments are perceived by students and identifying the factors that influence their academic performance is essential for improving educational practices and outcomes in nursing education.

Nursing education is inherently demanding, combining rigorous academic coursework with extensive practical training. The learning environment encompasses various elements including classroom settings, teaching methods, faculty support, clinical practice opportunities, and institutional resources. A positive learning environment is characterized by supportive faculty, adequate resources, and effective teaching strategies that together create a conducive atmosphere for learning. Conversely, deficiencies in these areas can hinder students' academic performance and professional preparedness. Therefore, assessing how nursing students perceive their learning environment can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of current educational practices and identify areas needing improvement.

The perceived learning environment affects students' academic experiences and performance in multiple ways. For instance, faculty support is a critical component; students who receive timely feedback and mentorship from their instructors are often more engaged and motivated, leading to better academic outcomes. Similarly, the availability of resources such as libraries, simulation labs, and clinical placements plays a significant role in facilitating learning and practical

experience. When students have access to these resources, they are better equipped to succeed academically and develop the necessary skills for their future careers. On the other hand, a lack of resources or inadequate clinical practice opportunities can adversely impact students' learning experiences and performance.

In Mohali, Punjab, the nursing colleges vary in terms of infrastructure, teaching methods, and resource availability, creating a diverse range of learning environments. This diversity makes it essential to evaluate the perceived learning environment across different institutions to understand how these variations influence students' academic performance. Additionally, factors such as personal motivation, study habits, and peer support also contribute significantly to academic success. Personal motivation drives students to set and achieve academic goals, while effective study habits and time management strategies are crucial for managing the demands of nursing education. Peer support provides an additional layer of encouragement and assistance, contributing to a more robust learning experience.

Previous research has demonstrated that a supportive and well-structured learning environment is linked to higher academic performance and student satisfaction. Studies have shown that nursing students who perceive their learning environment positively are more likely to excel in their studies and feel prepared for their professional roles. For example, effective teaching methods and a strong support system have been associated with improved academic outcomes and enhanced clinical skills. Conversely, a negative perception of the learning environment, characterized by insufficient faculty support or inadequate resources, can lead to lower academic performance and reduced student satisfaction.

In light of these considerations, this study aims to assess the perceived learning environment among undergraduate nursing students in Mohali and identify the key factors affecting their academic performance. By exploring students' perceptions of their learning environment, the study seeks to uncover areas where improvements can be made to enhance the educational experience and outcomes. Understanding these factors will help educational institutions implement strategies to create a more supportive and effective learning environment, ultimately leading to better academic performance and professional readiness among nursing students.

Moreover, this research will contribute to the broader understanding of how various elements of the learning environment impact nursing education. The findings can provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and administrators in designing and implementing interventions aimed at improving the learning environment and supporting student success. Addressing the identified issues will not only benefit the students but also contribute to the overall quality of nursing education in Mohali and beyond.

In assessing the perceived learning environment and factors affecting academic performance among undergraduate nursing students is a crucial step in enhancing educational practices and outcomes. By evaluating the various components of the learning environment and their impact on academic performance, this study aims to provide actionable insights that can lead to improvements in nursing education. Understanding these dynamics will enable educational institutions to better support their students and ensure that they are well-prepared for their future careers in healthcare.

II. PERCEIVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The perceived learning environment refers to how students view and experience their educational surroundings, encompassing various aspects that impact their learning and academic performance. Key elements include:

- **Faculty Support:** Students value regular feedback, approachable instructors, and mentorship, which significantly enhance their learning experience and academic success.
- **Teaching Methods:** Effective, engaging, and varied teaching strategies that cater to different learning styles contribute to a positive learning environment.

- **Classroom Conditions:** A well-organized, comfortable, and resource-equipped classroom environment supports better focus and learning.
 - **Clinical Practice Opportunities:** Access to practical training and hands-on experiences is crucial for nursing students to apply theoretical knowledge and develop clinical skills.
 - **Institutional Resources:** Availability of libraries, simulation labs, and learning materials enriches the educational experience and supports academic achievement.
 - **Peer Support:** Collaborative learning and a supportive peer network can boost motivation and provide additional help outside formal instruction.
 - **Student Engagement:** Opportunities for active participation, including discussions and group work, foster a more interactive and effective learning environment.
- Overall, students' perceptions of these factors collectively shape their educational experience and influence their academic performance and satisfaction.

III. FACTORS AFFECTING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Academic performance is influenced by a range of factors that can impact a student's ability to succeed. Key factors include:

- **Study Habits:** Effective study techniques, time management, and organizational skills are crucial for academic success. Students who develop strong study habits and adhere to a structured study schedule generally perform better.
 - **Faculty Support:** The availability of guidance, feedback, and mentorship from faculty members significantly affects academic outcomes. Supportive instructors who engage with students and address their concerns contribute to improved performance.
 - **Institutional Resources:** Access to resources such as libraries, laboratories, and technology enhances learning opportunities and supports academic achievement. Well-equipped institutions provide a more conducive environment for students to excel.
 - **Clinical Practice Opportunities:** For nursing students, practical experience through clinical placements is essential. Adequate and relevant clinical practice helps students apply theoretical knowledge and develop critical skills.
 - **Personal Motivation:** Intrinsic motivation and a clear sense of purpose drive students to set and achieve academic goals. High levels of motivation are linked to better engagement and performance.
 - **Study Environment:** A conducive study environment, free from distractions and equipped with necessary resources, supports effective learning and better academic results.
 - **Peer Support:** Positive interactions with peers, including study groups and collaborative projects, can enhance understanding and provide additional academic support.
 - **Health and Well-being:** Physical and mental health affect a student's ability to focus and perform academically. Stress, fatigue, and health issues can negatively impact academic performance.
 - **Family and Social Support:** Encouragement and support from family and social networks contribute to a student's overall well-being and academic success.
- Each of these factors plays a role in shaping academic performance, and addressing them effectively can lead to improved outcomes for students.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study provides valuable insights into the perceived learning environment and factors affecting academic performance among undergraduate nursing students in Mohali. By addressing the identified issues and implementing the recommendations, educational institutions can enhance the learning experience and support better academic outcomes for nursing students.

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