

# The Violence Experience of Nursing Students: Focusing on the Experience during Clinical Practice

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## Abstract

This study was aimed to examine the violence that nursing students experienced during clinical practice and to provide basic data in drawing up measures with which the students who majored in the science of nursing may cope with the violence efficiently. As a survey research of correlation, data was collected from Sep 2014 to Oct 2014. The survey was implemented for 187 nursing students in the junior and senior classes who had an experience of clinical practice among the students in the department of nursing science in a university in M city. The collected data was analyzed with Frequency, Percentage, Average and Standard Deviation. That nursing students experience the violence from patients, guardians, and nurses during clinical practice may have a negative effect on the occupational view as a nurse as well as the emotion, curriculum and adaptation to practice environment of them. Therefore, it is considered that in order to reduce the violence that nursing students experience during clinical practice, it is necessary to have the conversion of awareness on the prevention and management of violence, and problem solving with a critical mind on the violence, not the culture that it is accepted as a part of clinical practice and that it is endured and denied.

**Keywords:** Experience, Nursing, Students, Violence

## 1. Introduction

A hospital where nursing students experience clinical practice is a place where many people, such as patients, guardians, doctors, nurses and the extra health care workers, interact with each other. In such an interaction, the provider of healthcare experiences a variety of violence, such as physical, verbal violence from patients, guardians and coworkers<sup>1</sup>. There are many cases that the victims of the violence are forced to remain silent about it, which is due to the specialty of a hospital, and Hoff and Slatin<sup>2</sup> reported that the victims of the violence in a hospital were mostly nurses. Especially, the nurses who are less skilled and lack experience are more vulnerable to the violence by the patients<sup>3</sup>, and as nursing students

are perceived as young nurses in a hospital environment and they relatively lack experience and coping ability, they are apt to experience the violence<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, as the practice environment such as frequent change in practice sites during practice period, new patients and a strange environment can make them more vulnerable to the violence<sup>5</sup>, it is necessary to have an interest in it that they experience during clinical practice. Ferns and Meerabeau<sup>5</sup> reported that 34.0 to 50.3 % of nursing students had experienced the violence during clinical practice and that over the majority of the nursing students had experienced it. The violence that nursing students experience during clinical practice happened because most of it was projected to nursing students by others and there was a lack of trust of patients and a medical team on

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them<sup>6</sup>, that is, the violence happened by attackers rather than the problems of each of them. Like this, the violence experience during clinical practice may have a negative effect on career identity which decides a career and the occupational view as a nurse as well as the emotion, curriculum, and adaptation to practice environment of nursing students. In Korea, the studies conducted by Kim Su Yeon<sup>7</sup>, Seong Mi Hye<sup>8</sup> for emergency room nurses, by Jang SeonJu<sup>9</sup> for ding ward ones, and by Park Hyun Jeong<sup>10</sup> for intensive care unit ones were conducted mostly for nurses, while the studies for the violence experience during clinical practice for nursing students who would work at clinical field as nurses in the future are not enough. Therefore, this study was aimed to examine the violence that nursing students experience during clinical practice and provide basic data in drawing up measures with which the students who major in the science of nursing may cope with the violence efficiently.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Subjects and Data Collection

As a survey research of correlation, data was collected from Sep 2014 to Oct 2014. The survey was implemented for 187 nursing students in the junior and senior classes who had experienced clinical practice among the students in the department of nursing science in a university in M city.

### 2.2 Survey Tools

As a study tool, the tool revised and complemented by Park Jeong Eun<sup>11</sup>, which was based on that of Yun Jong Sook<sup>9</sup> who investigated the violence experience for nurses, was used, which was made up of 3 sub-factors, such as verbal violence, physical violence and sexual violence.

### 2.3 Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed with Frequency, Percentage, Average and Standard Deviation, and Chi-square by using SPSS 20.00.

## 3. Results of Study

### 3.1 General Characteristics of Subjects

In the general characteristics of nursing students, as for age, there were 93 nursing students under 22 (49.7%), and 94 ones over 23 (50.3%), and as for gender, there

were 164 females (87.7%) and 23 males (12.3%). As for interpersonal relationships, those who answered 'good' were 110 ones (58.8%) and as for major satisfaction, those who answered 'satisfied' were 86 ones (46%), and as for clinical practice satisfaction, those who answered 'satisfied' were 99 ones (52.95), which was highest. As for the violence place during clinical practice, there were 29 ones (32.25) in a ding ward, and 25 ones (27.8%) in a medical ward. As for the necessity of violence education, those who answered, 'somewhat necessary' were 79 ones (42.2%) and those who answered, 'very necessary' were 51 ones (Table 1).

**Table 1.** General characteristics of subjects

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percent
Age	Under 22	93	49.7
	Over 23	94	50.3
Gender	Male	23	12.3
	Female	164	87.7
Interpersonal Relationships	Very Good	26	13.9
	Good	110	58.8
	Average	51	27.3
Major	Very Satisfied	21	11.2
	Satisfied	86	46.0
	Average	71	38.0
	Unsatisfied	9	4.8
Clinical Practice	Very Satisfied	17	9.1
	Satisfied	99	52.9
	Average	61	32.6
	Unsatisfied	10	5.3
Violence Place	Medical Ward	25	27.8
	Surgical Ward	15	16.7
	Intensive Care Unit	4	4.4
	Operating Room	4	4.4
	Emergency Room	16	17.8
	Ding Ward	29	32.2
	Others	12	13.3
Violence Education	Yes	62	33.2
	No	125	66.8
Necessity of Education	Not Required	8	4.3
	Average	49	26.2
	Somewhat Necessary	79	42.2
	Very Necessary	51	27.3

### 3.2 Violence Which Nursing Students Experience During Clinical Practice

First, 89.9% of nursing students have experienced the violence from patients and their guardians, doctors, nurses and other subjects for a year recently. The types of violence which they experienced were as follows: verbal violence (87.8%), physical violence (64.9%), and sexual violence (26.6%). Second, those who experienced the verbal violence were 165 (87.8%), which appeared in order of patients and their guardians 'cry out' (31.9%) and they 'make insulting remarks' (27.1%). The nursing

students who experienced physical violence were 122 (64.9%), which appeared in order of the guardians of patients 'get angry and go around' (25.5%), they 'make a grimace' (15.4%), and nurses 'make a grimace' (11.7%). The nursing students who experienced sexual violence were 50 (26.6%), which it appeared in order of patients and their guardians 'make a filthy joke or talk smut' (12.2%), and patients and their guardians 'compare or assess the appearance of the nursing students sexually' (6.4%) (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Violence which nursing students experience during clinical practice

		Frequency	Percent			
Verbal Violence		165	87.8			
Physical Violence		122	64.9			
Sexual Violence		50	26.6			
Violence		169	89.9			

  

		None	Several Times a Year	Several Times a Month	Several Times a Week	Over Once a Day
		N(%)	N(%)	N(%)	N(%)	N(%)
Cry Out	Patient & Guardian	71(37.8)	60(31.9)	37(19.7)	18(9.6)	2(1.1)
	Doctor	146(77.7)	24(12.8)	14(7.4)	3(1.6)	1(.5)
	Nurse	118(62.8)	34(18.1)	24 (12.8)	9(4.8)	3(1.6)
	Others	178(94.7)	5(2.7)	1(.5)	2(1.1)	2(1.1)
Make Insulting Remarks	Patient & Guardian	90(47.9)	51(27.1)	23(12.2)	14(7.4)	10(5.3)
	Doctor	141(75.0)	26(13.8)	13(6.9)	6(3.2)	2(1.1)
	Nurse	100(53.2)	47(25.0)	26(13.8)	11(5.9)	4(2.1)
	Others	174(92.6)	8(4.3)	3(1.6)	2(1.1)	1(.5)
Make a Grimace	Patient & Guardian	118(62.8)	29(15.4)	26(13.8)	11(5.9)	4(2.1)
	Doctor	161(85.6)	13(6.9)	11(5.9)	3(1.6)	0(.0)
	Nurse	140(74.5)	22(11.7)	17(9.0)	7(3.7)	2(1.1)
	Others	179(95.2)	3(1.6)	3(1.6)	3(1.6)	0(.0)
Get Angry and Go Around	Patient & Guardian	106(56.4)	48(25.5)	25(13.3)	7(3.7)	2(1.1)
	Doctor	166(88.3)	10(5.3)	9(4.8)	3(1.6)	0(.0)
	Nurse	157(83.5)	15(8.0)	11(5.9)	4(2.1)	1(.5)
	Others	182(96.8)	0(.0)	4(2.1)	1(.5)	1(.5)
Make a Filthy Joke or Talk Smut	Patient & Guardian	155(82.4)	23(12.2)	7(3.7)	3(1.6)	0(.0)
	Doctor	182(96.8)	3(1.6)	2(1.1)	1(.5)	0(.0)
	Nurse	182(96.8)	2(1.1)	2(1.1)	2(1.1)	0(.0)
	Others	183(97.3)	2(1.1)	2(1.1)	1(.5)	0(.0)
Compare or assess the appearance of the nursing students sexually	Patient & Guardian	168(89.4)	12(6.4)	7(3.7)	1(.5)	0(.0)
	Doctor	183(97.3)	1(.5)	4(2.1)	0(.0)	0(.0)
	Nurse	177(94.1)	7(3.7)	4(2.1)	0(.0)	0(.0)
	Others	182(96.8)	3(1.6)	3(1.6)	0(.0)	0(.0)

### 3.3 Violence Experience According to General Characteristics of Subjects

The verbal violence showed a statistically significant difference according to the interpersonal relationships, major satisfaction, clinical practice satisfaction, however, it did no significant difference with age, gender and

existence or nonexistence of violence education. The physical violence and sexual violence showed no statistically significant difference with age, gender, interpersonal relationships, major satisfaction, clinical practice satisfaction, and existence and nonexistence of violence education (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Violence experience according to general characteristics of subjects

		Verbal Violence N(%)	$\chi^2$	p	Physical Violence N(%)	$\chi^2$	p	Sexual Violence N(%)	$\chi^2$	p
Age	Under22	80(86.0)	0.484	.487	64(68.8)	1.044	.307	24(25.8)	0.015	.902
	Over23	84(89.4)			58(61.7)			25(26.6)		
Gender	Male	18(78.3)	2.166	.141	14(60.9)	0.221	.638	5(21.7)	0.270	.603
	Female	146(89.0)			108(65.9)			44(26.8)		
Interpersonal Relationships	Very Good	18(69.2)	9.701	.008**	15(57.5)	5.476	.065	6(23.1)	1.847	.397
	Good	99(90.0)			67(60.9)			26(23.6)		
	Average	47(92.2)			40(78.4)			17(33.3)		
Major Satisfaction	Very Satisfied	16(76.2)	10.241	.017*	10(47.6)	7.411	.060	4(19.0)	6.067	.108
	Satisfied	71(82.6)			52(60.5)			17(19.8)		
	Average	68(95.8)			54(76.1)			24(33.8)		
	Unsatisfied	9(100.0)			6(66.7)			4(44.4)		
Clinical Practice Satisfaction	Very Satisfied	11(64.7)	11.664	.009**	8(47.1)	2.937	.402	2(11.8)	4.895	.180
	Satisfied	86(86.9)			6(65.7)			25(25.3)		
	Average	57(93.4)			42(68.9)			17(27.9)		
	Unsatisfied	10(100.0)			7(70.0)			5(50.0)		
Violence Education Existence Non existence	Yes	56(90.3)	0.591	.442	41(66.1)	0.032	.857	15(24.2)	0.914	.660
	No	108(86.4)			47(64.8)			34(27.2)		

## 4. Discussion

The violence experience during clinical practice may have a negative effect on the occupational view as a nurse as well as the emotion, curriculum and adaptation to practice environment of nursing students. This study was conducted to provide basic data in drawing up measures to cope with the violence efficiently and violence prevention. The followings are to be discussed focusing on the major results of study. 89.9% of nursing students have experienced the violence from patients and their guardians, doctors, nurses and other subjects for a year recently. The types of the violence which they experienced were as follows: verbal violence (87.8%), physical violence (64.9%), and sexual violence (26.6%). It can be said that the above results are similar to those (90.7%) of Park JeongEun<sup>10</sup> who studied the violence experience for nursing students. Meanwhile, in the results of study for nurses by Hong Min Jeong<sup>1</sup> and by Shin Mi Young<sup>12</sup>,

96.9% of them experienced the violence and 100% did so, respectively. That is, the percentage of nursing students who experienced it was lower than that of nurses who did so. It is considered that it is because the time when nursing students participate in patient care is less, compared with nurses, they have less responsibility on the activities for it, and the cases they give nursing interventions which might threaten the life of patients are rare. It can be known that nursing students experience the verbal violence a lot. It's because the social rules and law are lenient toward it unlike physical violence or sexual violence<sup>10</sup> and it is considered that it is due to the effect of the insensitive culture that doesn't regard the verbal violence as violence. Also, as they are students and young, it is considered that patients, guardians, doctors and nurses tend to ignore nursing students. Those who acted violently were mostly patients and guardians. That is, there were many cases that they took their anger of the treatment of a medical team or delay in test and treatment out on nursing students.

Therefore it is considered that the violence happens because of the delay in treatment and lack of explanation. Thus, as a medical team explains in detail so that they can solve a complaint rapidly and immediately, it is considered that the violence will be reduced in a hospital. It is considered that when the violence happens by nurses as well as by patients and guardians, it is because the subjects whom nursing students meet the most during clinical practice are nurses, and the double burden of the education of nursing students along with increased task gives much stress to nurses. The verbal violence according to the general characteristics of nursing students showed a statistically significant difference according to interpersonal relationships, major satisfaction, and clinical practice satisfaction, but did no significant difference with age, gender, and existence or nonexistence of violence education. Physical violence and sexual violence showed no statistically significant difference with age, interpersonal relationships, major satisfaction, clinical practice satisfaction, and existence or nonexistence of violence education. It is considered that the above results indicate that if interpersonal relationships are smoothly maintained and major satisfaction and clinical practice satisfaction are high, clinical practice is essential, and they have no regard for the verbal violence through the orientation and the story of their seniors' experience before clinical practice at school. As examined the above, it appeared that nursing students experience a serious level of violence during clinical practice. It is considered that students must be encouraged to have confidence on the practice with sufficient orientation and practice exercise before clinical practice, and have expectation that they can perform the practice successfully at school. Furthermore, it is considered that in order to cultivate nurses for providing a high-quality nursing care, a high level of educational environment is accompanied and a safe practice environment must be guaranteed first to do so. Also, to root out the violence, it is necessary to have a critical mind on the violence and convert awareness on

its prevention and problem solving, not the culture where the violence is accepted simply as a part of practice course and is endured and denied.

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