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Assessment of Perceptions of Nursing Undergraduates towards Mental Health Practices

Background: Undergraduate nursing students, like the general population, are not devoid of negative attitudes relating to mental health. As future manpower, undergraduate nursing students need to be trained in a manner that inspires confidence in the way they perceive and handle mentally ill persons.

Aim: This study aimed to investigate undergraduate students' perceptions and attitudes toward mental health practices.

Methods: The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive design approach. A self-reported questionnaire was prepared and sent to 140 undergraduate nursing students studying at King Saud University. A total of 128 students took part in the study by filling out self-reported questionnaires.

Results: Undergraduate nursing students have a positive perception and attitude (social relationships) towards people living with mentally ill persons in three of the five Attitudes towards Mental Illness (AMI) categories investigated. AMI1 (18.93), AMI2 (9.55), AMI3 (16.88), AMI4 (8.34), AMI5 (9.82), Average AMI (62.98). Conclusion: Undergraduate nursing students hold unjustified views regarding people with mental illness, which leads to negative attitudes held throughout their studies and professional practice. As future manpower, it is important that psychiatric training is reformed to offer undergraduate nursing students comprehensive skills necessary for future practice.

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Euthanasia: Growing Acceptance amid Lingering Reluctance

Euthanasia has long been a contentious topic. Societal acceptance and legalization of euthanasia have increased over the past decades but still lag behind that of physician-assisted suicide (PAS). Euphemisms such as "death with dignity" have facilitated the integration of PAS into end-of-life discussions with reduced stigma. We hypothesize that the persistent use of the term "euthanasia" hinders open, compassionate communication about this practice, particularly among healthcare professionals who adhere to the ethical principle of nonmaleficence. To address this issue, we propose the adoption of euphemisms, such as "eumori," meaning "good death," similar to the terminology used in (PAS). These proposed terms mitigate the negative connotations associated with euthanasia. This approach serves as an initial yet significant step toward reframing euthanasia within the context of end-of-life care. Further research and dialogue are essential to explore and address other barriers to broader acceptance of euthanasia as a viable end-of-life option.