

ABSTRACT

Many countries are struggling to address health workforce challenges that inhibit access to health care and arise from issues such as insufficient numbers and unequal distribution of health workers. For optimal skill mix of human resources for health, strong collaboration between medical education and health service delivery is necessary. Studying career preferences can provide the important information to aid in planning education programs, set priorities and plan for the provision of adequate health care. This study aimed to identify the career preferences of final year nursing students in University of Nursing, Yangon. Cross-sectional descriptive study was done on final year nursing students in University of Nursing, Yangon. Self-administered semi-structured questionnaire was used. The questionnaire consisted of socio-demographic characteristics of nursing students, their performance during previous academic years in nursing university and their career preferences. Total of 158 final year nursing students, 142 participated. Only one fourth of these students (26.06%) was self-motivated one to attend the nursing university. More than three-fourth of the nursing students (76.76%) passed the examinations regularly every year throughout the nursing university. Majority of the students (82.39%) had intention to serve as a nurse and among them, nearly half (54.70%) had intention to serve government posting, mostly to clinical posts. Most of these students (70.31%) who wanted to join government services had intention to attend specialty and nearly half of them (48.89%) chose adult health nursing. The most common reasons of choice for serving government posting were parents' force, chance of specialty, prestige, accommodations and opportunity of pension. The reasons of choice for working in private clinics/ hospitals, working in NGO, and working abroad were different, but the main reason was high salary. So, selection criteria for university should be changed such as providing entrance examination for the university that is interested by students without depending on their matriculation marks. Ministry of Health should offer not only financial incentives including basic livable salary and allowances not only non-financial incentives including support for career development and improvement of working environments to the nurses according to their status.