

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**NURSING STUDENTS'
PERCEPTION OF PATIENT
SAFETY CULTURE AND ITS
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN
SICHUAN PROVINCE , CHINA**

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ABSTRACT

Patient safety is inherently linked to the quality of care provided. This study aimed to assess nursing students' perceptions toward patient safety culture in China, employing the Chinese version of the Safety perceptions Questionnaire (C-SAQ). By using the sample size from Krejci & Morgan (1970) with a confidence level of 95%, there are 332 nursing students in clinical practice at Sichuan Vocational College of Nursing, so the sample size is 271. A simple random sampling method was employed, using the student ID numbers of the entire grade cohort as the sampling frame, with participants selected via a computerized random number generator without replacement. In the end, 263 surveys were collected. The overall mean score for patient safety perception was 66.93 ± 14.27 , reflecting a medium-low level of awareness. Among the six dimensions of patient safety perception, the mean scores ranked from highest to lowest were: perceptions of management, working conditions, safety climate, job satisfaction, teamwork climate, and stress recognition. Notably, stress recognition scored the lowest, highlighting a critical area for improvement. The percentage of positive scores (≥ 75) was calculated for each item and domain to further identify specific strengths and weaknesses. Univariate analyses revealed that nursing students who had received formal patient safety education and those who had not encountered nursing errors during their clinical placements exhibited significantly more positive perceptions of patient safety ($p < 0.05$). Subsequent multivariate stepwise linear regression analyses identified key demographic factors influencing patient safety perceptions, including weekly working hours, prior patient safety education, and the occurrence of nursing error incidents. Pearson's correlation analyses demonstrated significant associations between the dimensions of patient safety perceptions and the total perception scores. These findings underscore the critical need to strengthen nursing students' understanding of patient safety culture. Among the six dimensions of patient safety perceptions, low scores in stress perception highlight the necessity of addressing occupational stress in clinical teaching hospitals and implementing effective stress management interventions. Such measures may enhance patient safety perceptions and, ultimately, improve the quality of care delivered by future nurses.

Keywords: nursing students, patient safety, patient safety culture, nursing education

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Patient safety is a fundamental aspect of healthcare quality, focused on preventing and mitigating patient harm during healthcare delivery. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2019) emphasizes that patient safety is a critical component of universal health coverage and is essential for achieving optimal health outcomes. A robust patient safety culture in healthcare organizations, characterized by shared values, beliefs, and norms about the importance of safety, is crucial for reducing medical errors and enhancing patient care quality (World Health Organization, 2019). Globally, healthcare systems have been striving to improve patient safety through various initiatives, policies, and educational programs. Despite these efforts, medical errors remain a significant concern, leading to substantial morbidity, mortality, and economic costs. Research has shown that a positive patient safety culture is associated with fewer adverse events, better reporting of errors, and overall improvements in patient care (Kohn, Corrigan, & Donaldson, 2000).

Patient safety culture is a crucial element contributing to healthcare quality. It comprises the organizational values, beliefs, and norms dictating importance and appropriate perceptions and behaviors regarding patient safety. Establishing a robust patient safety culture is imperative for minimizing medical errors and improving patient outcomes. As aspiring healthcare professionals, nursing students are pivotal in upholding and advancing patient safety. Their stance on patient safety culture can influence their conduct and approaches upon entering the professional sphere. Hence, comprehending their perspectives is vital for educators and policymakers in formulating effective training initiatives that stress patient safety.

China's healthcare system has undergone extensive reforms to improve accessibility, quality, and efficiency. However, the system still faces challenges such as high patient volumes, resource limitations, and disparities in healthcare quality between urban and rural areas. Patient safety is a critical issue in China, with studies indicating that medical errors and adverse events are prevalent. The Chinese government has