
Original Research

Spirituality and Moral Sensitivity of Undergraduate Nursing Students STIKES Santa Elisabeth Medan

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ABSTRACT

Nursing is an important factor of all professional services, including Bio, Psycho, Socio, and Spiritual, which must be possessed because it is a crucial aspect of service, especially for the people we serve. This is because moral sensitivity and a strong sense of spirituality can assist someone in interpreting changes in their daily lives in light of God, the environment, and themselves. This study aims to determine the relationship between spirituality and moral sensitivity of undergraduate nursing students at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan T.A 2021/2022. We used a cross-sectional design. The sampling technique in this study used purposive sampling. The numbers of respondents are 358 respondents. The instrument used was a spirituality and moral sensitivity questionnaire for nursing students (MSQ-ST). The findings revealed great moral sensitivity (87.4%) and spirituality (82.4%). According to the findings of the Spearman Rank statistical test (ρ), $r = (.271)$ and $p \text{ (value)} = 0.000$ ($p < 0.05$) were obtained. These results indicate a weak relationship between the two variables with a positive direction, meaning that the higher the spirituality level of the students, the higher the moral sensitivity of nursing students at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan.

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Introduction

Nursing is integral to professional services, namely Bio, Psycho, Socio, and Spiritual (Widodo et al., 2016). Those services are a must-have in nursing, an important tip often not felt by the people we serve due to a lack of sensitivity about the importance of morals when carrying out nursing care for various reasons. Many studies in the last decade have shown that many health workers, especially nurses, still need to fully provide maximum service to the people they serve, especially patients. It can hinder nursing goals and affect community social health standards (Woods et al., 2015). Moral sensitivity for students can be a control tool for ethics in carrying out an action and be an illustration for students in making a decision or being something good or bad so that they are better able to understand the meaning and role of ethics in the environment (Sa'diyah & Rosyid, 2020)

A case study in Iran showed that 0.5% of students' moral sensitivity was low, 66.7% of students' moral sensitivity was moderate, and 32.8% of student's was high moral sensitivity (Amiri et al., 2019). In another study, women were more prone to feel high morale. However, no differences in moral sensitivity were found between women and men (Tuvevsson & Lütznén, 2017).

Moral sensitivity is closely related to spirituality because it is a person's search for holiness, meaning, and purpose in life and communicating closely with oneself, others, and the environment. This includes the characteristics of hope, strength, belief, meaning and purpose, forgiveness, belief in oneself and others, the power of God, popular values, love, ethics, creativity, and expression of belief. In spirituality, values, thoughts, decisions, behaviors, and experiences are the ultimate goals of each student (Jalili et al., 2020).

The four components of ethical decision-making based on Lutzen et al. (2012) include moral sensitivity, moral judgment, moral motivation, and character. The most important is moral sensitivity because it allows nurses to identify ethical problems in providing patient care, make the most ethical decisions and reach ethical sensitivity. Moral sensitivity enables individuals to recognize

ethical conflicts, have a sensory and intellectual understanding of vulnerable situations, develop ethical awareness and make decisions for others. After education, nursing students will become nurses who provide health services to the community (Borhani et al., 2016).

Everyone needs spirituality, and it is not only a science but also an understanding of the difference between religiosity and spirituality. Additionally, it is not just a theory but an application of application throughout nursing programs from *modeling theory* and *role modeling*, which includes the assessment of spiritual drives, which helps students grow in their understanding of spirituality (Rinker & Curl, 2020).

Based on a survey conducted by researchers to 32 undergraduate Nursing students at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan using a questionnaire distributed through *Google Forms* regarding the relationship between spirituality and students' moral sensitivity. The result of low moral sensitivity is 12 respondents (37.5 %), medium sensitivity 14 respondents (43.7%), and high sensitivity 6 respondents (18.7%). Medium spirituality is 4 respondents (12.5 %) and high spirituality is 28 respondents (87.5%). From this previous study, researchers are interested in researching the relationship between spirituality and moral sensitivity of undergraduate students of Nursing STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan. This study aimed to identify the relationship between spirituality and moral sensitivity of undergraduate nursing students at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan, Academic year 2021/2022.

Method

The study used a cross-sectional design. The study was conducted on April 26 to May 8, 2022, at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan. The number of samples in this study was 358 respondents. The sampling technique. The research instrument used is valid and standard with r count (r table > 0.361). It is called the spirituality questionnaire (Derang et al, 2022) with 40 statements with 4 indicators, namely Self, Others, Environment, and God. Moral sensitivity questionnaire for nursing students

{MSQ-ST} with a value of $r = 0.46$ $p < 0.01$ with 11 statements with 3 indicators, namely moral strength, sense of moral burden, and moral responsibility (Takizawa et al., 2021). This research is shared via Google Forms. Data analysis using Spearman rank (Rho).

Results and Discussion

Based on the results of the research on the frequency distribution of demographic data in the academic stage of nursing students, as many as 358 respondents at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan in 2022, will be explained in the following table:

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondents

Characteristics	F	%
Age		
18-21	303	84.6
22-25	49	13.7
26-28	6	1.7
Total	358	100.0
Religion		
Islam	1	0.3
Catholic	114	31.8
Protestant	242	67.6
Buddha	1	0.3
Total	358	100.0
Gender		
Man	37	10.3
Woman	321	89.7
Total	358	100.0
Ethnic group		
Toba	212	59.3
Karo	38	6.6
Nias	84	26.4
Simalungun	21	7.7
Java	1	0.3
Chinese	1	0.3
Mandailing	1	0.3
Total	358	100.0

Table 2. Spirituality Frequency Distribution

Spirituality	F	%
Low	2	0.6
Currently	61	17.0
High	295	82.4
Total	358	100.0

Based on table 1, it states that the most dominant age characteristic is that of 18 to 21 years of age 303 respondents. Gender was dominantly women by 321 respondents, and

the most dominant tribe was Toba by 212 respondents. Based on table 2, the dominant result of the high spirituality was 295 respondents.

Table 3. Frequency Distribution of Moral Sensitivity

Moral Sensitivity	F	%
Low	1	0.3
Currently	44	12.3
High	313	87.4
Total	358	100.0

Table 4. Frequency Distribution Based on Bivariate Results

Spirituality	Moral sensitivity							
	Low		Currently		Tall		total	
	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Low	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	0.6
Currently	0	0.0	19	5.3	42	13.4	61	17.0
High	0	0.0	25	7.0	270	75.4	295	82.4
Total	1	0.3	44	12.3	313	87.4	358	100.0

= 0.05, p-value = 0.000

Based on table 3, the dominant result of the high moral sensitivity was 313 respondents. Based on table 4, it was obtained that higher spirituality and high sensitivity were dominant by as many as 270 respondents.

Based on the result of *Spearman rank* correlation test, it was found that there was a relationship between spirituality and moral sensitivity of undergraduate nursing students at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan, Academic Year 2021/2022. Nursing students from STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan have an age range of 18 - 28 years, all of whom live in dormitories from various ethnic groups such as the Toba, Karo, Nias, Simalungun, Javanese, Chinese and Mandailing tribes; as well as religions including Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, and Buddha. Because STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan is a Catholic foundation, its spiritual rituals have been regulated in daily rules such as daily worship, and Eucharistic Celebrations held 2 times a week, namely Wednesdays and Saturdays as well as major holidays in the church. From the results of the researcher's observations, all students diligently participated in the prescribed Eucharistic worship and celebration. Therefore, it can be said that in the spiritual aspect, students have a high category because they can know who they are, have more confidence in their abilities for the present and the future, have a calm mind both in attitude and behavior in the campus environment and outside campus; thus having the ability to always or more appreciate

accepting the advantages and disadvantages of friends, having a sensitive attitude, towards others and the environment.

Based on the results of research obtained from students undergraduate of Nursing study program at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan from 358 people, the results showed that of 358 respondents, high spirituality was 295 people (82.4%), moderate spirituality level was 61 people (17.0%), and respondents with low spirituality was 2 people (0.6%). In line with this research, it was found that the spiritual level of Banyuwangi Nursing S1 students had a high spiritual level of 65 respondents (78%), 17 respondents (21%), and low spirituality (1%) (Akhmad Yanuar Fahmi, 2022) .

Spirituality as a light from oneself to achieve meaning in life is also the most fundamental part of complete health and well-being for humans who can know themselves and everything outside their experience. From a broader perspective, spirituality is fundamental in providing conclusions on the universe as a whole and has a fundamental unity.

Therefore, spiritual aspects of humans must be owned, such as the experience of worship. Human feeling with an emphasis on the feeling of happiness and joy obtained when he is involved in spirituality, the existence of a complete form of belief about life in the universe, known as universality, belief in humans in something that comes from human reality in penetrating a certain group called attachment (Desti Azania, 2021).

Based on the results of research obtained from students bachelor of Nursing study program at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan from 358 respondents, students with high moral sensitivity were 313 people (87.4%), moderate sensitivity were 44 respondents (12.3%), and with low morals sensitivity was 1 person (0.3%). Those with high moral sensitivity have moral strength, a sense of moral burden, and high moral responsibility.

High moral sensitivity is influenced by three factors: moral strength, courage to act, and the ability to argue to support the actions taken. A sense of moral burden is caused by problems or situations involving moral values. Moreover, moral responsibility is working according to rules and regulations and understanding moral issues. That violates the patient's respect, and confidentiality is an ethical violation that damages the nurse-patient therapeutic relationship and prevents nurses from gaining professional identity.

The results obtained a statement regarding the moral strength factor that students have an excellent ability to know the patient's feelings and provide a good understanding in considering things that are needed according to the patient's condition. Students believe they have a good ability to know the patient's feelings. Then the student's sense of moral burden stated that when caring for patients, "I had a feeling of fear of not being able to help, not being able to see the patient suffering and understand and understand the patient's feelings." In the moral responsibility factor, students stated the responsibility to provide the best service and carry out clinical practice according to the rules.

Spiritual characteristics contain components of a relationship with God Almighty, self, nature, and other people. Students with a high spiritual level also have a relationship with God Almighty; the spiritual level is found in the relationship with oneself. People who have a good closeness with God will be stronger and able to overcome problems in dealing with stress. Spirituality is needed for both healthy and sick people. Individuals who have tried every way to achieve their goals will rely on something greater, namely God Almighty, and involve the spiritual dimension (Aryani & Riyandry, 2019). Good spirituality has an awareness of

the existence of God, obeys his commands with love and sincerity, has a purpose in life and the power of love for others, and is always grateful and happy with what is received (Novitasari, 2017)

Nurses with a high sense of moral burden, moral strength, and moral responsibility will also show high service behavior and vice versa. Nurses with moderate or even low moral sensitivity will affect their behavior in service because those with high moral sensitivity will have the courage to take action (Zhang et al., 2020).

Similar research shows that 69 respondents (56.6 %) of nursing students in Bali have a good level of spirituality and a good level of moral sensitivity in nursing students. The results of this study indicate a relationship between spirituality and moral sensitivity of students in nursing education institutions in Bali with a P value < 0.001 ($\alpha = 0.05$). These results indicate that spirituality significantly affects loyalty and moral sensitivity to patients because it affects emotions and empathy for patients later (Ariawan et al., 2019). Nurses with a high *spiritual level* will try to think and consider *principled thinking* more related to principles in deciding ethics. Researchers argue that students' understanding of spirituality will impact moral sensitivity, such as respecting patients, meeting patients' spiritual and religious needs, and respecting client privacy (Arsang-Jang et al., 2020).

Someone who can understand himself, respect others, love the environment, and fear God can carry out moral responsibility, strength, and a high sense of moral burden and socialize well. This can be seen from the behavior habits of students living in dormitories by showing mutual help to others, working together to maintain a clean environment, and sharing experiences with peers.

Based on research at STIKes Santa Elisabeth Medan, it can be concluded that spirituality is related to the moral sensitivity of nursing undergraduate students. From the questionnaire data, respondents showed a high number of questionnaire statements that have been distributed, because every individual with high spirituality must have moral sensitivity because spirituality is someone's search for holiness, meaning, and purpose of life to communicate closely with

oneself, others, the environment, and God. Students with high spirituality will try to increase moral sensitivity by increasing moral strength, such as knowing one's feelings well, increasing a sense of moral burden by having empathy, and increasing moral responsibility by conducting clinical practice according to the rules and fulfilling responsibilities.

Conclusion

Undergraduate nursing student spirituality physician Santa Elisabeth Medan has a high capacity of 295 respondents (82.4%). The moral sensitivity of undergraduate nursing student Santa Elisabeth Medan has a high moral sensitivity of 313 respondents (87.4%). Research can be concluded that there is a spiritual connection with moral sensitivity to having compassion, kindness, and ethics for one's fellow human beings.

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