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Supportive attitude of nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia towards elderly care

Joel Rey Ugsang Acob

College of Nursing – Visayas State University, Baybay City, Philippines

*Corresponding author email: joel.acob@vsu.edu.ph

Ah. Yusuf

Faculty of Nursing – Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

Email: ah-yusuf@fkp.unair.ac.id

Heru Santoso Wahito Nugroho

Department of Health – Poltekkes Kemenkes Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia

Email: heruswn@gmail.com

Abstract---The care of the elderly in the Philippines and Indonesia still requires serious attention, which must be prepared early in the nursing education period. This study aims to describe and compare attitudes to support elderly care among nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia. The subjects of this cross-sectional study were 460 undergraduate students selected by purposive sampling technique. Data was collected through filling out questionnaires distributed through Google Form, then analyzed descriptively in the form of proportions. Meanwhile, differences in attitudes between nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney U test. In general, the majority of nursing students from both countries had a supportive attitude towards elderly care. However, the proportion of supportive attitudes was greater among nursing students from the Philippines (86.63%) than Indonesia (84.77%). The p value of the Mann-Whitney U test = 0.026, so it can be concluded that significantly, nursing students from the Philippines have a higher attitude of supporting elderly care. Thus, cooperation is needed on the elderly care system between the Philippines and Indonesia, such as benchmarking Indonesian nurses on the elderly nursing service system in the Philippines.

Keywords---elderly care, nursing student, supportive attitude, geriatric nursing, nursing education.

Introduction

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The increase in ageing population has become a global phenomenon (Abou-Elhassan, 2022; Beard *et al.*, 2016; Chellappa & Indiran, 2022). Most developing countries have already had this special achievement (Officer, 2019), including Southeast Asian countries, such as Philippines and Indonesia. Aging population increased from 4.5 percent in 1971 to 9.6 percent in 2019 (BPS, 2019) and is thought to be a trigger for the widespread of the community care for elderly (Maliki, 2019). Anxieties over the problems from the increasing number in elderly have encouraged social movements and initiatives in the community. Situmorang (2007) said that community initiatives and social movements in Indonesia are related to the failure of the government system to guarantee welfare and is evidenced by the state budget of around 2 percent per year allocated for social welfare, lower than that of Vietnam and Thailand which is around 5 percent per year (World Bank, 2018). As the implication, the government's ability to provide elderly care is very limited. The government has only been able to provide nursing homes spread over one unit in each district/city (BPS, 2019) to date and this is not sufficient to accommodate the growing elderly population.

Lehning *et al.* (2012) revealed the importance of studies on local initiatives in elderly care practices. In addition to describing social processes in the community, local initiatives also help to find an elderly care model to complement the long-term care policy for the elderly, including supporting active aging policies (Benedetti *et al.*, 2012). Community care initiation for the elderly, such as home care, has also been proven to improve the elderly's quality of life. Then study of d'Orsi & Jette (1994) showed that the quality of life of the elderly is related to socio-demographic factors, such as social relations. The interaction between the elderly and their social environment will prevent them from the risk of social vulnerability. Home care services make it possible for the elderly to continue interacting with the surrounding environment and avoid the risk of feeling lonely. However, studies that discuss the initiation, form, and product of home care services by the community, substance, and community resource constraints have not been widely conducted (Davitt *et al.*, 2015). This is in line with critic is made by Coulter *et al.* (2016) that the studies of elderly care need to look at the aspects beyond general care (i.e., from the quality of service practices performed by formal government and private institutions to community initiatives).

Older persons in the Philippines remains a subject that is severely under-theorized in research (Villegas, 2014). Although older Filipinos do appear in the country's national reports, current empirical studies incorporating older adults appears to be lacking in the Philippines. Older adults require specialized nursing knowledge, skills, and attitudes, to achieve positive outcomes and prevent geriatric syndromes. Therefore, to identify negative Attitudes toward Older Persons ATOP (ageism) should be of concern for nurse educators (Little, 2017). Nursing students having negative stereotypes of older adults, have detrimental effects on the care provided (Hanson, 2014). Tuohy (2003) mentioned that student nurses' perceptions and attitudes towards older people affect their behaviour. It will mark their career choices and/or feasibly affect the quality of care provided to older adults after graduation, Carlson & Idvall (2015). Although numerous student nurses ATOP studies exist in the context of Europe, USA, Asia and some African countries, one has yet to be conducted for the Philippines. Culture

influences attitudes towards caring for older adults (Hanson, 2014), and thus there is a need to explore ATOP among student nurses from the Philippines and Indonesia. This study aims to describe and compare attitudes to support elderly care among nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

Type of research

This research was a cross-sectional study, which describes the attitudes of nursing students in the Indonesia and Philippines towards the care of the elderly, which was conducted through an online survey.

Time, place and subject of research

This research was conducted in 2021 involving eight nursing schools in Indonesia and the Philippines. The subjects of this study were nursing students from the eight nursing schools, but were limited to undergraduate students. The sample was selected using a purposive sampling technique, with the inclusion criteria being sophomore to senior nursing students. Until the end of the data collection period, the number of participants who filled out the questionnaire was 460 students.

Variable and data collection

The variable of this research was the attitude of nursing students towards the care of the elderly. Data about this variable were collected through a questionnaire filled out online via Google Form, which had previously been tested for validity and reliability. In the process of filling out the questionnaire, nursing educators facilitated and guided nursing students so that they could fill out the questionnaire correctly and completely.

Data analysis

The data that had been collected were then analyzed descriptively in the form of frequency and percentage, then continued with an analysis of differences in attitudes between from the Philippines and Indonesia, using the Mann-Whitney U test.

Ethical considerations

This research had received ethical approval from the Ethics Commission of San Beda University.

Results and Discussions

Results

The results of descriptive data analysis show that in general, nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia had a high level of supportive attitude towards elderly care. Table 1 shows that most nursing students were supportive towards elderly care, namely 85.40%, respectively 71.68% in the supportive category and 13.72% in the very supportive category.

Table 1
Comparison of supportive attitudes towards elderly care between Filipino and Indonesian nursing students (in 4 categories)

Country	Attitude			
	Not supportive	Low supportive	Supportive	Very supportive
Philippines	0 (0%)	21 (13.38%)	129 (82.17%)	7 (4.46%)
Indonesia	1 (0.33%)	45 (14.90%)	200 (66.23%)	56 (18.54%)
Total	1 (0.22%)	66 (14.38%)	329 (71.68%)	63 (13.72%)

Meanwhile, if the attitudes of nursing students in the two countries are compared, it appears that the proportion of supportive attitudes is greater in Filipino nursing students (86.63%) than Indonesian nursing students (84.77%). On the other hand, the proportion of unsupportive attitudes was greater among Indonesian nursing students (15.23%) than Filipino nursing students (Figure 1).

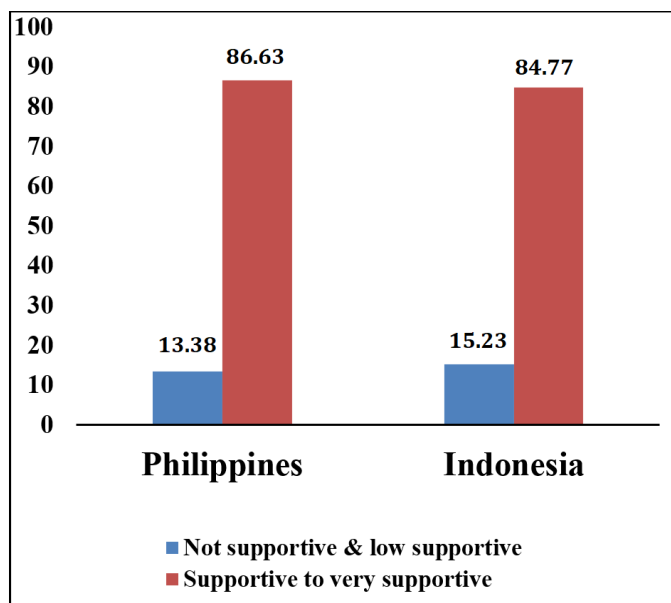


Figure 1. Comparison of supportive attitudes towards elderly care between Filipino and Indonesian nursing students (in 2 categories)

Furthermore, the results of the analysis of difference using the Mann-Whitney U test (table 2) showed that the p-value was 0.026 (<0.05). Thus, it can be interpreted that there was difference in attitude towards elderly care between nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia. Significantly, nursing students from the Philippines had more supportive attitudes towards elderly care than nursing students from Indonesia.

Table 2
The results of Mann-Whitney U test

Country	N	Mean rank	Sum of ranks	Mann-Whitney U	p-value
Philippines	157	214.80	33723.50	21320.500	0.026
Indonesia	302	237.90	71846.50		

Discussion

Elderly is one of the targets of nursing care (Feng *et al.*, 2020), in addition to other age groups such as infants, children, adolescents and adults. In fact, the importance of elderly care is so important that it is necessary to develop a branch of nursing science, namely geriatric care (Deschodt *et al.*, 2010). To realize the best nursing services for the elderly, it is not easy (Morilla-Herrera *et al.*, 2016). In old age, degenerative events occur that cause a decrease in physical and mental capacity, even returning to childhood (Yeatman *et al.*, 2014), which of course will lead to new situations that require adaptation for family, neighbors, close friends, including nurses involved in providing nursing services. For nurses, of course, extra patience is needed to be able to provide the best nursing services for the elderly (Kloppers *et al.*, 2015). In order to be able to carry out the best nursing care for the elderly with all the existing obstacles, of course it takes the support of a positive attitude from the nurses [Shamshurina *et al.*, 2021]. This is not easy, because attitudes cannot be built instantly in a short time. Therefore, a positive attitude towards elderly care must be instilled in prospective nurses since they are still in nursing education in college. That is why research on student nursing attitudes towards elderly care is so important.

The results of this study indicate that in general, nursing students in the Philippines and Indonesia have attitudes that tend to be supportive towards elderly care. More than 85 percent of nursing students in these two countries have a very supportive and very supportive attitude towards elderly care. This is a good condition, because from an early age the prospective nurses already have a positive view of elderly care, so that when they become nurses in the future, they can carry out nursing care for the elderly as well as possible. Meanwhile, although in a small proportion, there are still nursing students in both countries who are less supportive of elderly care. It is homework for nursing schools to further eliminate these unfavorable attitudes. As stated above, the elderly have special characteristics that require patience and a positive attitude to care for them. If this positive attitude is built early on, of course, the success of elderly care will be easier to achieve.

If the attitudes of nursing students are separated by their country of origin and then compared, it turns out that nursing students from the Philippines have a more supportive attitude towards elderly nurses than nursing students from Indonesia. The results of the data analysis showed that the proportion of nursing students' supportive attitude from the Philippines and Indonesia were 86.63 percent and 84.77 percent, respectively. Although the proportion of supportive attitudes towards elderly care from the two groups did not appear to be significantly different, the results of the test of the difference in the proportions of the two groups showed a significant difference in attitudes between nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia. In other words, it can be said that in caring for the elderly, nursing students from the Philippines provided better attitude support than nursing students from Indonesia.

If it is related to the history of nursing education in both countries, this condition is reasonable. Nursing education in the Philippines developed earlier than in Indonesia. The era of nursing development in the Philippines started from the pre-Spanish Regime until the emergence of nursing colleges in the Revolutionary Era, including the University of Santo Thomas (1946), Manila Central University (1947), and the University of the Philippines (1948). Realizing the importance of a togetherness for development, the Filipino Nurses Association was formed, which later changed to the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) in 1917. Through the PNA, advocacy was carried out to form the standardization of nursing education as stated in the Commission of High Education Memorandum No. 14 Series of 2009 (CMO 14 Series 2009), with evaluations carried out regularly, with one of the Nursing Board Exam parameters which is also a competency test to get the Registered Nurse (RN) title. The synergy between professional organizations and nursing education in the Philippines is also very visible because the evaluation process of the nursing education curriculum will consider the percentage of nursing graduates who have successfully obtained an RN degree through a board exam (Kanalonline, 2021).

The existence of the Nursing Board has encouraged the existence of the nursing profession in the Philippines. Therefore, the Philippines is the only ASEAN country that is known to have a good nursing education development system and has independent board exams for various professions so that scholars in the Philippines can easily enter the international job market. In fact, the Philippines is the only ASEAN country that is known to be diligent in "marketing" nursing graduates to developed countries in Europe, America, Australia, and the Middle East (Kanalonline, 2021). Meanwhile, the development of nursing education in Indonesia followed several decades later. Judging from the development of nursing education in the Philippines, Indonesia needs to take strategic steps to explore and apply the positive side of nursing education in the Philippines to increase the profile of Indonesian nursing student graduates and recognize the profile of Indonesian nursing student graduates in the global world. There are at least 3 positive values that can be adapted from the Philippine nursing education system, namely: 1) the formation of a Nursing Council, 2) the application of a standardized nursing curriculum, and 3) a board exam for RN. The implementation of the three positive values of nursing in the Philippines is expected to be able to improve the quality of Indonesian nurse graduates and

further introduce the profile of qualified Indonesian nurse graduates in the international arena (Kanalonline, 2021).

With the development of a generally better nursing education system, of course the development of geriatric nursing will also be better, so that nursing students in the Philippines will certainly receive nursing care for the elderly in a more mature and orderly manner. Thus, it is natural that nursing students from the Philippines have a more supportive attitude than nursing students from Indonesia. This fact must be responded positively by both parties. For the sake of the advancement of nursing education in both countries and in ASEAN in general, this fact should be used as a basis for building mutual progress, so that the nursing profession in ASEAN is increasingly gaining recognition in the global arena. In this case, the cooperation that has been established between Indonesia and the Philippines needs to be built more intensively, including a system of nursing services for the elderly, one of which is through the implementation of a nursing education curriculum, especially regarding the ideal nursing service method for the elderly both in hospitals. as well as at home.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that in general nursing students from the Philippines and Indonesia were supportive towards elderly care, but nursing students from the Philippines had a higher supportive attitude. Thus, the nursing education system in Indonesia needs to benchmark in the Philippines in order to catch up, especially in the field of elderly care.

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