Self-Image of Male Nursing Students in Hong Kong
Multi-Qualitative Approaches

1. Zenobia C. Y. Chan, RN, MA, MPHC, PhD
2. Kelvin K. L. Lo, BBA
3. Kris C. Y. Tse, BSocSc
4. William W. Wong, BSc

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Zenobia C. Y. Chan, School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Email: zenobia.chan@polyu.edu.hk

Abstract

The image of male nurses is closely related to the development of a female-driven nursing occupation. As a minority group in the nursing industry, male nursing students may have a negative self-image in their learning and clinical practicum. This may affect their psychological health and mental status. This study explored the positive and negative self-image of male nursing students. Eighteen participants were recruited from a local nurse-training institute. The participants were undergraduate bachelor’s and master’s students of nursing. The experience and opinions of the participants were collected by multiple methods. The participants’ drawings and audio diaries representing their self-image as nurses were collected in advance of a discussion of ideas raised in the focus group interview. The findings were categorized into three themes: (a) self-roles, functions, and identities; (b) awareness of gender differences; and (c) the future of professional development. The findings of this study provide information on the nurse role, identity, gender differences, and professional development of male nursing students, which will drive the direction of the development of a positive image for male nurses in the future.