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**An exploratory survey to assess the attitude and perceived
barriers in pursuing higher education among nursing students of
selected schools and colleges of nursing of Udupi and Dakshina
Kannada district, Karnataka”**

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"ABSTRACT

A research study titled, "An exploratory survey to assess the attitude and perceived barriers in pursuing higher education among nursing students of selected schools and colleges of nursing of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka" was conducted by Ms. Mareena Mathew in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing at Manipal College of Nursing, Manipal, Manipal University.

The objectives of the study were to assess the attitude towards pursuing higher education among nursing students and to identify the perceived barriers towards pursuing higher education among nursing students.

The conceptual frame work for the study is based on Ajzen's Theory of Planned Behaviour. The research approach used in the study was survey approach. Research design used was exploratory survey research design. The samples of the study were 520 nursing students from the selected schools and colleges of nursing Udupi and Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka.

Convenience sampling technique was used in the selection of the districts, schools and colleges was selected by simple random technique and study participants from selected schools and colleges were taken using cluster sampling technique.

The tool developed for this study were Tool 1: Demographic proforma Tool 2: Likert Scale to assess the attitude Tool 3: Semi structured Questionnaire to identify the barriers in pursuing higher education .To ensure the content validity, the tool was given to 7 experts along with the evaluation criteria. The instrument was pretested and reliability was established. A Pilot study was conducted in Manipal School of Nursing Manipal on 30 participants.

Administrative permission was obtained from Dean, Manipal College of Nursing, Manipal, Institutional Ethical Committee of Kasturbha Hospital, Manipal, Principal of all selected schools and colleges .Informed consent was obtained from the participants. The data was collection was done from 1/1/2016- 30/1/2016.

Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data according to the objectives of the study . The present study finding revealed that out of 520 participants surveyed 287(55.2%) had favourable attitude towards continuing higher education in nursing and 233(44.8%) had unfavourable attitude towards continuing higher education in nursing. Barriers identified in the study were financial difficulties 482(92.69%) as the major barrier. No monetary benefits after higher education 480(92.30%) as the second most barrier. Other barriers were 462(88.84%) feels less demand in hospital for qualified staffs, 440(84.61%) family responsibilities, 408(78.46%) feels that higher education is not necessary for nursing,

320(61.53%) no recognition in society even after higher education, 250(48.07%) no encouragement from family members, 224(43.07%) feels less opportunity abroad even after higher education.

The study concludes that it is important to identify the attitude and barriers that prevent nurses from continuing higher education in nursing as refined attitudes and solved barriers will motivate nurses to continue their education and so our hospitals will have more nurses with updated knowledge and handful skills to give comprehensive care to patients.

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