

# Knowledge towards Elderly Care among Nursing Undergraduates at KDU, Sri Lanka

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Global rapid demographic transition is creating an implication for the enhancement of knowledge of nursing undergraduates as they are the future care providers, and nurses play a pivotal role in the provision of quality care for older adults. The current descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted to determine the knowledge of nursing undergraduates of Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) towards elderly care. Using the non-probability convenience sampling technique, the total population (181) was enrolled in this study. A pre-tested self-administered questionnaire with 30 statements in 'true' or 'false' format was used to assess the knowledge of nursing undergraduates. Total knowledge score was further categorized as poor, average and good as per the score obtained by the subjects. Results indicated that the mean knowledge score was  $24.61 \pm 2.354$  (out of 30) with the range of 16- 29. Majority of respondents, 147 (81.2 %), were in the good category of knowledge score. Chi square analysis was conducted to determine the association between level of knowledge and socio-demographic characteristics. Besides, the level of knowledge was significantly associated with the academic year ( $P = 0.037$ ), no any significant association was found in terms of age, marital status, gender, religion, type of family and district of residence. The study showed that students in higher academic years possessed a better knowledge regarding elderly care. Findings of this study assist the identification of knowledge gaps and emphasize areas for improving education on elderly care, which is essential in the delivery of quality care.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, Nursing undergraduates, Elderly care