

Perception of Korean Nursing Students on Their Self-Esteem, Family and Nursing Profession

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1. Introduction.

During the last several decades, 'so-called' the latter industrial society era, introducing new knowledge through the development of the cutting-edge technology including IT industry has induced the remarkable social changes in Korea. Young college students at the stage of their early adulthood are very sensitive to these changes, so that they are the group of people that changes themselves according to them and adopt them more rapidly than other social groups in the society.

Since 1990's, chronically-degenerative diseases has been very relevant in the Korean society like in other western modern countries with high economical development, so that soon or later, it will be very necessary to educate and train professional specialists, who can deal with those social and health-related issues of the oncoming highly aged society. It certainly means the change of the paradigm in the services focused on the cost-effective treatments, which has been traditionally emphasized so far. Therefore, the new paradigm of health services will be more focused on the total care services of science, technology and professional care. In the relation to this trend, some movements are occurring to re-classify and re-recognize the essence and the core concepts of professional care in the field of nursing. (Lee BS, 1996)

The researches for college students on the issues related to this kinds of social trends have been actively performed. And their main theses including self-esteem, the elderly, family, caring, stress, learning styles and etc., are quantitatively various. However, it is very rare to analyze the perception on self-esteem, family, and the elderly in the overall perspective, although it is essential in the nursing education. (Ha YS,1994; Lee KH,/Bang HS/Wang IS ,1995; Ha NS/Han KS/Choi J,1998; Lee MO,2000).

Therefore, the purpose of this research focuses on recognizing the perception of nursing students on their self-esteem, family, parents and nursing. I hope that this research may serve as a guideline to understand the characteristics of the changing society and it may also contribute as one useful information to develop the nursing education, which corresponds to the requests from the contemporary society.

II. Research Methods

A group of nursing students in the private college in Seoul were surveyed by paper-based questionnaire from October 12, 2003 to October 30, 2003. The implemented questionnaire is the one developed by Hashimoto (2002) through the 'focused group' discussion. It was translated to Korean and was pre-screened and revised by 5 nursing students. The surveyed items were about self-esteem, family, the elderly and caring and each item was structurized to be answered into either one of 2 types of 4 different responses such as (always, often, once a while and never) or (strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree).

The self-esteem item is consisted of 5 sub-items such as health, life satisfaction, self-esteem, values and concept of helping and being helped. The sub-items are made up of 7, 10, 10, 7 and 26 questions respectively.

The perception of family was surveyed by 20 questions and other family-related issues such as the role of family, living arrangement with parents and individual will for having children were additionally included.

The section for the perception toward the elderly has 13 questions and caring arrangement for the elderly and individual will for supporting parents were additionally surveyed.

The perception of nursing was surveyed with 8 questions.

All responded data (totally 115 sets, 24 from freshmen, 21 from sophomore, 28 from junior and 26 from senior students) were analyzed by SPSS 11.0 in terms of percentile and rank. Data analysis was mainly focused on those answers like either 'always' ('strongly agree') or 'never' (strongly disagree) to help viewers better understand.

III. Survey Result.

1. Demographical Characteristics of Survey Participants

The demographical Characteristics of Survey Participants are shown in the

Table 1. The Demographical Characteristics of People Surveyed.

Characteristic		Number	Percentage(%)
1. Average Age : 21.77			
2. Gender	Male	1	0.8
	Female	114	99.2
3. Religion	Buddhism	16	13.9
	Christianity	37	32.2
	Other	22	19.1
	None	40	34.8
4. Average Monthly Allowance : \$ 240	less than \$ 175	4	3.5
	\$ 175 ~ \$ 250	25	21.8
	\$ 250 ~ \$ 340	41	35.7
	\$ 340 ~ \$ 510	34	29.5
	more than \$ 510	11	9.5
5. Source of Allowance	Family	93	80.9
	Part-Time Job	20	17.4
	Other	2	1.7
6. Housing	Owned House	71	61.7
	Rent	33	28.7
	Other	11	9.6

Their average age was 21.7 and only one of them was male student and the rest 114 were female students. 34.8% of them didn't have any religion and 32.2% was Christians and their average monthly allowance was about \$ 240. 80.9% of them got their allowance from their family and 61.7% lived in their family-owned houses.

Their family backgrounds are shown below; The average number of their family members was 5 and the rate of family only consisted of parents and children was 86.1% and the rate of family with grandparents was 11.3%. The percentage of students born after their grandparents' death was 17.4% and the percentage of the cases that there was almost no interrelation between neighborhood was 19.3%. The responses for 'there have been no significant diseases among family members' were 74.8% and 24.3% of their answers showed that there have been some significant diseases among family members, so that generally speaking, it seems like that their family health is over all good. For the question asked the decision maker in their family, 50.4% said 'Father' and 24.3% said 'Mother' and their typical decision making was done by discussion and agreement (30.4%).

2. Self-esteem

The perception of health is shown in the Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Perception of health n=115

items	always	often	once a while	never
1) I am healthy	22.6	48.7	23.5	5.2
2) I am paying attention to my meals and nutrition.	18.3	45.2	29.6	7.0
3) I exercise and engage in sports.	9.6	29.6	44.3	16.5
4) I take enough rest and sleep after work.	26.1	41.7	26.1	6.1
5) I do not usually worry about things	28.7	43.5	23.5	4.3
6) I take vitamins and nutritional supplement.	5.2	16.5	24.3	53.9
7) I practice self-medication.	1.8	13.9	32.2	52.2

Table 2-2. Satisfaction with life n=115

items	always	often	once a while	never
1) I am satisfied with life.	19.1	60.0	18.3	2.6
2) I plan my life everyday.	20.0	62.6	15.7	1.7
3) I am satisfied with how I spend leisure.	13.9	42.6	36.5	7.0
4) I feel that I am isolated and far from others.	7.0	18.3	50.4	24.3
5) I am satisfied with the interpersonal relationship among students.	14.8	53.0	28.7	3.5
6) I am satisfied with the interpersonal relationship with the teachers	3.5	20.0	51.3	25.2
7) I have a goal in my life.	34.8	40.9	22.6	1.8
8) I live with hope.	38.3	40.0	20.9	.9
9) I am happy with life.	30.4	50.4	16.5	2.6
10) I am economically satisfied.	10.4	37.4	44.3	7.8

The responses for that 'I am always healthy' were 22.6% and the cases that 'I never pay attention to my meals and nutrition.' were 7.0%. The replies to that 'I never exercise and engage in sports' were 16.5% and the answers to 'I never take enough rest and sleep after work' were 6.1%. The responses for that 'I do not usually worry about things' were 4.3%. The percentage of people that always take vitamin and nutritional supplement was 5.2% and 1.8% of them always practice self-medication.

The responses for that 'I am always satisfied with life' were 19.1% and the

percentage of people who said 'never' on 'I plan my life everyday.' 1.7%, which was a very low percentage rate. The percentage of people who were never satisfied with how to spend their leisure was 7.0% and the rate of answers shown 'I never feel that I am isolated and far from others.' was 24.3%. The percentage of people who responded very negatively to the item for the interpersonal relationship among students 3.5%, which means very low. However, the rate of people who responded very negatively to the item for the interpersonal relationship with teachers was also 3.5%. The percentage of people who responded negatively to 'I have a goal in my life.' was 1.8% and the percentage of people who responded negatively to 'I live with hope' was 0.9%. 2.6% of people said that I was never happy with life, which means a very low percentage. But, people who were economically satisfied were only 10.4%.

The survey results for self-esteem are shown in the Table 2-3.

Table 2-3. Self-esteem n=115

items	always	often	once a while	never
1) On the while, I am satisfied with my self.	7.8	64.3	21.7	6.1
2) At times, I think I am no good at all.	7.0	40.9	42.6	9.6
3) I feel that I have a number of good qualities.	25.2	61.7	12.2	.9
4) I am able to do things as well as most other people.	17.4	58.3	22.6	1.8
5) I feel I do not have much to be proud of.	7.8	31.3	35.7	25.2
6) I certainly feel useless at times.	27.0	60.9	11.3	.9
7) I feel that I am a person of worth at least on an equal plane with others.	42.6	50.4	6.1	.9
8) I wish I could have more respect for myself.	36.5	37.4	24.3	1.7
9) All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.	.9	6.1	27.8	65.2
10) I take a positive attitude toward myself.	31.3	51.3	15.7	1.7

The percentage of people who were always satisfied with themselves was 7.8% and the rate of the very negative responses to 'At times, I think I am no good at all' was 9.6%. The percentage of people who strongly disagreed to their good qualities was 0.9%. The rate of responses shown 'never' to 'I am able to do things as well as most other people' was 1.8% and 25.2% of people said 'I never feel I do not have much to be proud of.'. 0.9% of people responded 'I certainly never feel useless at times.' and also the percentage of people who said 'never' to 'I feel that I am a person of worth at least on an equal plane with others.' was 0.9%, which is extremely low. The rate of people who always wished they could have more respect for themselves was

36.5% and the percentage of people who never thought that all in all, they were inclined to feel that they were failures was 65.2%. For the positive attitude, 31.3% said 'always', which implies relatively high level of self-esteem.

The perception of values is shown in the Table 2-4.

Table 2-4. Values n=115

items	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
1)The most important things to teach the child is to obey the parent unconditionally.	3.5	27.0	41.7	27.8
2) It is necessary to always pay respect to people in authority.	1.7	21.7	49.6	27.0
3) It is necessary to follow one's superior even if you think his ideas are wrong.	1.7	5.2	40.9	52.2
4) A person who feels doubtful about the way to follow traditions and customs will have a problem.	2.6	15.7	47.0	34.8
5) The women's traditional and main roles is to bring up children and do housework.	3.5	30.4	38.3	27.8
6) You can do anything you like regardless of what others like as long as you do not have problems.	54.8	35.7	7.8	1.7
7) Others will take advantage of you if you are not careful.	13.9	46.1	33.9	6.1

The percentage of people who strongly agreed to obedience to parents was 3.5%, which means very low. The strongly negative responses to always pay respect to people in authority was 27.0% and the rate of people who strongly disagreed to the necessity to follow one's superior unconditionally was 52.2%, which is a lot higher than in the previous item. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'A person who feels doubtful about the way to follow traditions and customs.' was 2.6% and the rate of people who strongly disagreed to women's traditional roles such as bring up children and doing house work was 28.8%, which is relatively high. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'You can do anything you like regardless of what others like as long as you do not have problems.' was 54.8%, which is very high and the percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'Others will take advantage of you if you are not careful.' was 13.9%.

The concept of help and being helped is shown in the Table 2-5.

Table 2-5. Concept of help and helping

n=115

items	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
1) You need not return or show goodwill to somebody who gave or showed goodwill to you.	2.6	26.1	42.6	28.7
2) It is useless to try to help others if you do not have the capability to help.	6.1	28.7	37.4	27.9
3) You give priority to other's benefit more than to yourself when helping others.	2.6	21.7	53.9	21.7
4) If something is given by another person, it is necessary to return only the same.	16.5	48.7	31.3	3.5
5) There is no need to make sacrifices to help others.	4.3	36.5	48.7	10.4
6) You should be grateful for the rest of your life to the person who helped you.	20.0	48.7	29.6	1.7
7) When you helped somebody, you may expect that he/ will show gratitude or return	6.1	28.7	56.5	8.7
8) When you benefactor has a problem, you should help him/her regardless of your situation.	8.7	44.3	42.6	4.3
9) You can depend on a person's goodwill.	5.2	41.7	40.0	13.3
10) You can be forgiven for hurting others.	.9	9.6	55.7	33.9
11) It is not necessary to help a person whom you will not have the opportunity to associate with in the future.	1.7	9.6	54.8	33.9
12) You should not bother others at any time no matter what.	34.8	39.1	21.7	4.3
13) You should be kind to the person who depends on you.	10.4	50.4	35.7	3.5
14) Everybody should be kind to a person who is in a marginalized situation.	6.1	47.8	38.3	7.8
15) What is good for oneself should come first before what is good for the society.	3.5	43.5	44.3	8.7
16) Expecting return for help given is not to be valued.	4.3	22.6	52.2	20.9
17) If somebody does not expect anything in return, you need not return it.	1.7	22.6	55.7	20.0

The percentage of responses that people strongly agreed to 'You may not

return or show goodwill to somebody who gave or showed goodwill to you' was 2.6%. The percentage of answers that people strongly agreed to 'It is useless to try to help others if you do not have the capability to help.' was 6.1% and the rate of answers that people strongly disagreed to 'You give priority to other's benefit more than to yourself when helping others.' was 21.7%, which means a lot higher. The percentage of responses that people strongly disagreed to 'If something is given by another person, it is necessary to return only the same.' 3.5% and the percentage of responses that people strongly agreed to 'There is no need to make sacrifices to help others.' was 4.3%. Only 1.7% of people strongly disagreed to 'You should be grateful for the rest of your life to the person who helped you.' and 6.1% strongly agreed to 'When you helped somebody, you may expect that he will show gratitude or return.'. The rate of people who strongly agreed to 'When you benefactor has a problem, you should help him/her regardless of your situation.' was 8.7% and 5.2% of people strongly agreed to 'You can depend on a person's goodwill.'. Only 0.9% strongly agreed to 'You can be forgiven for hurting others.' and also 1.7% showed that they strongly agreed to 'It is not necessary to help a person whom you will not have the opportunity to associate with in the future.'. The percentage of people who strongly disagree to 'You should not bother others at any time no matter what.' was 4.3% and 3.5% of people strongly disagreed to 'You should be kind to the depends on you.'. The rate of people who strongly disagreed to 'Everybody should be kind to a person who is in a marginalized situation.' was 7.8% and 3.5% of people strongly agreed to 'What is good for oneself should come first before what is good for the society.'. The percentage of responses that people strongly disagreed to 'Expecting return for help given is not to be valued.' was 20.9% and 1.7% strongly agreed to 'If somebody does not expect anything in return, you need not to return it.'.

3. Family

The definition of family surveyed is shown in the Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Definition of Family

n=115

items	percent	rank
1) Married man and woman with children.	3.5	3
2) Group of people joined together by marriage and blood relation.	62.3	1
3) Group of people who considered themselves family including homosexuals and unmarried couple.	34.2	2

'Group of people joined together by marriage and blood relation (62.3%)' was ranked first for the definition of family and the second rank was given to 'Group of people who considered themselves family including homosexuals and unmarried couple (34.2%)'. Only 3.5% of people chose the traditionally-expected answer like 'Married man and woman with children'.

The perception of family is shown in the Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Perception of family

n=115

items	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
1) Mother dominated.	60.0	31.3	7.0	1.7
2) It is where interpersonal relationship is learned.	38.3	47.8	10.4	3.5
3) Male dominated or father-centered.	6.1	21.7	35.7	36.5
4) Provides spiritual support.	48.7	36.5	9.6	5.2
5) Provides relief of stress and anxiety.	28.7	33.9	31.3	6.1
6) Head of the family is always respected and followed.	14.8	47.8	29.6	7.8
7) Closely knit relationship that does not allow others to enter.	20.0	31.3	35.7	13.0
8) There is love.	67.8	23.5	7.8	.9
9) Privacy is valued.	21.7	40.9	33.0	4.3
10) Interference between and among family is not good.	10.4	28.7	42.6	18.3
11) Respect for one another.	50.4	39.1	8.7	1.7
12) Surnames before marriage can be retained.	56.5	28.8	7.8	7.8
13) Fosters dependence among family members.	12.2	54.8	27.0	6.1
14) Fault of family members cannot be seen by the family.	10.4	56.5	28.7	4.4
15) Most of the time, members laugh and are happy being together.	41.7	43.5	13.0	1.8
16) Family protects members from outsiders.	63.5	29.6	6.1	.9
17) Sometimes, conflicts exist among family members.	3.5	25.2	42.6	28.7
18) One can relax with family.	55.7	34.8	9.6	-
19) Provides support for the elderly members.	51.3	33.0	13.9	1.7
20) Sometimes, I would like to get away from the family.	11.3	43.5	27.8	17.4

The percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'Mother dominated in family' was 1.7%, which is absolutely low. The rate of people who strongly agreed to 'It is where interpersonal relationship is learned.' was 38.3% and 36.5% strongly disagreed to 'Male dominated or father-centered. family'. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'Family provides spiritual support.' was 48.7% and 28.7% strongly agreed to 'Family provides relief of stress and anxiety.'. 7.8% and 13.0% of

people strongly disagreed to 'Head of the family is always respected and followed.' and 'Family is closely knit relationship that does not allow others to enter.'. The percentages of people who strongly agreed to 'There is love.' and 'Privacy is valued.' were 67.8% and 21.7% each respectively. 18.3% strongly disagreed to 'Interference between and among family is not good.' and 50.4%, which means a little more than the half of people strongly agreed to 'Family respects for one another.'. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'Surnames before marriage can be retained.' was 56.5% and the percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'Family fosters dependence among family members.' was 6.1% and 4.4% also strongly disagreed to 'Fault of family members cannot be seen by the family.'. 41.7% and 63.5% of people strongly agreed to 'Most of the time, members laugh and are happy being together.' and 'Family protects members from outsiders.' each respectively. 28.7% strongly disagreed to 'Sometimes, conflicts exist among family members.' and 55.7% strongly agreed to 'One can relax with family.'. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to 'Family provides support for the elderly members.' was 51.3% and the percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'Sometimes, I would like to get away from the family.' was 17.4%.

The perception of regarding living arrangement with parents is shown in the Table 3-3. Perception of regarding living arrangement n=115

items	percent	rank
1) Live separately from the parents but with continuous contact	67.5	1
2) Live with the family sharing everything.	14.9	2
3) Live with the family sharing everything. only the house but without interference from one another.	14.0	3
4) Live separately without interference from one another.	.9	5
5) Others(please specify)	2.6	4

'Live separately from the parents, but with continuous contact' was ranked first with 67.5% of responses and 'Live with parents sharing everything' was given the second rank with 14.9%. 14% of people chose 'Live with family sharing only the house, but without interference from one another' and merely 0.9% selected 'Live separately without interference from one another'.

The most important role of family is shown in the Table 3-4.

Table 3-4. Most important role of the family n=115

items	percent	rank
1) Provision of emotional stability.	94.8	1
2) Provision of an environment conducive to healthy living.	-	-
3) Having and bringing up children.	-	-
4) Provision of economic stability.	3.5	2
5) Enhancing social status.	1.8	3
6) Care of the elderly	-	-

'Provision of emotional stability' was ranked first with 94.8% of responses, which is a absolute percentage and there was no response to 'Provision of an environment conducive to health living' and 'Having and bringing up children'. 'Provision of economic stability' and 'Enhancing social status' had 3.5% and 1.8% of responses each respectively.

The least performed role of family is shown in the Table 3-5.

Table 3-5. Least performed role of the family n=115

items	percent	rank
1) Provision of emotional stability.	27.4	2
2) Having and bringing up children.	11.5	3
3) Care of the elderly.	41.6	1
4) Enhancing social status.	8.0	4
5) Provision of economic stability.	3.5	6
6) Provision of an environment conducive to healthy living.	4.4	5
7) None	3.5	6

Most people (41.6%) chose 'Care of the elderly' and 27.4% pointed out 'Provision of emotional stability'. 'Having and bringing up children' was ranked third with 11.5%.

The surveyed results for married children's living arrangement in relation to parents is shown in the Table 3-6.

Table 3-6. Married children living arrangement in relation to parents n=115

items	percent	rank
1) The parents should live with son's family.	21.1	2
2) The parents should live with daughter's family.	15.8	3
3) The married couple should live distant the parents.	10.5	4
4) Others(please specify)	52.6	1

'Parents should live with son's family.' was given the second rank with 21.1% and 'Parents should live with daughter's family.' was ranked third with 15.8%. 10.5% of people chose to live separately. Interestingly, most people (52.6%) selected 'Others'.

The perception on married couples who decided not to have children is shown in the Table 3-7.

Table 3-7. Perceptions on married couples who decided not to have children

items	percent	rank
1) It is couple's choice. It is natural that one couple may choose to have children and other couple not to have.	62.3	1
2) Children strengthen couple's relationship, therefore it is regrettable that they will not experience bringing up children.	7.9	4

3) Bringing up children is a reason for living, therefore it is regrettable not to have children.	8.8	3
4) Bringing up children can develop one to become better human being, therefore it is regrettable not to have children.	17.5	2
5) The responsibility to have succeeding generation is not accomplished.	.9	6
6) It is difficult to bring up children in today's society, therefore it is better not to have children	2.6	5
7) Others(please specify)	-	-

The responses like that it is couple's choice occupied 62.3% (the 1st rank) and 7.9% (the 4th rank) chose 'Children strengthen couple's relationship, therefore it is regrettable that they will not experience bring up children.'. The percentages of people who selected 'Bringing up children is a reason for living, therefore it is regrettable not to have children.' and 'Bringing up children can develop one to become better human being, therefore it is regrettable not to have children' were 8.8% and 17.5%, which were the 3rd and 2nd rank respectively. People who chose 'The responsibility to have succeeding generation is not accomplished.' were only 0.9%.

4. The elderly

The perception of the elderly is shown in the Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Perception of elderly n=115

items	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
1) A person becomes more warm hearted and kinder as one becomes older.	9.6	54.8	29.6	6.0
2) It is difficult to be flexible as one becomes older.	17.4	40.9	36.5	5.2
3) Wisdom and life experiences increases as one becomes older.	34.8	47.8	16.5	.9
4) Memory diminishes as one becomes older.	21.7	58.3	16.5	3.5
5) Older person has more opportunity to socialize with others.	6.1	40.0	49.6	4.3
6) A person becomes less associated with former groups as one becomes older.	8.7	49.6	35.7	6.0
7) A person becomes more fulfilled as one becomes older.	7.0	41.7	44.3	7.0
8) As one becomes older one becomes less sociable.	3.5	50.4	32.2	13.9
9) A person has better understanding of	5.2	27.0	51.3	16.6

self as one becomes older.				
10) A person losses more and more as one becomes older.	14.8	40.0	33.9	11.3
11) One has more free time as one becomes older.	27.0	50.4	19.1	3.5
12) Life becomes more routine as one becomes older.	18.3	38.3	36.5	6.9
13) Time becomes shorter as one becomes older.	34.8	41.7	20.9	2.6

9.6% of surveyed people strongly agreed to 'A person become more warm hearted and kinder as one become older.' and 5.2% strongly disagreed to 'It is difficult to be flexible as one become older.'. The percentage of people who strongly agreed to the increase of wisdom and life experience as one gets older was 34.8%, which is comparatively high. Only 3.5% of people strongly disagreed to diminished memory as one becomes older. Also 4.3% and 6.0% strongly disagreed to 'Older person has more opportunity to socialize with others.' and 'A person becomes less associated with former groups as one becomes older.' each respectively. 7.0% strongly agreed to 'A person become more fulfilled as one becomes older.' and the rate of people who strongly disagreed to 'As one becomes older, one becomes less sociable.' was 13.9%. Only 5.2% strongly agreed to 'A person has better understanding of self as one becomes older.' and 11.3% strongly disagreed to 'A person loses more and more as one becomes older.'. The percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'One has more free time as one becomes older.' was 3.5% and also 6.9% strongly disagreed to 'Life becomes more routine as one becomes older.'. Merely 2.6% strongly disagreed to 'Time becomes shorter as one becomes older.'.

The perception on who should take care of the elderly is shown in the Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. Perceptions on who should take care of the elderly n=115

items	percent	rank
1) Taking care of the parents is a role of the children, therefore the son or daughter should take care of them .	74.8	1
2) Elderly should cared for in nursing home or home for aged.	20.9	2
3) Pay care givers should come to the house to give care. it is regrettable not to have children.	-	-
4) The spouse should take care of the elderly	3.4	3
5) Elderly should be cared for in the hospital.	-	-
6) Women are suitable to take care of the elderly; therefore the daughter of daughter-in-law should be the one to take care of them	.9	4

'Taking care of the parents is a role of the children, therefore the son or

daughter should take care of them.' was chosen by 74.8% of people, which means the number 1 choice. 'Elderly should be cared for in nursing homes or homes for the aged.' was ranked secondly by 20.9%. The third choice was 'The spouse should take care of the elderly.' by 3.4% and only 0.9% (the 4th rank) selected 'Women are suitable to take care of the elderly, therefore the daughter or daughter-in-law should be the one to take care of them.' There was no response to 'Pay care givers should come to the house to give care. it is regrettable not to have children.'

The perception on taking care of elderly parents is shown in the Table 4-3.

Table 4-3. Taking care of elderly parents n=115

items	percent	rank
1) I will given them full support.	43.0	1
2) I will support them according to my capability.	52.6	2
3) My parents will support themselves.	4.4	3
4) My parents will rely on social welfare and their own capability.	-	-

Most people (52.6)% chose 'I will support them according to my capability.' and the percentage of people who selected 'I will given them full support.' was 43.0%, which is the second largest number. The rate of people who responded to 'My parents will support themselves.' was only 4.4% and there was no one who did choose 'My parents will rely on social welfare and their own capability.'

The perception of nursing is shown in the Table 5.

Table 5. Perception of nursing n=115

items	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree
1) Nursing is a profession.	71.3	24.3	1.7	2.6
2) It is economically productive.	55.7	36.5	6.1	1.7
3) It has a high social value.	6.1	24.3	47.8	21.7
4) It is a doctor's assistant job.	3.5	15.7	34.8	46.1
5) It is suitable for women.	16.5	46.1	27.8	9.6
6) It contributes to national development.	47.0	39.1	10.4	3.5
7) It involves doing lowly/dirty work.	4.3	15.7	33.0	47.0
8) It is physically exhausting.	39.1	45.2	13.0	2.6

The percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'Nursing is a profession.' was only 2.6% and also merely 1.7% strongly disagreed to 'It is economically productive.'. The rate of people who strongly disagreed to 'It has a high social value.' was 21.7%, which is comparatively high. Only 3.5% strongly agreed to 'It is a doctor's assistant job.' and the percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'It is suitable for women.' was 9.6%. 3.5% strongly disagreed to 'It contributes to national development.' and only 4.3% strongly agreed to 'It involves doing low and

dirty work.'. 39.1%, which is a fairly high percentage, strongly agreed to 'It is physically exhausting.'.

IV. Analysis

This research reflects the perception of female students who are at the ages of early 20's in terms of age and gender. The rates of Christians and people who don't have any religion are almost equally 1/3 each, so that there is a possibility that their perception might be influenced by their religions. Their monthly allowance was about \$ 240 and it is almost 1/6 of the monthly wage of an entry-level office worker who just graduate from college and it is 1.13% of the monthly household income of a typical Korean middle class family. The sources of their allowance were mostly from their family (80.9%). The college that they are studying locates at the center of Seoul, the capital of South Korea and it is recognized as a fairly good academic institution, which has tried to achieve the worldwide standards. In the same context, its Department of Nursing has tried various educational renovation and reform to improve its quality of nursing education. In terms of housing, 1/3 of people who participated in the survey don't live in their own houses and it means that the percentage of people from local provinces is increasing.

More than the half of students take either nutritional supplement or self-medication almost not at all, and more than 1/4 of them take enough rest and sleep. This result is quite different from the one of Choi MK(2003) whose result showed that more than 1/2 of the college students with different majors revealed overall tiredness and it may be highly related to distress. Supposing that they are at the same ages, which are the early 20's, it is possibly to set a hypothesis that the perception of health among the students whose majors are nursing is higher than the one of different majoring students. Kim SJ & Ahn ES(1997) mentioned that the female students at 4-years colleges located at Seoul showed a united health perception including physical wellbeing, emotional relief and harmony of satisfiable life styles. In comparison to that, because this research's target group consists of almost female students, it is possible to assume that this result means the universal health perception of female students at 4-years colleges located at Seoul.

Overall life satisfaction seems to be fairly high because in 9 out 10 items, there were less than 8% of negative perceptions. However, in the item asked the interpersonal relationship with teachers, 25.2% said they were never satisfied with the interpersonal relationship with their teachers. Ha YS(1994) reported that more satisfaction nursing students have in their college lives, more self-realization and self-confidentness they have. The improvement of the interpersonal relationship between teachers and students must be seriously considered in the educational processes because the level of the satisfaction in college life greatly contributes

to the desires and the goal achievements of nursing students when Kalish(1975)'s concept of life satisfaction is applied. Oh WO(2002) pointed out that self-conduct, which is useful to accomplish nursing study has a great influence on life satisfaction. Kim MA(1996)'s research reported that teachers actively responded to meetings with students, it seems like that it's not much difficult to meet teachers outwardly. So it is necessary to pinpoint out the reason why some students were never satisfied with interpersonal relationship with their teachers, therefore the situation shall be improved.

Although more than 70% showed positive responses in 9 out 10 items of the self-esteem section, unexpectedly the percentages of people who chose 'always' or 'often' to 'At times, I think I am no good at all.' were 7.0% and 40.9% respectively, which were comparatively high. The supports to enhance self-esteem look like a important factor in college education. This is supported by Oh WO's research results that stronger self-esteem students have, more continually they conduct themselves to participate in their study. It is because self-esteem means the positive attitude recognizing the confidence of personal ability, importance and value of personal being as Taft(1985) defined, and it is the extensive part of the concept of personal ego.

In 5 items asked about parents, authority, superior, tradition and bring up children, the percentages of people who strongly disagreed to them varied from the minimum 27.0% to the maximum 52.2%. However, 54.8% strongly agreed to 'You can do anything you like regardless of what others like as long as you do not have problems.'. It implies a change in personal values. Especially traditional woman's role as a full-time housekeeper is protested. It can be thought the perception of women who want to actively participate in social activities in relation to their majors that clearly guarantee their career after graduation. However, as Han SS, Park HA, Ahn SH, Miriam Cameron, Oh HS, Kim KU(2001) reported, it better be recognized a change in personal values as mentioned above, because it is in the same context of their reports that the bases of the guidelines that students use to resolve any conflicts follow their ready-made personal values.

In the section of the concept of help and helping, the item that has the highest percentage of strong agreement is 'You should not bother others at any time no matter what.' with 34.8%. 'You should be grateful for the rest of your life to the person who helped you.' and 'if something is given by another person, it is necessary to return.' have 20.0% and 16.5% of strong agreements respectively. Those percentages can be said fairly high compared to the rates in the other items. On the contrary, 33.9% strongly disagreed to both 'You can be forgiven for hurting others.' and 'It is not necessary to help a person whom you will not have the opportunity to associate with in the future.'. The results means that comparatively speaking, a fairly high

standard of the concept of help and helping exists among them. But, Kim MA(1996)'s research reported students' low efficiency as helpers in the time of practical exercises and it means self-expressing is much more difficult than establishing concepts. Lee KE, Ha NS, Kim SY(2000) explain the reason suggesting that it is caused by the difficulty in terms of communication influenced by the Korean cultural virtue called "Duk". The similar influences were also mentioned in the Hwang HY(2000)'s research.

The average number of the family members who participated in this survey was 5 and it reflects the recent low childbirth rate (Public Welfare White Paper, 2003). In terms of family background, the rate of 'parents-children' families was 86.1% and the rate of families with grand parents was 11.3%. It clearly shows the shrinkage of family size and the couple-oriented family structure. This tendency may be possibly more intensified in the future because 62.3% (the most people) agreed to 'Having children is couple's choice.' and almost all survey participants were singles. 30.4% chose discussion and agreement as their way to make family decisions and it is concluded that in terms of family function, the perception on the gender roles based on inter-gender cooperation has increased. Based on this kinds of family backgrounds, only 3.5% of students agreed to 'sometimes, conflicts exist among family members.'. Also 11.2% and 12.2% strongly agreed to 'Sometimes, I would like to get away from the family.' and 'Fosters dependence among family members.'. Conclusively speaking, they reveal the positive perception on family. Regarding to living arrangement after marriage, 67.5% wanted to live separately from their parents, and the most people (41.6%) thought that the least performed role of family was the care of the elderly. Therefore, it seems like that the traditional Confucius family values based on the concept of the loyalty to parents called 'Hyo' are being diminished.

The percentages of responses to the items in the perception of the elderly varies. For instance, 34.8% strongly agreed to 'Wisdom and life experiences increases as one becomes older.'. On the contrary, only 9.6% strongly agreed to 'A person becomes more warm hearted and kinder as one becomes older.'. The responses to two similar items were quite different and look as if they are contradictory to each other, so that it is doubtful that they appropriately perceive the elderly. On the other hand, students regarded the people at the age 65.5 or more as the elderly. They learn that the eligible age to receive welfare benefits starts from the age 65, so there is a great possibility that their perception might be the result of learning rather than purely natural understanding the elderly. Chon.SJ and 15 people (2001) analyzed the current situation over 50 4-years institutions, 30 3-years institutions and 27 graduate schools. They reported the elderly care curriculum was provided in 80% of 4-years institutions and in 58% of 3-years institutions. They pointed out that the policies for the elderly, the care plans, the legal issues related to the elderly

and environments were needed to be improved and suggested some researches for curriculum innovation, work ethics and task performance ability.

The percentages of people who strongly agreed to 'Nursing is a profession.', 'It is economically productive.' and 'It contributes to national development.' were 71.3%, 55.7% and 47.0% each respectively. Therefore, the perception of nursing is overall positive. But, only 6.1% strongly agreed to 'It has a high social value.', so that it means there is a clear gap between their perception of nursing profession and their social viewpoint. The nursing field needs to carry out some profound researches for it.

V. Summary and Conclusion

The goal of this research is to recognize the perception of nursing students on self-esteem, family, the elderly and care in the trend of the social changes. A written survey targeting on nursing students at one private college located at Seoul was performed from October 12 to October 30, 2003. The collected data were analyzed by SPSS 11.0 heavily focused on either strong agreement or disagreement, and the following results were attained.

1. The average age of the targeted group of nursing students was 21.77 and their average monthly allowance mostly provided by family was about \$ 240. Their average number of family member was 5 and 86.1% of their family had the structure of 'parents and children only'

2. Their perception on health is overall good. But, most of them do not pay attention to their meals, nutritional supplements and sports. And only 1.6% take self-medication.

The level of their life satisfaction is overall high. But only 10.4% is always satisfied economically and the percentage of very positive responses to the interpersonal relationship with teachers was 3.5%, which is very low.

Their self-esteem was relatively high. Especially, the percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.' was 65.2% and the rate of people who answered 'always' to 'I take a positive attitude toward myself.' was 31.3%.

The items in the perception on personal values result various responses. The percentages of people who strongly disagreed to the unconditional obedience to family, one with authority and one's superior were 27.8%, 27.0% and 52.2% each

respectively, so that overall they were negative. Also, 28.8% strongly disagreed to 'The women's traditional and main role is to bring up children and do housework.', which is fairly high. On the other hand, people showed a very high agreement rate (54.8%) on 'You can do anything you like regardless of what others like as long you do not have problems.'.

The perception of help and helping was overall positive. 20.0% strongly agreed to 'You should be grateful for the rest of your life to the person who helped you.' and 34.8% also strongly agreed to 'You should not bother others at any time no matter what.'.

3. In the section of the perception of family, more than 1/2 of people strongly agreed to 'mother-dominated family', 'love of family', 'respect', 'retaining surname before marriage', 'protection', 'relaxation' and 'supporting for the elderly', so that they overall recognized family as a warmhearted image.

Most people did not want to live together after their marriage and the least performed role of family that most of them chose was caring of the elderly (41.6%). 62.3% agreed to 'it's couple's choice to have children after marriage.'.

4. The items that more than 25% of people strongly agreed to were 'increase of wisdom', 'more free time', and 'shorter time'. On the contrary, the items that more than 10% of people strongly disagreed to 'being less sociable', 'better understanding of self' and 'losing more'. their rates were 13.9%, 16.6% and 11.3% respectively. Conclusively speaking, their perception of the elderly can be evaluated positive.

On the item who should take care of the elderly, 74.8% selected 'children' and the second choice (20.9%) was 'nursing homes'. But there was no response to 'pay care-giver, hospital, and social welfare'.

5. Overall responses to the 8 items in the section of the perception of nursing were very positive. However, the percentage of people who strongly disagreed to 'It has a high social value.' was 21.7%, which was fairly high.

The overall results mentioned above directly or indirectly mean the conspicuous trend toward nuclear families, the shrinkage of family size, the perceptual change which is negative to caring the elderly living together, so that it is necessary to develop new educational curriculum that includes the understanding of family, the elderly and nursing. Also, because the very high level of the perceptions on 'help and helping' and 'nursing', with the increasing perception of equalized gender roles can be seen, it is needed to perform some

comparative researches to the perception of foreign nursing students. It is because some meaningful fundamental data, which can promote self-realization through enhancing self-discipline can be obtained by doing so.

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