

Level of Ambition and Its Relationship to Psychological and Academic Alienation among Nursing Students

By

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Abstract

Objective(s): This study aims to assess the students' level of ambition and psychological and academic alienation among nursing students and identify the relationship between them. **Methodology:** A descriptive design used in the present study was established for the period from November 2022 to June 2022. A convenient "non-probability" sample, of (300) nursing student were selected from college of nursing university of Baghdad and department of nursing in Al-Hadi university college. The instrument of the study is adopted for the purpose of this study which consist of the socio-demographic data, psychological alienation scale and level of ambition scale, the data were analyzed through the application of descriptive and inferential statistical approaches which are applied by using IBM/SPSS package version 24.0. **Results:** the result indicate that 61% of nursing students with moderate psychological alienation as well as 67.3% of nursing students show moderate level of academic alienation and 55.7% of nursing students show moderate level of ambition. **Conclusion:** the result indicates that there is high significant relationship (strong reverse) among level of ambition with psychological and academic alienation at $p\text{-value} = .001$. **Recommendation:** develop the university's students' abilities to face problems and increase their awareness of the importance of their role in life and society so that they do not fall prey to successive frustrations that develop their feelings of alienation.

Keywords: Level of Ambition, Psychological Alienation and Academic Alienation

Introduction

Ambition is the desire to achieve goals. Sociologists believe that ambition is the result of a parent's, social, or economical milieu, whereas ambition has been viewed as a personality attribute by psychologists. Generally, ambition serves as a barometer for both community and individual morale, since it emphasizes human engagement with the environment, surroundings, and society. Is belonged to aim to be realized or a person's desire or by an planned activity and a specific work, but a career ambition is defined as the manifestation of the desired end, which is meant to reflect an individual's inner desires for a future career It is these characteristics that distinguish people's readiness, meeting various aims, struggling, bearing responsibilities, and a desire for greatness as noted in. Ambition creates a strategy for a person to follow in order to achieve a specific goal. So, it is regarded as more than just a wish to be fulfilled; it is also a significant factor that influences one's current and future behaviors (Alshebami & Alamri,2020).

Ambition level concept received interest from researchers and psychologists alike, they tried to understand the concepts and their correlations with each other and with the other variables because individuals are the central focus of research and because of their importance in different developmental fields as they are factors defining proper development.

According to Oksana and Elena (2015), a person's level of ambition is the objective that he or she want to achieve and believes that he or she is capable of achieving. Level of ambition is defined by Machado and Lima (2011) as the level of achievement that an individual aspires to and believes they will be able to attain. Farhan and Saad (2019) defined level of ambition as the individual's intense desire to achieve the goals he aspires to do. Abd-Alfattah (2007a) described the ambition level as a surprisingly strong person function that differentiates among people in attaining a positive stage that corresponds with the mental formation and reference framework of the person consistent with skilled fulfilment and failure experiences.

Alienation is a psychosocial phenomenon that increases when a person is exposed to a lot of people and is a result of a pervasive social environment. It can lead to academic and social disengagement. Alienation is a multidimensional construct that consists of five dimensions (Powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, social isolation, and self-estrangement (Brown et al, 2003; Aklilu & MAKALELA, 2020).

Alienation, according to Zulekha (2012), is a situation in which a human being is exposed to weakness, helplessness, and a breakdown in personality, as well as his sense of self. By distancing oneself from society and the dominant social culture.. Barclay and Moncivaiz (2016) reported that alienation is degrading present health Through its psychological and social impact. Alienation is one of the most prominent issues, a manifestation of humans' alienation from themselves and their communities, which has resulted in an increase in psychological disorders (Naifeh, Tull & Gratz 2012). Psychological alienation is an essential phrase since it refers to a specific process in the individual-social environment interaction (Mahon et al, 2005).

Psychological alienation is defined as detachment from oneself and others, forced migration from one's homeland, estrangement, loss of self-esteem and lack of belonging as a result of powerlessness, failure to deal, whether for others, or oneself, or a sense of not affiliation to society. It also refers to psychosocial stress and weak social moral standards (Al-Dreesawy, Al-Salmi & ZayerAjil, 2020; Alnabulsi & Salameh, 2021; Asha & Makalela, 2020).

The idea of academic alienation is gaining significance for theory and research because of Being a topic of extreme hobby and a persevering with theoretical and empirical argument. the concept academic alienation describes the method of reducing pleasure of university and growing distancing from positive gadgets with inside the college surroundings Students can be alienated from university in general, however they're in all likelihood to be or alienated from specific factors classmates and teachers. (Hascher and Hadjar 2018). Kamel (2020) describe the characteristics of academic alienation students that the alienated students do not confess that they are alienated. They usually seem protective, aware toward other student's sensation, inactive and calm. On another hand the more they challenge their alienation, the better they deal with problems. As well as they prefer to engaging in sporting actions and art but still feeling detachment from university.

Methodology

A descriptive design used in the present study was established for the period from November 2022 to June 2022. A convenient "non- probability" sample, of (300) nursing student were selected from college of nursing university of Baghdad and department of nursing

in Al- Hadi university college. The instrument of the study is adopted for the purpose of this study which consist of the socio- demographic data, psychological and alienation scale, the data were analyzed through the application of descriptive and inferential statistical approaches which are applied by using IBM/SPSS package version 24.0.

The instrument consists of 3 parts the Socio-demographic data which consist of six items, including: age, gender, college, scholastic stage, studying by, level of education. And second part contains the level of ambition scale (Al-Sarayra, 2001), this scale composed of 30 items, that reflects the nature of the individual's level of ambition. Using a 5-point Likert scale format, all items are answered, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. (Strongly agree= 4, agree=3, neutral= 2, disagree= 1, and strongly disagree= 0) for the positive score items; while the negative items give reverse scores as follow: (strongly agree= 0, agree = 1, neutral= 2, disagree= 3, and strongly disagree= 4). The total score ranges from (Low: 30 – 70, Moderate: 70.1 – 110, High: 110.1 – 150). And third part contains the psychological alienation scale, which consist of two subscales psychological alienation and academic alienation. This scale composed of 35 items. The psychological alienation subscale consists of five subdomains: loss of control (4 items), carelessness (5 items), loss of meaning (3 items), normlessness (5 items) and social isolation (3 items).and academic alienation subscale consist of 3 subdomains: normlessness (5 items), social isolation (6 items) and loss of control (4 items). Using a 5-point Likert scale format, all items are answered, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. (Strongly agree= 4, agree=3, neutral= 2, disagree= 1, and strongly disagree= 0). The total score for psychological alienation ranges from (Low: 20 – 46.66, Moderate: 46.67 – 73.33, High: 73.34 – 100) while academic alienation (Low: 15 – 35, Moderate: 35.1 – 55, High: 55.1 – 75).

Results of the Study

Table (1): *Distribution of Sample According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics*

List	Characteristics	f	%	
1	Gender	Male	117	39
		Female	183	61
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>
2	Age M±SD= 24.19±5.222	less than 21 years	85	28.3
		21 – less than 24 years	89	29.7
		24 – less than 27 years	45	15
		27 – less than 30 years	29	9.7
		30 ≤ year	52	17.3
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>
3	College	Governmental	150	50
		Private	150	50
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>
4	Scholastic stage	First	108	26
		Second	70	23.3
		Third	60	20
		Fourth	62	20.7
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>
5	Studying by:	Getting a job	155	51.7
		Parent's desire	94	31.3
		Others	51	17
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>
6	Level of education (pre-college)	Secondary school	191	63.7
		Nursing secondary sch.	65	21.7
		Nursing institute	44	14.6
		<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

Table (2): Evaluation the Level of Ambition among Nursing Students

Ambition	F	%	M	SD	Eval.
Low	0	0			
Moderate	167	55.7	109.45	10.393	Moderate
High	133	44.3			
<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>			

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, Eval.: Evaluation

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 30 – 70, Moderate: 70.1 – 110, High: 110.1 – 150

This table indicates that 55.7% of nursing students show moderate level of ambition (109.45±10.393).

Table (3): Overall Evaluation of Psychological Alienation among Nursing Students

Psychological Alienation	F	%	M	SD	Eval.
Low	10	3.3			
Moderate	183	61	68.50	10.634	Moderate
High	107	35.7			
<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>			

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, Eval.: Evaluation

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 20 – 46.66, Moderate: 46.67 – 73.33, High: 73.34 – 100

This table indicates that nursing students show moderate level of psychological alienation (68.50±10.634) in which 61% show moderate level.

Table (4): Overall Evaluation of Academic Alienation among Nursing Students

Academic Alienation	F	%	M	SD	Eval.
Low	35	11.7			
Moderate	202	67.3	46.39	10.142	Moderate
High	63	21			
<i>Total</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>100</i>			

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, Eval.: Evaluation

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 15 – 35, Moderate: 35.1 – 55, High: 55.1 – 75

This table reveals that nursing students show moderate level of academic alienation (46.39±10.142) in which 67.3% show moderate level.

Table (5): Correlation among Level of Ambition, Psychological Alienation, and Academic Alienation among Nursing Students (N=300)

Correlation	Ambition	Psychological alienation	Academic alienation
Ambition	Spearman Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	1	
Psychological alienation	Spearman Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	-.448** .001	1
Academic alienation	Spearman Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	-.249** .001	.484** 1

This table displays that there is high significant relationship (strong reverse) among level of

ambition with psychological alienation and academic alienation at $p\text{-value} = .001$.

Discussion

In the current study the result of study in the table (1) showed that a high percentage the students (61%) were females. This result agrees with study done by Khairallah (2021) which showed that highest percentage (56.7%) of participants were female. While disagree with study done by Ibrahim (2021) which showed that 70.6% of participants were males.

Concerning to age a highest percentage (29.7%) of students were within age group 21 less than 24 year ($M \pm SD = 24.19 \pm 5.222$). This result agrees with study done by This result agree with study done by Ifeagwazi which showed that mean of age for participants were (23.42 years). Also, this result in the same line with study done by Hasan, and Abass (2014), which showed that highest percentage of students were within age group (19-23) Years. Raja, and Sajit (2018) in their study agree with our result were the highest percentage (51.250 of participants of students were within age groups (21-23) years.

Regarding to college the results of the study showed that half (50%) of the students were in private colleges and the other half (50%) were in Governmental colleges. This result agrees with study done by, Dillu, and Soren (2021) Which showed that half (50%) of students were in private college, and another half in governmental college.

Regarding scholastic stage the result of table (1) indicate that highest percentage (26%) of students were in the first scholastic stage, 23.3% in second stage, 20.7% in fourth stage, and only 20% were in the third stage. This result agrees with Jordanian study that done by Almomani and Theeb (2016) which found that highest percentage of participants were in first scholastic stage, while disagree with study done by Hasan, and Abass (2014) which showed that highest percentage (66.9%) of participants were in third stage. A study by Hasoon, and Hussein (2013) showed in their study that highest percentage (27.1%) of students were in second stage, and that disagree with our study.

percentage (51.7) of nursing students responding they studying nursing based on their interest in getting a job, then 31.3% of them answer that they studying nursing as response to their parents' desire, 17% answer that they studying nursing for another reason. This result disagree with study done by Bloomfield et al (2018) which showed that highest percentage (73%) of participants were studying nursing based on their specialty, While only (22%) of them were studying nursing to getting the job.

The result in the table (2) regarding overall evaluation of the level of ambition among Nursing Students indicated that highest percentage (55.7%) of students' were with moderate level, while (44.3%) of their answer were high level. This result agrees with study done by Abuzaid (2022) which showed that level of ambition was moderate in all domain ($MS = 3.65, 3.62, 3.64, 3.57, 3.59$) and in overall assessment ($MS = 3.614$) Were moderate. While disagree with study done by Almomani and Theeb (2016) which conducted in Jordan and showed that level of ambition among students were high ($MS = 4.04$).

Result in the table (3) showed that overall evaluation of psychological alienation among nursing students Were Moderate ($MS \pm SD = 68.50 \pm 10.634$) in which 61% show moderate level.

A study done by Junjoun (2017) found contrary to current result, were this study showed that the students of study sample have high level of psychological alienation. While Study done by Rababa and Smadi (2020), showed that overall assessment of psychological

alienation was moderate ($MS=41.2$) and that agree with our result. A study done in Iraq by Alwan (2014) about psychological alienation among university students where this study sample consist of 100 students (50 males, and 50 females), and showed that only (9%) of students suffering from psychological alienation. Random sample study done by Rayce (2009) showed that (75%) of student's participant in study did not suffering from psychological alienation.

The result in the table (4) of overall evaluation of academic alienation among nursing students showed that nursing students show moderate level of academic alienation (46.39 ± 10.142) in which 67.3% show moderate level. This result agrees with a study done on 864 students in Ethiopia by Atnafu (2012) which showed that academic alienation levels were moderate ($MS\pm DS 332\pm 0.5546$). While disagree with Study done in Iran by Junjoun (2017) which was correlation-descriptive in which 183 paramedical university students in the academic year of 2019-2020 were selected by a two-stage cluster random sampling method, studying at the Kermanshah university of medical sciences, which showed that academic alienation levels among students were low.

By using spearman correlation appear there is a highly significant relationship (strong reverse) between the level of ambition with psychological alienation and academic alienation at $p\text{-value} = .001$. This result agrees with a study done by Abu Raya and Morsi (2010), which showed that there is a significant association at $p\text{-value} = 0.05$ between ambition with psychological alienation and academic alienation. The study argues that was a strong correlation (inverse relationship) between the level of ambition and psychological and academic alienation, because in the nursing job the ambition grows and grows when they be greatness of the job they will have ,when they realize how will be able to develop this job to save people's lives, when they realize they will be able to help people and save their lives nurses help people and their families cope with illness, deal with it, and if necessary live with it so that other parts of their lives can continue. Nurses do more than care for individuals. They have always been at the forefront of change in health care and public health. after all, they will feel that they are an integral part of the society of the college of nursing and the nursing community in health institutions. Thus, psychological and academic alienation will decrease as their ambition and love for the nursing profession increase.

Conclusion

Nursing students show moderate level of level of ambition, psychological and academic alienation and there is high significant relationship (strong reverse) among level of ambition with psychological alienation and academic alienation at $p\text{-value} = .001$.

Recommendations

The study recommended that develop the university's students' abilities to increase their awareness about importance of their role in society, so they do not fall to successive frustrations that develop their feelings of alienation as well as, develop the university's students' abilities to face problems and increase their awareness of the importance of their role in life and society so that they do not fall prey to successive frustrations.

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