

Abstract

This study is examining the relationship among the sex role stereotypes, self-concept and the requisite nursing characteristics of an ideal nurse. The Sino-American Person Perception Scale was used by 177 nursing students, studying in the pre-registration or post-registration program, to rate the ideal nurse, the Hong Kong typical nurse and themselves. The results of a previous study finding the personality traits of the typical male and female in general were used to compare with the current study. Results showed that males should pay more effort in building up the feminine personality traits in order to be an ideal nurse and a typical nurse in Hong Kong. They seemed to be easier than females to be ideal, as they tend to be androgynous in their personality traits. No significant difference between the self-ratings of the male and female participants was found which showed that males in this study has undergone a highly self-selective process when they chose to be a nurse under the influence of the traditional stereotyped attitude toward nursing.