

Nursing Students' Perception of Artificial Intelligence: An Online Mobile Survey

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The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Sri Lankan health sector is still in its early stages. It requires substantial improvements to enhance healthcare efficiency and accuracy, ensuring better patient care management. This descriptive cross-sectional study examined the confidence and perceptions of 277 nursing students in Sri Lanka regarding the utilization of AI within healthcare settings. The primary aim was to evaluate currently enrolled nursing students' familiarity with AI, their perceptions of its utility, their concerns about potential job displacement, and their inclination towards adopting AI in clinical practice. The study employed a validated self-administered online survey adapted, and distributed among students enrolled in diploma through postgraduate programs across both private and government universities selected through a stratified random sampling method. They were randomly selected based on the program type. The participants selected had access to mobile devices and the rest were excluded from the study. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the ERC committee of IIHS. The results were analyzed using SPSS version 26 software. Findings reveal that a substantial majority of students are acquainted with AI (79.7%, n=221) and acknowledge its beneficial applications in medical contexts (81.9%, n=227). However, opinions are divided regarding AI's superiority in diagnostic capabilities, with nearly half of the respondents (49.8%, n=138) in agreement. Concerns regarding job displacement are notable among respondents (48.8%, n=135), yet a significant proportion (59.2%, n=164) express a willingness to consistently employ AI in future medical decision-making. Students identified various advantages of AI, such as expediting processes (51.3%, n=142) and minimizing errors (17.3%, n=48), while also expressing reservations about its limitations in unforeseen scenarios (54.9%, n=152) and its inability to convey emotional understanding. The study concluded that, although nursing students generally exhibited a positive perspective toward AI, it is essential to explore the benefits of AI as a 'supportive tool' in healthcare settings.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, nursing education, nursing students, AI in healthcare*