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Chinese nursing students' perception of caring in nursing school: A cross sectional study

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Caring is the core of nursing profession and the main concept in nursing education is caring science. Nursing school is the first place for students to learn about caring so students should be nurtured in a caring attitude because a sense of being cared for is vital to the individual ability to care for others. This paper is a report of a study to determine the Chinese nursing students' perceptions of caring in nursing school. This study uses quantitative, cross-sectional approach. A total of 600 nursing students from four colleges in Hubei province, China participated during the month of December, 2017. Data were collected by self-administered structured questionnaire. Descriptive statistics and t-test were used to analyze the data. The study results showed that, the highest rated subscale was "Peer care" (M=4.17, SD=0.67) followed by "Faculty care" (M=4.06, SD=0.66), "administrators care" (M=3.96, SD=0.70) while the lowest ranked subscale was "environmental care" (M=3.84, SD=0.74). Nursing students perception of caring was statistically significant with age, siblings status, academic program (p<0.05). The findings of this study possess positive caring environment in nursing school specifically on peer care, while there is a need to leverage the environmental care as well as the influencing factors to enhance the caring in nursing school.