

**PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE AND UTILIZATION OF TELEMEDICINE AMONG STUDENT
NURSES AT A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY**

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ABSTRACT

The integration of telemedicine into healthcare systems has revolutionized medical services, particularly in the context of global health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. However, understanding the perceptions and utilization patterns among healthcare professionals, particularly student nurses, remains essential for optimizing telemedicine's efficacy. This study aimed to explore the perceived knowledge and utilization of telemedicine among student nurses at a private university setting. The research employed a descriptive-correlational design, utilizing questionnaires to gather data from 172 fourth-year nursing students. Demographic characteristics, perceived knowledge, and telemedicine utilization were assessed, and statistical analyses, including frequency distributions, percentages, weighted mean, and gamma coefficient, were performed using SPSS software. Findings reveal a clear understanding of telemedicine's concept among respondents, with notable challenges in utilization, particularly among those experiencing technical difficulties or requiring assistance. Demographic factors such as age, sex, and income exhibited weak associations with telemedicine utilization, while place of residence showed a moderate association, emphasizing the role of geographic accessibility. Furthermore, although higher knowledge levels slightly correlated with increased telemedicine utilization, the relationship was not statistically significant, suggesting the need for multifaceted strategies to enhance adoption. These findings underscored the importance of ongoing user support, technical optimization, and targeted outreach efforts to ensure equitable access and maximize telemedicine's benefits in healthcare delivery. Further research is warranted to comprehensively explore the complex factors influencing telemedicine utilization among diverse populations.

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