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A Comparative Study of Health-Promoting Lifestyle and Quality of Life among Nurses and High School Teachers in Zanjan, Iran in 2018

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Abstract

Background: A health-promoting lifestyle (HPL) can affect a person's quality of life (QOL) and prevent many diseases.

Objectives: The QOL and HPL of teachers and nurses are of great importance because of their influence on the community health and education of the new generation. The present study aimed to determine and compare the HPL and QOL of nurses and teachers in Zanjan, Iran in 2018.

Methods: This descriptive, comparative, cross-sectional study was performed on 395 teachers of governmental schools, who were selected by cluster sampling, and 182 nurses, who were selected by census sampling. Data were collected using a demographic questionnaire, health-promoting lifestyle profile (HPLP II) questionnaire, and 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36) questionnaire. Data analysis was conducted in SPSS version 16 by measuring descriptive statistics (absolute and relative frequency, mean, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, Levene's test, and independent t-test).

Results: The results showed that most of the teachers were male (62.5%) and married (63.8%) with a bachelor's degree (70.1%), while the majority of nurses were female (83%) and married (87.4%) with a bachelor's degree (100%). Based on the findings, the HPL of nurses and teachers was rated as moderate (40.5% and 48.1%, respectively). Also, the QOL of nurses and teachers was at a moderate level (44.6% and 52.4%, respectively). Finally, the mean QOL and HPL were lower in nurses as compared to teachers (P<0.01).

Conclusion: The present results revealed that having knowledge is not necessarily associated with good performance. The QOL and HPL were moderate in both teachers and nurses, even nurses had a lower QOL and HPL than teachers. Overall, awareness of the importance of healthy behaviors does not always lead to improved self-care. Therefore, it is suggested to pay more attention to the improvement of occupational conditions, besides QOL and HPL of these two groups, especially nurses.

Keywords: health-promoting lifestyle; quality of life; nurse; teacher

Introduction

According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), 60% of mortality worldwide and 80% of mortality in developing countries are caused by unhealthy lifestyles. The mortality rate is projected to increase to 75% by 2030 worldwide. One of the goals set by the WHO is to promote healthy lifestyles by 2020 [1]. Lifestyle includes routine daily activities of individuals in their lives. Health-promoting behaviors are considered as an integral part of lifestyle, influencing a person's health [2]. Walker defines a health-promoting lifestyle (HPL) as a multi-dimensional aspect of the individual's perceptions and self-motivated behaviors, contributing to the maintenance of health and self-efficacy [3].

Health-promoting behaviors and healthy lifestyles are highly influential in maintaining health [4]. Also, HPL has a significant effect on the quality of life (OOL) of individuals [5] and is the most effective approach to improve health and QOL [2]. According to the WHO's definition, QOL is a subjective phenomenon, associated with the person's understanding of different aspects of their lives [6]. OOL promotes health, happiness, and in general, a healthy lifestyle in people [7]. On the other hand, lack of attention to QOL can lead to hopelessness, loss of job motivation, and reduced social, economic, and cultural activities, while affecting the economic and social development of a country in a larger context [7,8]. Previous studies have reported the reduced OOL and lifestyle changes of different groups in the community [9-11]. Among different groups in the community, the QOL and lifestyle of teachers and nurses are especially important, considering their role in educating the new generation and the community's health, respectively. Evidence shows that a poor sense of wellbeing in nurses not only compromises their health, but also affects the quality of nursing services and community health [12]. Therefore, studying the nurses' lifestyle and QOL is one of the most important issues in the community, as it can affect the quality of care [12.13].

Besides nurses, teachers are also important members of the community because of their key role in public education and their impact on students [14]. Among high school teachers, secondary school teachers are particularly important because of their contact with the adolescent population in the community. By stabilizing the adolescents' behaviors, teachers can encourage a sense of responsibility among students for their health and promote a healthy lifestyle throughout adolescence [15]. However, the results of most studies suggest that the QOL and HPL of teachers and nurses are not appropriate in different communities [4,16-17]. In this regard, Pirzadeh and Sharifi-Rad concluded that a large percentage of studied teachers had a moderately favorable lifestyle in terms of healthy activity, nutrition. physical and stress management [4]. Pereira et al. also showed that more experienced teachers had a lower OOL in terms of physical performance and social relationships. Also, teachers with longer working hours per week and those teaching in public schools had a lower QOL [18]. Similarly, Marzooghi et al. reported a lower QOL among teachers of selected high schools in Bushehr. Iran [19].

Regarding the QOL and HPL of nurses, similar results have been reported in different studies. Phiri et al. found that nurses often did not have a favorable lifestyle and were overweight [13]. Also, according to the results of a study by Kaldi, nurses face numerous challenges in their daily life, which negatively affect their QOL [10]. Moreover, Feyzi et al. reported the poor QOL of nurses [20]. Overall, by improving the lifestyle knowledge of nurses and teachers, who influence the health of the community, authorities can create more favorable conditions for them. Therefore, the present study aimed to compare the HPL and QOL of nurses and high school teachers in Zanjan, Iran in 2018.

Methods

This descriptive, comparative, cross-sectional study was conducted on all teachers working in Zanjan high schools and all nurses working in the general wards of university hospitals in Zanjan, Iran. The nurses were selected by census sampling. Questionnaires were distributed among 200 nurses during one month. Out of 200 distributed questionnaires, 182 were completed. The following formula was used to determine the sample size of teachers (n=384):

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times p(1-p)}{d^2}$$

Considering the ratio of high schools in two districts of Zanjan, clusters of 17 and 25 high schools were selected in this study. Given the likelihood of sample attrition, a total of 420 questionnaires were distributed among teachers with at least one year of work experience, and they were collected three days later. Finally, 395 completed questionnaires were collected. The data collection tools in this study included four questionnaires: (1) nurses' demographic questionnaire; (2) teachers' demographic questionnaire; (3) health-promoting lifestyle profile (HPLP II) questionnaire; and (4) 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36) questionnaire.

The HPLP II questionnaire, designed by Walker et al. [4], consists of 52 items with six dimensions of health responsibility, physical activity, spiritual growth, interpersonal nutrition. relationships, and stress management. The items are rated on a four-point Likert scale ("never", "sometimes", "often", and "routinely") and numerically ranked from 1 to 4 (1="never" and 4="routinely"). In this study, the mean scores of HPL variables were calculated on a scale of 0 to 100 so that the difference in the mean values could be easily read and interpreted; the higher the scores are, the more desirable HPL behaviors will be. The validity and reliability of this questionnaire were confirmed by Mohammadi Zeidi and Pakpour [21].

The SF-36 questionnaire is one of the most wellknown public tools for assessing health-related QOL. This tool has been translated into many languages. It includes 36 questions, measuring eight dimensions of physical functioning, physical limitation in role performance, physical pain, general health, psychological limitation in role performance, vitality, mental health and social performance. In this questionnaire, a general question determines changes in the individual's general health status over one year. The dimensions of SF-36 questionnaire, along with the questions, have a ranking scale.Some questions were re-coded in order for all scales found one direction. The mean QOL variables were calculated on a scale of 0 to 100. 0 reports the worst and 100 best conditions on the scale. The validity and reliability of this questionnaire were confirmed in studies by Montazeri et al. and Ansari [22,23].

In the present study, the face validity of HPLP II and SF-36 questionnaires was confirmed, based on the opinions of ten nursing professors. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was measured to determine the reliability of the questionnaires (0.91 and 0.82 for the HPLP II and SF-36 questionnaires. respectively). The ethical considerations in this study included obtaining approval from the university ethics committee (ZUMS.REC.1395.199), obtaining the necessary permissions for data collection, collecting informed consent forms, and considering the anonymity principle in completing the questionnaires.

Data were analyzed in SPSS version 16, using descriptive statistics (absolute and relative frequency, mean, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics, including Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (for determining the normality of data distribution), Levene's test (for homogeneity of variance), and t-test (for determining the mean differences between independent groups). P-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

In this study, the majority of teachers were male (62.5%) and married (63.8%) with a bachelor's degree (70.1%). On the other hand, the majority of nurses were female (83%) and married (87.4%) with a bachelor's degree (100%). Other demographic characteristics of the participants are listed in Table 1.

Va	Variables		achers	Nurses		
val			Percentage	Number	Percentage	
	Male	148	37.5	151	83	
Gender	Female	247	62.5	31	17	
	Total	395	100	182	100	
	18-28	43	10.9	20	11	
	29-38	190	48.1	81	44.5	
Age (years)	39-48	152	38.5	76	41.8	
	49-58	2	0.5	1	0.5	
	59-68	8	2	4	2.2	
Marital status	Single	109	27.6	23	12.6	
	Married	252	63.8	159	87.4	
	Widow	34	8.6	0	0	
Educational	Associate degree	66	16.7	32	17.6	
	Bachelor's degree	277	70.1	150	82.4	
level	Master's degree	51	12.9	0	0	
	PhD	1	0.3	0	0	
Average	<1.5 million	7	1.8	28	15.4	
	1.5-2.5 million	135	34.2	6	3.3	
monthly income	2.5-3.5 million	170	43	68	37.4	
(Toman)	>3.5 million	83	21	80	44	

It was found that the HPL of teachers and nurses was moderately good. Among nurses, interpersonal relationships had the highest score, while spiritual growth had the lowest average score. Among teachers, health responsibility and nutrition had the highest and lowest scores, respectively. The results showed that the mean HPL of teachers was higher than nurses, and the difference was statistically significant. Also, comparison of all dimensions of HPL showed that the mean scores of all dimensions, except for interpersonal relationships, were higher among teachers than nurses, and the difference was statistically significant (P<0.05) (Table 2).

	Levene's test for homogeneity of variance									
Dimensions		F	Р	t	Degree of freedom	Р	Average difference	Std. error of difference	Mea Teachers	an Nurses
Spiritual growth	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	5.22	0.02	13.72	575	0.00	0.49	0.04	49.8	37.5
	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			12.92	305.8	0.00	0.49	0.04	49.0	
Health	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	3.18	0.08	12.92	575	0.00	0.44	0.03	50.4	39.03
responsibility	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			14.24	450.53	0.00	0.44	0.03	50.4	
Nutrition	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	3.90	0.05	5.25	575	0.00	0.20	0.04	- 45	40
Nutrition	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			5.23	349.22	0.00	0.20	0.04	т.)	
Physical	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	7.98	0.01	6.14	575	0.00	0.32	0.05	50.2	42.1
activity	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			7.00	488.96	0.00	0.32	0.05	30.2	
Stress	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	0.06	0.85	6.17	575	0.00	0.25	0.04	45.5	39.3
management	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			6.31	373.01	0.00	0.25	0.04	-3.5	
Interpersonal relationships	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	4.58	0.03	-0.23	575	575 0.82 -0.01 0.05		0.05	- 45.6	45.9
	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance			-0.25	420.18	0.82	-0.01	0.04	-5.0	т <i>э.у</i>
HPL	Assumption of homogeneity of variance	4.35	0.04	9.01	575	0.00	0.28	0.03	48.1	40.5
	Assumption of heterogeneity of variance	4.33	0.04	10.34	496.02	0.00	0.28	0.03	40.1	40.5

 Table 2: Comparison of differences in the mean scores of health-promoting lifestyle (HPL) dimensions in teachers and nurses

In the present study, the QOL of teachers and nurses was at a moderate level. The mean QOL score of teachers was higher than that of nurses, and the difference was statistically significant (P=0.00). Also, significant differences were found between these groups in terms of four dimensions of physical functioning, no physical limitation in role performance, mental health, and vitality. However, there were no significant differences regarding other dimensions. The dimension of lack of physical pain had the highest score in both groups of teachers and nurses. The lowest mean score was related to vitality among teachers and no psychological limitation in role performance in nurses (Table 3).

	Levene's test for homogeneity of variance									
Dimensions		F	Р	t	Degree of freedom	Р	Averages difference	SD	Mea Teachers	an Nurses
Physical functioning	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	7.3	0.00	4.03	575.0	0.00	8.50	2.11		
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			3.90	325.3	0.00	8.50	2.18	54.6	46
No physical limitation in role performance	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	0.19	0.00	-0.46	575.0	0.65	-0.83	1.81		57.9
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			-0.46	345.0	0.65	-0.83	1.82	57.1	
Lack of physical pain	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	0.00	0.99	0.19	575.0	0.85	0.15	0.80	- 65.6	65.4
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			0.19	350.0	0.85	0.15	0.80		
General health	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	0.00	0.95	0.00	575.0	1.00	0.00	0.42	- 53	53
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			0.00	349.6	1.00	0.00	0.42		
No psychological limitation in role performance	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	282.34	0.00	13.68	575.0	0.00	36.58	2.67	- 64	27.4
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			15.55	485.5	0.00	36.58	2.35		
Vitality	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	8.39	0.00	12.05	575.0	0.00	9.77	0.81	39.8	30.1
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			10.65	267.7	0.00	9.77	0.92		20.1
Mental health	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	1.07	0.30	10.59	575.0	0.00	8.46	0.80	42.7	34.3
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			10.72	363.1	0.00	8.46	0.79	,,	

Table 3: Comparison of the mean difference in the quality of life (QOL) of teachers and nurses

social performance	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	0.24	0.62	-0.24	575.0	0.81	-0.31	1.28	49.6	49.9
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance			-0.24	341.7	0.81	-0.31	1.30	49.0	49.9
QOL	Assumption of the homogeneity of variance	0.13	0.72	9.43	575.0	0.00	7.79	0.83	- 52.4	44.6
	Assumption of the heterogeneity of variance	0.15		9.31	341.0	0.00	7.79	0.84		

Discussion

In the present study, comparison of HPL between teachers and nurses showed that the mean scores of all HPL dimensions, except for interpersonal relationships, were higher in teachers than nurses, and the difference was statistically significant. According to our literature review, there are no studies comparing the HPL of teachers and nurses, which is one of the unique strengths of the present study. Although having a healthy lifestyle is an integral part of nursing education, the HPL of nurses was lower than teachers. Also, comparison of the QOL of teachers and nurses showed that the average QOL of teachers was higher than nurses, and the difference was statistically significant.

According to previous research, the poor QOL of nurses is related to the interference of their professional life with their personal life, long working hours, night shifts, irregular working hours, overtime, and overwork, all of which result in more fatigue and mental distress. In addition, observation of patients' nurses' pain and suffering, and even sometimes the death of patients, can have significant negative effects on the nurses' morale [20,23]. We also believe that the higher number of female nurses as compared to female teachers in the present study contributed to this finding, as women are generally more emotional than men. Also, since most of the studied nurses were married with children. coordination between irregular working hours and personal life was more difficult for them and affected their QOL.

The present study showed that HPL was moderate among teachers. This finding is consistent with the results of previous studies, including a study by Charkazi et al. [24]. Some studies have also shown that people refuse to adhere to HPL behaviors despite being aware of their protective role against chronic diseases. For example, Imanipour et al. showed that teachers did not adhere to preventive behaviors despite having good knowledge of the risk factors for heart disease. In this study, 67% of teachers were aware of the risk factors for heart disease, while only 27.7% had a safe and healthy diet, and only 35.6% had regular exercise [25]. On the other hand, Pirzadeh et al. found the lifestyle of most teachers to be favorable; the discrepancy between the results may be attributed to differences in the environment and the research community. It should be noted that the population of their study included the community of teachers in a single area of Isfahan, which reduces the generalizability of findings [4], whereas the present study was conducted on teachers from different regions of Zanjan, Iran.

Among HPL dimensions, the teacher's responsibility had the highest average score. In another study, the teachers' social responsibility was found to be above average [26]. These findings may be related to the nature of teacher's occupation that requires a feeling of responsibility in teachers. In general, responsible people tend to choose the teaching profession. In Zanjan, which is known as a religious city, people may be influenced by Islamic beliefs, cultural values of research field. Through school or university education and national media, people learn to be responsible, since from an Islamic point of view, humans are responsible for their own health.

Moreover, in the present study, the lowest mean score of teachers was related to nutrition, which may be related to recent advertisements against palm oil, leading some people to believe that animal fats are without palm so they are healthier . Also, the high cost of natural oils, such as olive and sesame oil, besides the low income of teachers, may be effective. This finding is consistent with the results of a study by Pirzadeh and Sharifi-Rad [4]. They showed that only 7.27% of teachers had healthy eating habits. Conversely, our results are not consistent with the findings of a study by Charkazi et al. [24]. which could be related to the difference in the research environments.

The present results showed that the QOL of teachers was at a moderate level, which contradicts the results of a study by Marzougi et al., which showed that the OOL of selected high school teachers was less than moderate in Bushehr, Iran [19]. This discrepancy could be due to differences in the research community, environment, cultural factors, expectations, and attitudes toward life. Moreover, in the present study, the highest mean score of OOL in teachers was related to the lack of physical pain; this finding could be related to the age range and gender of most samples (male teachers, aged 29-38 years). Also, the lowest mean score of QOL was related to the dimension of vitality. Generally, one's feeling of well-being is partly dependent on income, besides the living environment. Zanjan has fewer recreational centers and urban landscapes, which might explain this finding. However, in a study by Pereira et al., teachers, especially those with more experience, had a lower QOL in terms of physical functioning and social relationships [18]; this could be related to the higher average age of the samples in Pereira' study.

Furthermore, the present results showed that the HPL of nurses was moderate, which is in line with the results of a study by Ghanbari Sartong et al. [27]. Also, our results are consistent with the results of studies from other countries. In this regard, Ross et al. found that despite the nurses' awareness of the importance of healthy behaviors, this knowledge did not necessarily lead to self-care [28]. Also, Can et al. reported a moderately healthy lifestyle among nurses in Istanbul, Turkey [29]. In addition, the results of a study by Nahm et al. showed that 53.8% of nurses did not have a regular diet, and 72.2% did not exercise [30].

The mentioned findings can be explained by the fact that nurses have the necessary knowledge to

pursue a healthy lifestyle; however, given the nature of their job (e.g., exposure to stress at work and lack of fixed work shifts), besides their lack of access to facilities, such as sports clubs, specific working hours, and lack of regular sleep time, they are unable to adopt a healthy lifestyle. In this regard, a study by Ghanbari et al. showed that nurses with work shifts had a poorer lifestyle than nurses with fixed shifts [27].

On the other hand, Mohammad Beigi et al. investigated the HPL of nurses in Oom, Iran, and found it to be slightly above average [31]. The cause of discrepancy between their findings and the present results may be differences in the demographic characteristics of the participants in the two studies. In the study by Mohammad Beigi et al., the percentage of single men and women was higher than that of the present study, which might justify the adherence to HPL in their study, as single men have more opportunities to adhere to HPL behaviors as compared to married women; also, more sports facilities are available to men. In this regard, Kalroozi et al. found that the HPL behaviors were acceptable in 400 nurses of various military hospitals [32].

In the present study, the dimension of interpersonal relationships had the highest average among score nurses. Generally, interpersonal relationships are one of the most important skills of nurses. In other words, it is essential for nurses to communicate effectively with the patients, caregivers, and colleagues and fulfill their professional responsibilities. Nurses are also taught about the importance of interpersonal communication during their education. It seems that the high mean score of this dimension is related to the importance of nursing responsibilities.

Although in the present study, the dimension of spiritual growth had a higher mean score as compared to a study by Kalroozi et al. [32], higher scores were expected considering the cultural context of the research community. Therefore, it seems that special attention must be paid to promoting the spiritual growth of nurses and exploring the causes; also, providing necessary guidance must be prioritized.

There were two limitations in this study, that is, the use of a self-report method to collect the data and lack of similar studies to compare the results.

Conclusion

The present results showed that HPL and QOL were moderate among teachers and nurses. Therefore, it is recommended for education managers, health policymakers, and hospital authorities to facilitate the improvement of QOL and HPL among nurses and teachers. Also, identifying the obstacles to HPL and eliminating them by holding healthy lifestyle training courses and stress management counseling classes can promote a healthy lifestyle. Moreover, the present results showed the unfavorable HPL and OOL of nurses, despite their adequate knowledge. Nurses can have a healthy lifestyle if their working conditions are improved, sufficient human resources are provided, and the forced labor hours are reduced. Financial support, as well as travel and welfare programs for employees and their families, can also greatly improve the HPL and OOL of both groups.

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Conflict of interest

We declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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