

Thesis Title : A Study of the relationship  
between Moral reasoning and  
Moral behavior of the nursing  
students in Bangkok  
Metropolis

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#### ABSTRACT

Moral behavior is an essential component of professional nursing practice. The rapid change in technology and medical science alternates the social norms of moral belief that increases moral dilemmas in nursing practice today. Nurses are forced to confront with nursing dilemma. Based on Kolhberg's cognitive

theory of moral development, persons at higher moral reasoning stages are more likely to act morally. It appears to be more ethically analysing the moral dilemma and have an ethical decision making. Moral reasoning can be the predictor of moral behavior. So the objective of this study is to examine the relationship of the moral reasoning and moral behavior the nursing students make in moral dilemma. The 586 samples are the last year baccalaureate students of 7 nursing institutions in Bangkok. Moral reasonings are measured by the Defining Issues Test. The Moral Behavior in Nursing Practice Test developed by the investigator is used to measure moral behavior. Most of the nursing students are stage A of moral reasoning development and behave morally in the stage of social desired. The average point of moral behavior is 48.93 and the standard deviation is 2.86 Pearson product moment correlation shows no significant differences correlation between moral reasoning (P score) and moral behavior.

Suggestion is to explore more about moral behavior. The important consideration is that the development of moral reasoning in nursing students should be encouraged. To continue ethics curricular in nursing education establishes the more ethically analysing and making decisions in moral dilemma. This can help increasing quality of nursing practice.