

**Thesis Title**

The Effect of Nurse Students Training to Develop Moral Reasonings and Moral Characteristics: Ubonratchathani Nursing College.

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**Degree**

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**ABSTRACT**

Moral virtues for nurses are manifold. There are sympathy, devotion, responsibility, honesty, discipline, patience, unity, politeness and respectfulness of others. Training is one of several methods that might cultivate these virtues in them. Therefore this research was undertaken to compare the levels of moral reasoning and moral characteristics of nursing students who received the short course training and to study the retention of the levels of moral reasoning and moral characteristics in one month after training.

The samples were 99 male and female professional nursing students who have been studying in the first year 1988 of Ubonratchathani Nursing College. The research tools were three constructed questionnaires. The first questionnaire was for assessing

the level of moral reasoning. The second questionnaire was about moral characteristics in students' attitude. And the third questionnaire was about moral characteristics in teachers' attitude. The reliability of the questionnaires was 0.85, 0.81 and 0.92 respectively. Five-day training course was conducted to nursing students. The training techniques were lectures, group discussions, group dynamics, field trip and meditation. The data were collected from immediately pretest before training and first immediately post test for students, one week for teachers and second post test in one month after training. The data obtained have been statistically analysed in terms of frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and paired t-test.

The results of this study are as follows:

1. Most of nursing students were at the stage 6 of the moral reasoning test.
2. The first post test scores of moral reasonings were significantly higher than pretest scores ( $p < 0.01$ ).
3. The first and second post test scores of moral reasonings were not significantly different.
4. The first post test scores of moral characteristics in students' attitude were significantly higher than pretest scores. ( $p < 0.01$ ). When analysing the data on each of moral characteristics, it was found that unity, discipline and responsibility were significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ,  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.01$  respectively).
5. The first post test scores of moral characteristics in students' attitude were significantly higher than the second post test scores ( $p < 0.01$ ). When analysing the data on each of moral characteristics, it was found that patience, politeness, devotion and responsibility were significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ,  $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.05$  respectively).

6. The first post test scores of moral characteristics in teachers' attitude were significantly higher than pretest scores ( $p < 0.05$ ). When analysing the data on each of moral characteristics, it was found that politeness was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ).

7. The first and the second post test scores of moral characteristics in teachers' attitude were not significantly different. When analysing the data on each of moral characteristics, it was found that there was no significantly difference.

It was recommended that : A periodical training to develop moral reasonings and moral characteristics of nursing students should be encouraged to maintain the retention of moral virtues.