



E-ISSN: 2663-2268  
P-ISSN: 2663-225X  
[www.surgicalnursingjournal.com](http://www.surgicalnursingjournal.com)  
IJARMSN 2024; 6(1): 150-152  
Received: 13-12-2023  
Accepted: 16-01-2024

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## A descriptive study to assess the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. nursing students in selected college, Puducherry

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/surgicalnursing.2024.v6.i1c.179>

### Abstract

**Introduction:** OSCE is an indispensable and reliable competency-based tool that is used to assess clinical skills in a simulated environment. OSCE assessment has been found to be a highly effective method for learning clinical skills, offering better learning outcomes compared to other teaching methods.

**Aim of the study:** The main objective of the study to find out the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation and associate the challenges with the selected demographic variables.

**Methodology:** A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. Using random sampling technique, 100 B.Sc. Nursing students who was studying in MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry was selected for the study.

**Results:** The present study revealed that that OSCE method was moderately challenged for majority 97% [97] of the samples and highly challenged for 3% [3] of population.

**Conclusion:** The present study concludes that the majority of the students facing difficulties and felt that OSCE method of evaluation as moderately challenged.

**Keywords:** Objective structured clinical examination, indispensable, moderately challenged

### Introduction

The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is an innovative approach to clinical skills assessment that has become a gold standard in the medical field. Developed almost half a century ago, OSCE is a reliable and objective competency-based tool used to assess clinical skills in a simulated environment. It has been widely accepted as a clinical skills assessment tool and is used globally to teach and evaluate learners' competencies, particularly in healthcare disciplines.

The OSCE assessment is more reliable, objective, and powerful, making it the preferred choice of faculty members. However, implementation of OSCE has faced challenges, such as increased preparation time and separate viewing of knowledge and skills. Universities must ensure that nursing students have the required knowledge and clinical skills before they enter the clinical environment. The implementation of OSCE requires co-thinking, participation, and understanding of the experiences of educational experts in the relevant field. This study explores the experience and challenges of OSCE method of examination from the perspective of B.Sc. Nursing students of MTPG & RIHS.

### Need for the study

OSCE is an assessment tool that evaluates nursing students' professional performance in a simulated environment. It is based on objectivity and standardization principles and involves candidates moving through time-limited stations in a circuit. At each station, candidates are assessed and marked against standardized scoring rubrics by trained assessors. The use of OSCE has numerous benefits, including improved nursing education, better patient care, and improved teaching and learning experiences. However, it has some disadvantages, such as high ongoing costs, controversy in validity and reliability, lack of a holistic nursing evaluation mechanism, student stress, and obstacles. Students generally are satisfied with the current OSCE examination, but there are concerns about the organization of the exam.

Valuable suggestions to improve the OSCE quality include examiners and simulated patient training. However, OSCE in nursing education has some disadvantages, such as high ongoing costs, controversy in validity and reliability, lack of holistic nursing evaluation mechanism, student stress, and obstacles. Factors such as lack of skill lab, excess cost, shortage of trained faculty, unfair task selection, increased stress, inconsistent tools, lack of standardized patients, absence of assessor training, assessor intimidation, time shortage on stations, and difficulty in standard setting have affected the OSCE method of examination, particularly in developing countries. Some students may rate OSCE as more stressful and mentally demanding than traditional assessment formats.

### Statement of the problem

“A descriptive study to assess the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. Nursing students of MTPG & RIHS, Pondicherry.

### Objectives of the study

1. To find out the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation.
2. To associate the challenges with the selected demographic variables.

### Assumption

1. The study assumes that the students have some practical knowledge regarding OSCE.
2. The study assumes that students have different perception related to OSCE.
3. The students might face some difficulties during OSCE.

### Delimitation

The study is delimited to,

1. 100 samples.
2. B.Sc. Nursing students of MTPG & RIHS, Pondicherry.
3. One week of data collection.

### Research Methodology

#### Research Approach

The research approach adopted for this study was Quantitative research approach.

#### Research Design

Non experimental descriptive research design was used to explore the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. nursing students in MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry.

#### Research Settings

The study was conducted in Mother Theresa post graduate and research institute of health sciences, Puducherry.

#### Population

In this study, population comprises of all B.Sc. Nursing students in MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry.

#### Sample

The sample for this study were all B.Sc. Nursing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> year students of MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry who fulfilled the inclusion criteria and were available during the period of data collection.

#### Sample Size

The sample size for this study were 100 B.Sc. Nursing students of MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry.

### Sampling Technique

Under Non-experimental research design, random sampling technique was used for this study. There were 100 samples selected by choosing odd roll numbers from their attendance in each (4) class who were available during the period of data collection.

### Data collection procedure

The data was collected over the period of one week from 14/08/23 to 19/08/23 in MTPG & RIHS, Puducherry. After obtaining proper permission from the institute and concern authority, a sample of 100 B.Sc. Nursing students were selected by using random sampling technique. The samples were taken from odd roll number students of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th year B.Sc. Nursing who were available during the data collection and they were seated in separate classroom. The instructions were given in detail and also got consent from each of the sample. A total period of 20 minutes was required to complete the questionnaire for each sample.

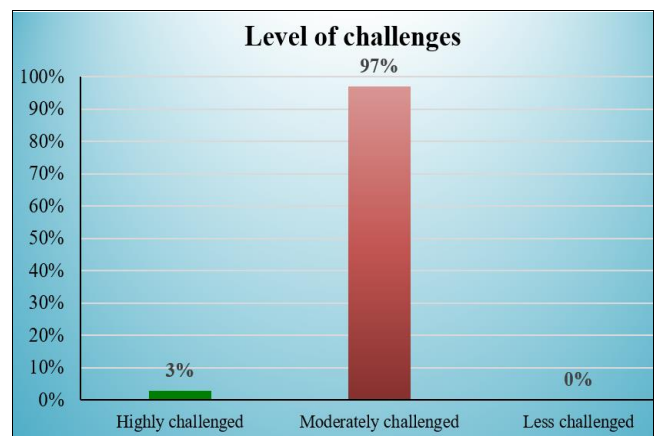
### Data analyses as per Objectives

**The first objective of the study was to find out the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation.**

The result shows that 97% [97] comes under moderately challenged and 3% [3] percentage comes under highly challenged.

**Table 1:** Frequency and percentage wise distribution of level of challenges regarding OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. Nursing students

S. No	Level of challenges	Frequency (N)	Percentage%
1.	Highly challenged	3	3%
2.	Moderately challenged	97	97%
3.	Less challenged	0	0%



**Fig 1:** Frequency and percentage level of challenges regarding OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. Nursing students.

**The second objective was to associate the challenges with the selected demographic variables**

The finding shows that that all the demographic variable had not shown statistically significant association with the level of challenges.

### Results and Discussion

The result revealed that OSCE method was moderately challenged for majority 97% [97] of the samples and highly challenged for 3% [3] of population. This was supported by a study done by Troncone G (2004) [15]. A descriptive study on clinical skills assessment: Limitations to the introduction of an OSCE in a traditional Brazilian medical school Objective of this study is to describe student and faculty

perception of an OSCE. The result showed that students were comfortable with cases and tasks, but nearly half (48%) of them reported difficulties with both time management and stress control like present study. The results depicts that all the demographic variable had not shown statistically significant association with the level of challenges.

### Conclusion

The study results shows that the majority of the students facing difficulties and felt that OSCE method of evaluation as moderately challenged.

### Recommendations

Based on the present study, the following recommendations for future study includes.

A similar study can be.

- Done on a large sample.
- Conducted by comparing the medical and para medical courses.
- Conducted by comparing government and private nursing college.

### Conflict of Interest

Not available

### Financial Support

Not available

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#### How to Cite This Article

Abhinaya K, Vallil A, Manasa A, Benny A, Nivethitha K, Chitra F. A descriptive study to assess the challenges towards OSCE method of evaluation among B.Sc. nursing students in selected college, Puducherry. *International Journal of Advance Research in Medical Surgical Nursing*. 2024;6(1):150-152.

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