

# Influencing factors of humanistic care ability and its dimensions among mental health workers: an online cross-sectional study

Xiaolin Liu (≥ 9620790@qq.com)

Chongqing Mental Health Center

Hongjin Zhu

Nursing College of Chongqing Medical University

### Research Article

**Keywords:** humanistic care ability, cognition, courage, patience, psychological capital, personality traits, mental health workers

Posted Date: April 13th, 2022

**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1545299/v1

**License:** © ① This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Read Full License

**Additional Declarations:** No competing interests reported.

**Version of Record:** A version of this preprint was published at BMC Psychiatry on March 21st, 2023. See the published version at https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-023-04656-5.

# **Abstract**

**Background:** In psychiatric services, humanistic care ability significantly affects the quality of therapeutic relationship and thus affects therapeutic outcomes of patients. Mental health workers may face more obstacles in humanistic care during the COVID-19 pandemic, we aimed to explore the level of humanistic care ability among mental health workers and its potential influencing factors.

**Method(s)** An online cross-sectional survey was conducted among 262 mental health workers working in Chongqing, China, from December 2020 to January 2021. Data were collected by the Caring Ability Inventory (CAI), the Psychological Capital Questionnaire (PCQ-24) and the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Revised, Short Scale for Chinese (EPQ-RSC). Multiple linear regression analysis was used to explore the influencing factors of humanistic care ability.

**Results** Mental health workers' humanistic care ability was at a low level, with a score of 186.47 ± 21.34. Psychological capital was positively associated with humanistic care ability (β[95%CI] = 0.411 [0.464, 0.772], p<0.001) and its two dimensions (cognition: β[95%CI] = 0.514 [0.304, 0.465], p<0.001; patience: β[95%CI] = 0.478 [0.171, 0.283], p<0.001). Psychoticism was negatively associated with humanistic care ability (β[95%CI] = -0.277 [-5.179, -2.513], p<0.001) and its three dimensions (cognition: β[95%CI] = -0.124 [-1.567, -0.165], p<0.05; courage: β[95%CI] = -0.166 [-1.698, -0.316], p<0.01; patience: β[95%CI] = -0.185 [-1.330, -0.358], p<0.01). Extroversion was positively associated with humanistic care ability (β[95%CI] = 0.189 [0.686, 2.080], p<0.001) and its two dimensions (cognition: β[95%CI] = 0.188 [0.323, 1.051], p<0.001; courage: β[95%CI] = 0.268 [0.496, 1.230], p<0.001). Neuroticism was negatively associated with humanistic care ability (β[95%CI] = -0.130[-1.366, -0.193], p<0.01) and its one dimension (courage: β[95%CI] = -0.252 [-0.977, -0.352], p<0.001).

**Conclusion(s)** Research has found that the humanistic care ability of mental health workers is at a low level, and psychological capital and personality traits are significant factors influencing the humanistic care ability and its sub-dimensions. Interventions to improve psychological capital of mental health workers or to promote the change of personality traits that they want are recommended, thereby promoting humanistic practice.

# 1. Background

Humanistic care is the ability to listen to the needs and desires of patients, understand patients' emotions, communicate with patients, and feel the value of life to develop therapeutic relationships [1]. It emphasizes caring and caring for the 'whole person', that is, knowing the physical, cognitive, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of a person, as compared with the narrow focus on the physical elements of disease that often dominates medical practice [2]. Humanistic care ability significantly affects the professional performance of medical staffs, the quality of patient's life [3, 4], and the costs and outcomes of health care [5, 6]. Therefore, the entire health system emphasizes the need to promote humanistic caring, including in the clinical field, education, management, and public policies [7]. For example, in 2010, the Ministry of Health of China launched the 'High-Quality Nursing Service' project in

the national health system, requiring clearly that the "patient-centered" service concept and humanistic care should be integrated into the clinical work [8]. In 2016, "Healthy China 2030" planning outline once again clarified "strengthen the humanistic care of medical services, and build a harmonious doctor-patient relationship [9]. It can be seen that the humanistic care ability of medical staff is an indispensable component of their professional practice. Medical staffs need to integrate the value of the individual, care, warmth and compassion into the daily care work [10, 11] to better develop humanistic care ability and maintain humanistic practices.

Although the importance of humanistic care is emphasized both in theory and policy, and some education and training programs have been proposed in previous studies [12, 13], medical staff have not been able to translate these results into daily clinical work, and their humanistic care ability are still at a relatively low level [14]. One of the reasons for this result is that various clinical challenges, such as time constraints, work-related and personal stress, organizational culture and burnout [15]. Notably, these challenges may be more significant during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the field of mental healthcare. The direct impact of the virus and measures such as lockdown restrictions have caused huge psychological problems among different sub-populations, including confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients [16], mental patients [17], the general public and medical staff [18]. Deng et al. [18] also noted that the mental health of the general population has a tendency of deterioration after the peak of the epidemic. This increases the need for mental health services. Mental health workers are facing more workload and pressure. Patients and their relatives may receive less attention or humanistic care from these institutions and their staffs, which is not conducive to their full recovery. Furthermore, some specific stressors in mental healthcare settings, such as stigma [19], higher frequency of violence [20], underfunding for mental health services [21] and insufficient of professional institutions and practitioners [22] have also hindered the humanistic care practices of mental health workers.

In psychiatric services, the quality of therapeutic relationship has a significant impact upon the therapeutic outcomes of patients [23]. It is increasingly important to focus on and cultivate the humanistic care ability of mental health workers, and to integrate the "patient-centered" service concept and humanistic care into the clinical work. However, during the pandemic, researchers have mostly focused on the mental health of mental health workers and seem to pay less attention to humanistic care ability. The purpose of this study is to explore the humanistic care ability of mental health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, clarify its broader influencing factors, and provide a new direction for improving the spirit of humanistic care in mental health services.

# 2. Methods

## 2.1 Design, participants and procedures

This study has an online cross-sectional design. A non-random sample of mental health workers, including doctors, nurses, medical technicians, were selected from December 2020 to January 2021 in Chongqing, China.

The G\*Power 3.1.9.2 program was used to estimate the sample size. A sample size of 164 was required to obtain a medium effect size (f2 = 0.15) for multiple linear regression analysis, at a two-sided significance threshold of 0.01 and a power ( $1 - \beta$ ) of 0.99. The sample size required for the study was at least 181 based on the 10% dropout rate.

Questionnaires were distributed by managers to workers via the department's We-Chat group, which is one of the most widely used social networking software in China. All items were mandatory to select an answer to prevent missing data. To avoid duplication, each phone IP address could be used only once to visit and complete the survey. Surveys with suspected unreal answers (obvious logic contradictions, all answers the same to different questions) were excluded before data analysis.

Only mental health workers who were registered and had obtained a qualification certificate were enrolled in this study. Ethics approval was granted by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Chongqing Mental Health Center (Ethics approval number: 2021-001).

### 2.2 Measurements

Humanistic care ability was assessed with the Chinese version of the Caring Ability Inventory (CAI) [24], which has three dimensions: cognition (14 items), courage (13 items) and patience (10 items). Each item was scored on a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree), and courage items were scored in reverse. The higher the total score, the higher the level of humanistic care ability. The Cronbach's α in this study was 0.852.

Psychological capital (PsyCap) was assessed with the Chinese version of the Psychological Capital Questionnaire 24 (PCQ-24) [25], which was consisted of four sub-scales: self-efficacy (6 items), hope (6 items), resilience (6 items) and optimism (6 items). Each item was scored on a 6-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree). The higher the total score, the higher the level of psychological capital. The Cronbach's  $\alpha$  in this study was 0.933.

Personality traits were assessed with the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Revised, Short Scale for Chinese (EPQ-RSC) [26]. This scale includes 48-item and 4 dimensions: psychoticism (P), neuroticism (N), extroversion (E) and lie (L). This study analyses only the three dimensions of P, E, and N. The EPQ-RSC has well-established psychometric properties and is suitable for the measurement of the personality traits of Chinese adults.

Participants' social-demographic variables included hospital level, hospital nature, professional category, gender, age, marital status, education level, work years, work shift, work pressure, practice environment satisfaction, salary satisfaction and work-family conflict.

# 2.3 Data analysis

SPSS version 25.0 was used to analyse the data. Descriptive statistics are reported as frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviations. Univariate analysis of humanistic care ability in relation to

categorical variables was examined by t-tests and one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs). Univariate analysis of humanistic care ability in relation to continuous variables was tested by Pearson's correlation analysis. Independent variables with statistical significance in the univariate analysis were entered into the multivariate analyses. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to identify the influencing factors of humanistic care ability. Statistical significance for all analyses was set to p < 0.05 (2-tailed).

# 3. Results

### 3.1 Social-demographic characteristics of the participants

Of the 298 returned questionnaires, 262 questionnaires were effective for analysis, and the effective return rate was 88%. The majority of the participants were female (75.6%), were married (75.2%), and had an undergraduate degree or above (74.4%). The majority of mental health workers came from Grade A hospitals and specialist hospitals, at 73.3% and 89.3%, respectively. In terms of professional category, nurses accounted for 64.5% of participants, which was noteworthy. Most participants were on work shifts (70.6%). 42.7% and 25.2% experienced high work pressure and work-family conflict, respectively. About one-third of the participants expressed dissatisfaction with the practice environment (26.3%) and the salary (31.3%). More details are shown in table 1.

### 3.2 T-tests or one-way ANOVAs of humanistic care ability in relation to categorical variables

Practice environment satisfaction, salary satisfaction and work-family conflict were significantly associated with humanistic care ability (p<0.05). Practice environment satisfaction and salary satisfaction were significantly associated with cognition (p<0.05). Work pressure, practice environment satisfaction and work-family conflict were significantly associated with courage (p<0.05). Work shift was significantly associated with patience (p<0.05). The above results are shown in table 1.

# 3.3 Correlation analysis of humanistic care ability in relation to continuous variables

The average age was  $(35.16 \pm 8.16)$  years. The mean scores of the humanistic care ability, cognition, courage, patience was  $186.47 (\pm 21.34)$ ,  $74.44 (\pm 10.73)$ ,  $54.29 (\pm 9.92)$ ,  $57.74 (\pm 7.34)$ , respectively.

The correlation analysis showed that psychological capital was significantly associated with humanistic care ability (overall: r = 0.573, p < 0.05; cognition: r = 0.595, p < 0.05; courage: r = 0.236, p < 0.05; patience: r = 0.477, p < 0.05). Psychoticism was significantly associated with humanistic care ability (overall: r = -0.411, p < 0.05; cognition: r = -0.328, p < 0.05; courage: r = -0.252, p < 0.05; patience: r = -0.376, p < 0.05). Extroversion was significantly associated with humanistic care ability (overall: r = 0.387, p < 0.05; cognition: r = 0.305, p < 0.05; patience: r = 0.221, p < 0.05). Neuroticism was significantly associated with humanistic care ability (overall: r = -0.337, p < 0.05; cognition: r = -0.272, p < 0.05; courage: r = -0.323, p < 0.05; patience: r = -0.146, p < 0.05). The above results are shown in table 2.

# 3.4 Multiple linear regression of the influencing factors of mental health workers' humanistic care ability

In multiple linear regression analysis, humanistic care ability and its three dimensions were the dependent variables, and all possible predictors (p <0.05 in univariate analysis) were entered as independent variables. Table 3 shows the result of multiple regression analysis. Psychological capital was positively associated with humanistic care ability ( $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.411 [0.464, 0.772], p<0.001) and its two dimensions (cognition:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.514 [0.304, 0.465], p<0.001; patience:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.478 [0.171, 0.283], p<0.001). Psychoticism was negatively associated with humanistic care ability ( $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.277 [-5.179, -2.513], p<0.001) and its three dimensions (cognition:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.124 [-1.567, -0.165], p<0.05; courage:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.166 [-1.698, -0.316], p<0.01; patience:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.185 [-1.330, -0.358], p<0.01). Extroversion was positively associated with humanistic care ability ( $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.189 [0.686, 2.080], p<0.001) and its two dimensions (cognition:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.188 [0.323, 1.051], p<0.001; courage:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = 0.268 [0.496, 1.230], p<0.001). Neuroticism was negatively associated with humanistic care ability ( $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.130 [-1.366, -0.193], p<0.01) and its one dimension (courage:  $\beta$ [95%Cl] = -0.252 [-0.977, -0.352], p<0.001). The above results showed that psychological capital and personality traits were associated with humanistic care ability.

# 4. Discussion

This study explored the level of humanistic care ability of mental health workers and its potential influencing factors. We found that mental health workers' humanistic care ability was at a low level. Psychological capital and personality traits were significant predictors of humanistic care ability and its sub-dimensions, but social-demographic variables were not.

Our findings indicated that mental health workers had a low level of humanistic care ability, which is consistent with previous studies [12, 14]. Although medical education and clinical practice are increasingly focusing on integrating the concept of humanistic care into personal ability development and clinical work practices, such as the establishment of patient-doctor relationship, patient treatment and rehabilitation, and colleague relations [2, 27], and also made some progress. But it is undeniable that medication is still a theme in the field of mental health, ignoring a deeper and interpersonally rich paradigm of understanding and treating mental illness, such as empathetic and humanistic interventions [28, 29]. Furthermore, economic forces and commercial interests now drive the healthcare industry to focus on clinical productivity, efficiency, performance metrics and regulations, resulting in less time for mental health workers to meaningfully interact with patients and impeding humanistic culture [30]. Létourneau et al. [27] also pointed out that the doctors or nurses who have just entered the clinic may voice their desire to provide humanistic care and maintain the ideal of humanistic practice. However, perhaps because of work overload or fear of crossing the 'professional boundaries' due to "too close" to their patient, there is a distance between their desire and practice, which hinders the further development of humanistic care ability. It must be mentioned that the "coercion" in psychiatry perpetuates power imbalances in care relationships, causes mistrust, exacerbates stigma and discrimination, which may cause service users to hide their true feelings and needs [23]. Mental health workers may become emotionally indifferent due to long-term care of patients with abnormal cognitive function, thus neglecting the patient's personality, dignity and satisfaction of needs. As a result, it is difficult for mental health workers to establish a

relationship of mutual trust and carry out positive and effective communication with patients. Finally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health workers are faced with more work pressure, workload and burnout [31, 32]. They are often powerless and difficult to achieve humanistic care. Previous studies [15, 33] have also pointed to the need to reduce work-related stress and burnout to maintain the humanistic spirit and practice.

Interestingly, none of the social-demographic variables in this study predicted the humanistic care ability of mental health workers. Work characteristics including work shift, work pressure, practice environmental satisfaction, salary satisfaction, work-family conflicts were not statistically significant after entering linear regression. This is different from previous studies. In a previous study [14], there were statistical differences in the humanistic care ability and sub-dimension scores of medical staff of different ages, education levels, and hospital levels. Although we cannot provide evidence-based reasons for this finding, we speculate that may be due to the impact of the epidemic, such as changes in the work environment and priorities, service restructuring, remote counseling, measures to control infection risk, anxiety, depression and other negative emotions, and high workload [34], which caused mental health workers to have no time to care for their patients during this period. Furthermore, the complexity of the healthcare environment, sample differences may also contribute to this result. In follow-up research, this may need to be further explored.

The study noted that psychological capital was positively correlated with humanistic care ability and its two dimensions (cognition and patience). Psychological capital is a positive psychological state during an individuals' growth and development [35]. It can help individuals adapt to changing demands and demonstrate emotional stability when faced with adversity [35, 36]. Mental health workers with high levels of psychological capital are more inclined to calmly and confidently solve the obstacles in the humane care process, and constantly seek the development of humanistic care ability. Meantime, they are more patient to explore the needs of themselves and others, and give care and support to the care recipients. In addition, previous studies have explored the positive effects of psychological capital, such as preventing burnout and reducing the negative effects of work pressure [37]. In other words, psychological capital may also indirectly play a positive role in the development of humanistic care ability of mental health workers.

Another important finding in this study was that personality traits were significantly associated with humanistic care ability. Among them, psychoticism was negatively correlated with humanistic care ability and its three dimensions (cognition, courage and patience); neuroticism was negatively correlated with humanistic care ability and its one dimension (courage); extroversion was positively correlated with humanistic care ability and its two dimensions (cognition and courage). Personality traits affect the individual's unique perception and response to the external environment, leading to different results. Extroverts are usually positive and optimistic. They are easy to build harmonious and stable interpersonal relationships at work, and communicate effectively with patients or colleagues [38], so as to understand the real needs of the care recipients. In addition, extroverts tend to view work positively, and are more courageous and responsible when solving various problems in the workplace. They are also more likely to feel more happiness, and this significantly predicts provision of humanistic care to patients [39]. People

with high psychoticism scores may lack sympathy, carelessness or unkindness to others at work, and cannot integrate well into society or interpersonal relationships. For them, it may be difficult to establish emotional and interpersonal relationships with patients, and to listen to the patients' inner needs, or they may not have the patience to do this. People with high neuroticism scores are emotionally unstable and prone to negative emotional reactions such as anxiety. Their ability to withstand stress is weakened, and tend to amplify the importance of certain situations, thereby experiencing a higher degree of work overload [38], which hinders their humanistic practice to some extent. Also, neurotic medical workers tend to accumulate negative emotions and produce irrational thinking. They may not have the courage or ability to deal with unknown challenges and provide caring behaviors for patients.

This study has several limitations. First, we collected the data in a specific area, and whether the results can be generalized to other healthcare systems or territories with a different epidemic situation may need to be further verified by multi-center and large-sample studies in the future. Secondly, the cross-sectional design limits the inferences of causal relationships among the variables, and further longitudinal research may be required. Finally, self-report questionnaires, the results may be biased.

# 5. Conclusion

Our findings found that mental health workers have a low level of humanistic care ability. Managers should focus on the importance of humanistic care for the treatment and rehabilitation of patients with mental illness, and provide support for improving the humanistic care ability of mental health workers and use it effectively in the day-to-day practice of clinical psychiatry. A workflow structure that allows adequate time to establish relationships with patients is critical. The research also found that psychological capital and personality traits are the significant influencing factors of humanistic care ability and its sub-dimensions. This provides new directions for developing the humanistic care ability of mental health workers, that is, through interventions to improve psychological capital or drive individuals to achieve their desired personality trait changes.

# **Abbreviations**

CAI: Caring Ability Inventory

PsyCap: Psychological capital

PCQ-24: the Psychological Capital Questionnaire 24

EPQ-RSC: the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Revised, Short Scale for Chinese

P: psychoticism

N: neuroticism,

E: extroversion

L: lie

# **Declarations**

### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Ethics approval was granted by the Medical Ethics Committee of the Chongqing Mental Health Centre (Ethics approval number: 2021-001). Informed consent to participate to this study was embedded in the online survey administered to the participants, in which participation in the survey means consent to participate. All methods were performed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and regulations.

### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

# Availability of data and materials

The datasets generated during and analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to due to human subjects' protections, but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

### Competing interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

## **Funding**

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

### **Author contributions**

Material preparation and data collection were performed by LXL and ZHJ. ZHJ performed the analysis of the data and LXL wrote the manuscript text. Reviews and modifications of the manuscript were conducted by LXL and ZHJ.

# Acknowledgments

Not applicable.

# References

- 1. Rogers CR. The Foundations of the Person-Centered Approach. Dialectics and Humanism. 1981;8(1):5-16.
- 2. Lee Roze des Ordons A, de Groot JM, Rosenal T, Viceer N, Nixon L. How clinicians integrate humanism in their clinical workplace-'Just trying to put myself in their human being shoes'. Perspect Med Educ.

- 2018;7(5):318-24.
- 3. Aupia A, Lee TT, Liu CY, Wu SV, Mills ME. Caring behavior perceived by nurses, patients and nursing students in Indonesia. J Prof Nurs. 2018;34(4):314-9.
- 4. Cheng L, Liu Y, Ke Y, Wang W. Comparison of Caring Ability Between Chinese and American Nursing Students. West J Nurs Res. 2017;39(2):290-304.
- 5. Hung CA, Wu PL, Liu NY, Hsu WY, Lee BO, Pai HC. The effect of gender-friendliness barriers on perceived image in nursing and caring behaviour among male nursing students. J Clin Nurs. 2019;28(9-10):1465-72.
- 6. Edmundson E. The quality caring nursing model: a journey to selection and implementation. J Pediatr Nurs. 2012;27(4):411-5.
- 7. Blais R, Brousseau S. A Humanistic Caring Quality of Work Life Model in Nursing Administration Based on Watson's Philosophy. International Journal of Human Caring. 2017;21:2-8.
- 8. Wang Y, Zhang Y, Liu M, Zhou L, Zhang J, Tao H, et al. Research on the formation of humanistic care ability in nursing students: A structural equation approach. Nurse Educ Today. 2020;86:104315.
- 9. General Office of the State Council P. "Healthy China 2030" plan outline. 2016 [10-25]. Available from: http://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2016/content\_5133024.htm.
- 10. Buckley J. Holism and a health-promoting approach to palliative care. Int J Palliat Nurs. 2002;8(10):505-8.
- 11. Sarkis JM, Skoner MM. An analysis of the concept of holism in nursing literature. Holist Nurs Pract. 1987;2(1):61-9.
- 12. Chang Z, Guan G, Chen R, Liu H, Orthopedi Cs DO, Hospital QC, et al. Analysis of nurses' humanistic care ability and its influencing factors in primary hospital. Chinese Nursing Management. 2017;17(06):836-839.
- 13. Mackintosh-Franklin C. Does nurse education promote caring and compassionate practice? A discussion following documentary review of current and future undergraduate curricula. Nurse Educ Pract. 2019;36:121-4.
- 14. Xu T, Wang Y, Wang R, Lamb KV, Ren D, Dai G, et al. Predictors of caring ability and its dimensions among nurses in China: A cross-sectional study. Scand J Caring Sci. 2020; 35(4):1226–1239.
- 15. Branch WT, Jr., Weil AB, Gilligan MC, Litzelman DK, Hafler JP, Plews-Ogan M, et al. How physicians draw satisfaction and overcome barriers in their practices: "It sustains me". Patient Educ Couns. 2017;100(12):2320-30.
- 16. Xiang YT, Yang Y, Li W, Zhang L, Zhang Q, Cheung T, et al. Timely mental health care for the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak is urgently needed. The lancet Psychiatry. 2020;7(3):228-9.
- 17. Sun Q, Qin Q, Basta M, Chen B, Li Y. Psychological reactions and insomnia in adults with mental health disorders during the COVID-19 outbreak. BMC psychiatry. 2021;21(1):19.
- 18. Deng Y, Chen Y, Zhang B. Different prevalence trend of depression and anxiety among healthcare workers and general public before and after the peak of COVID-19 occurred in China: A meta-analysis. Asian J Psychiatr. 2021;56:102547.

- 19. Catthoor K, Hutsebaut J, Schrijvers D, De Hert M, Peuskens J, Sabbe B. Preliminary study of associative stigma among trainee psychiatrists in Flanders, Belgium. World J Psychiatry. 2014;4(3):62-8.
- 20. Renwick L, Lavelle M, Brennan G, Stewart D, James K, Richardson M, et al. Physical injury and workplace assault in UK mental health trusts: An analysis of formal reports. Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2016;25(4):355-66.
- 21. Johnson J, Hall LH, Berzins K, Baker J, Melling K, Thompson C. Mental healthcare staff well-being and burnout: A narrative review of trends, causes, implications, and recommendations for future interventions. Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2018;27(1):20-32.
- 22. Zhao X, Liu L, Hu C, Chen F, Sun X. Necessity and feasibility of improving mental health services in China: A systematic qualitative review. Int J Health Plann Manage. 2017;32(3):363-71.
- 23. Bacha K, Hanley T, Winter LA. 'Like a human being, I was an equal, I wasn't just a patient': Service users' perspectives on their experiences of relationships with staff in mental health services. Psychol Psychother. 2020;93(2):367-86.
- 24. Juan X, Liu Y. Investigation and Analysis of Nursing Staff's Caring Ability. Journal of Nursing Science. 2008;(03):16-18.
- 25. Luo H, Hao ZH. Reliability and validity analysis of psychological capital questionnaire in nurses Chinese Journal of Behavioral Medicine and Brain Science. 2010;19(9):853-4.
- 26. Qian MY, Wu G.C, Zhu R.C, Zhang S. Development of the revised eysenck personality questionnaire short scale for chinese (EPQ-RSC). Acta Psychologica Sinica. 2000;32(3):317-23.
- 27. Létourneau D, Goudreau J, Cara C. Humanistic caring, a nursing competency: modelling a metamorphosis from students to accomplished nurses. Scand J Caring Sci. 2021;35(1):196-207.
- 28. Joober R. Deconstructing the mental health crisis in only 2 pieces. J Psychiatry Neurosci. 2016;41(4):222-4.
- 29. Ross J, Watling C. Use of empathy in psychiatric practice: constructivist grounded theory study. BJPsych open. 2017;3(1):26-33.
- 30. Rider EA, Gilligan MC, Osterberg LG, Litzelman DK, Plews-Ogan M, Weil AB, et al. Healthcare at the Crossroads: The Need to Shape an Organizational Culture of Humanistic Teaching and Practice. J Gen Intern Med. 2018;33(7):1092-9.
- 31. Rapisarda F, Vallarino M, Cavallini E, Barbato A, Brousseau-Paradis C, De Benedictis L, et al. The Early Impact of the Covid-19 Emergency on Mental Health Workers: A Survey in Lombardy, Italy. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2020;17(22):8615.
- 32. Franzoi IG, Granieri A, Sauta MD, Agnesone M, Gonella M, Cavallo R, et al. Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress, and Burnout in Health Professionals during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Comparing Mental Health Professionals and Other Healthcare Workers. Healthcare (Basel). 2021;9(6):635.
- 33. Swendiman RA, Marcaccio CL, Han J, Hoffman DI, Weiner TM, Nance ML, et al. Attitudes and Habits of Highly Humanistic Surgeons: A Single-Institution, Mixed-Methods Study. Acad Med. 2019;94(7):1027-32.

- 34. Liberati E, Richards N, Willars J, Scott D, Boydell N, Parker J, et al. A qualitative study of experiences of NHS mental healthcare workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. BMC psychiatry. 2021;21(1):250.
- 35. Luthans F, Youssef CM. Human, Social and Now Positive Psychological Capital Management: Investing in People for Competitive Advantage. Organizational Dynamics. 2004;33(2):143-60.
- 36. Luthans F, Youssef-Morgan CM, Avolio BJ. Psychological Capital: Developing the Human Competitive Edge. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press; 2007.
- 37. Kim S, Kweon Y. Psychological Capital Mediates the Association between Job Stress and Burnout of among Korean Psychiatric Nurses. Healthcare (Basel). 2020;8(3):199.
- 38. Grigorescu S, Cazan AM, Grigorescu OD, Rogozea LM. The role of the personality traits and work characteristics in the prediction of the burnout syndrome among nurses-a new approach within predictive, preventive, and personalized medicine concept. EPMA J. 2018;9(4):355-65.
- 39. Biag AD, Angeles LS, Jr. Testing the structural equation model of the influence of nurses' spiritual well-being and caring behaviour on their provision of spiritual care to patients. J Nurs Manag. 2021;29(4):822-33.

# **Tables**

Table 1 Univariate analysis of humanistic care ability in relation to categorical variables

Variables	N (%)	Humanistic care ability (Mean [SD])				
		Overall	Cognition	Courage	Patience	
Gender						
Male	64 (24.4)	182.58 (20.66	73.59 (10.77	52.45 (10.19	56.5 (7.94	
Female	198 (75.6)	187.73 (21.45	74.72 (10.73	54.88 (9.78	58.1 (7.12	
Marital status						
Unmarried	57 (21.8)	185.40 (21.98)	72.74 (10.67)	55.47 (9.04)	57.19 (7.32)	
Married	197 (75.2)	186.77 (21.50)	74.92 (10.91)	54.02 (10.26)	57.83 (7.44)	
Other	8 (3.1	186.63 (12.33)	74.75 (4.40)	52.50 (6.82)	59.38 (5.29)	
Education level						
Junior college or lower	67 (25.6)	188.31 (18.07	75.19 (9.96)	54.43 (9.51)	58.69 (6.10)	
Undergraduate degree or above	195 (74.4)	185.84 (22.36	74.18 (11.00)	54.24 (10.08)	57.41 (7.71)	
Hospital level						
Grade A	192 (73.3)	185.61 (20.83)	73.71 (10.55)	54.66 (9.51)	57.25 (7.20)	
Grade B	49 (18.7)	192.22 (22.98)	77.59 (11.32)	54.82 (11.57)	59.82 (7.70)	
Grade C	21 (8)	180.86 (20.27)	73.81 (10.13)	49.71 (8.64)	57.33 (7.26)	
Hospital nature						
General Hospital	28 (10.7	189.68 (22.79	77.14 (10.62)	53.29 (11.08	59.25 (6.74	
Specialty Hospital	234 (89.3	186.09 (21.18	74.12 (10.72)	54.41 (9.79	57.56 (7.40	
Professional category						
Nurse	169 (64.5)	186.29 (21.04)	74.40 (10.54)	54.11 (10.10)	57.79 (7.26)	
Doctor	80 (30.5)	186.33 (22.08)	74.33 (11.37	54.46 (9.59)	57.54 (7.75)	
Medical Technician	13 (5)	189.69 Page 13/17	75.77 (9.77)	55.62	58.31	

		(21.96)		(10.16)	(6.20)
Work shift					
Yes	185	185.47	73.87	54.46	57.14
	(70.6)	(22.48	(11.41	(9.99	(7.89
No	77 (29.4)	188.87 (18.21	75.82 (8.82	53.87 (9.80	59.18 (5.61) *
Work years					
≤5 years	65	188.00	74.34	55.38	58.28
	(24.8)	(20.47)	(10.35)	(9.58)	(6.59)
6-10 years	75	183.89	73.61	53.39	56.89
	(28.6)	(21.19)	(10.53)	(9.02)	(8.45)
11-15 years	58	183.50	73.60	52.88	57.02
	(22.1)	(22.66)	(11.45)	(11.01)	(7.21)
≥16 years	64	190.63	76.28	55.52	58.83
	(24.4)	(20.80)	(10.71)	(10.18)	(6.75)
Work pressure					
Low	11	193.36	80.36	52.27	60.73
	(4.2)	(18.20)	(10.57)	(12.95)	(5.59)
Medium	139	188.53	75.01	55.83	57.69
	(53.1	(22.36)	(10.64)	(9.54)	(7.36)
High	112 (42.7)	183.23 (19.97)	73.16(10.69)	52.57 (9.83) *	57.50 (7.47)
Practice environment satisfaction					
Dissatisfied	69	181.39	72.84	51.54	57.01
	(26.3	(22.29)	(11.66)	(10.49)	(7.54)
Neutral	124	185.85	73.49	55.10	57.26
	(47.3	(20.94)	(10.28)	(9.24)	(7.52)
Satisfied	69	192.67	77.75 (9.98)	55.59	59.32
	(26.3	(19.79) **	*	(10.12) *	(6.67)
Salary satisfaction					
Dissatisfied	82	182.28	72.20	53.34	56.74
	(31.3	(21.95)	(11.49)	(9.93)	(7.51)
Neutral	133 (50.8	186.77 (19.54)	74.95 (9.61)	53.91 (9.50)	57.91 (6.87)
Satisfied	47	192.94	76.94	57.02	58.98
	(17.9	(23.78) *	(11.82) *	(10.77)	(8.22)
Work-family conflict					

Low	76 (29	191.88 (21.33)	76.51 (10.64)	57.13 (9.41)	58.24 (6.98)
Medium	120	185.83	74.13	53.95	57.76
	(45.8	(21.04)	(10.31)	(10.01)	(7.39)
High	66	181.39	72.64	51.64	57.12
	(25.2	(20.77) *	(11.34)	(9.61) **	(7.72)

<sup>\*</sup>P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001. SD, standard deviation.

Table 2 Correlation analysis of caring ability in relation to continuous variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Humanistic Care ability	1								
2 Cognition	.871**	1							
3 Courage	.602**	.182**	1						
4 Patience	.820**	.825**	.131*	1					
5 Age	.060	.082	.004	.051	1				
6 PsyCap	.573**	.595**	.236**	.477**	.053	1			
7 P	411**	328**	252**	376**	066	262**	1		
8 E	.387**	.335**	.305**	.221**	182**	.294**	200**	1	
9 N	337**	272**	323**	146*	.001	357**	.103	163**	1
Mean	186.47	74.44	54.29	57.74	35.16	79.37	1.98	7.65	5.09
SD	21.34	10.73	9.92	7.34	8.16	13.96	1.52	2.86	3.51

PsyCap, psychological capital; P, psychoticism; E, extroversion; N, neuroticism; SD, standard deviation.

Table 3 Multiple linear regression analysis results, with humanistic care ability and three dimensions as the dependent variables

<sup>\*</sup>P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01.

	_		-
() 6	n	10/	ויי
9.1.	U	/n	U

Model	Independent variables	В	SE	β	t	Р	Lower	Upper
Humanistic								
care ability	(Constant)	139.898	8.426		16.603	0.000***	123.304	156.493
	Practice environment satisfaction	-1.374	1.555	047	884	0.378	-4.436	1.688
	Salary satisfaction	1.235	1.575	.040	.784	0.434	-1.868	4.337
	Work-family conflict	526	1.383	019	380	0.704	-3.250	2.197
	PsyCap	.618	.078	.411	7.901	0.000***	.464	.772
	Р	-3.846	.677	277	-5.684	0.000***	-5.179	-2.513
	Е	1.383	.354	.189	3.909	0.000***	.686	2.080
	N	780	.298	130	-2.615	0.009**	-1.366	193
Cognition								
	(Constant)	41.063	4.062		10.109	0.000***	33.064	49.063
	Practice environment satisfaction	-0.694	0.789	-0.048	-0.880	0.380	-2.247	0.860
	Salary satisfaction	0.780	0.818	0.052	0.954	0.341	-0.831	2.390
	PsyCap	0.385	0.041	0.514	9.435	0.000***	0.304	0.465
	Р	-0.866	0.356	-0.124	-2.432	0.016*	-1.567	-0.165
	Е	0.687	0.185	0.188	3.717	0.000***	0.323	1.051
	N	-0.104	0.152	-0.035	-0.685	0.494	-0.404	0.195
Courage								
	(Constant)	55.942	4.787		11.686	0.000***	46.514	65.370
	Work pressure	-0.733	0.935	-0.045	-0.784	0.434	-2.573	1.108
	Practice environment satisfaction	0.106	0.752	0.008 e 16/17	0.141	0.888	-1.374	1.586

Page 16/17

	Work-family conflict	-1.042	0.740	-0.083	-1.408	0.160	-2.500	0.416
	PsyCap	0.015	.042	0.022	0.356	0.722	-0.067	0.097
	Р	-1.007	0.351	-0.166	-2.869	0.004**	-1.698	-0.316
	Е	0.863	0.186	0.268	4.632	0.000***	0.496	1.230
	N	-0.664	0.159	-0.252	-4.184	0.000***	-0.977	-0.352
Patience								
	(Constant)	39.516	2.755		14.341	0.000***	34.089	44.942
	Work shift	0.508	0.765	0.035	0.664	0.507	-0.999	2.016
	PsyCap	0.227	0.028	0.478	7.995	0.000***	0.171	0.283
	Р	-0.844	0.247	-0.185	-3.418	0.001**	-1.330	-0.358
	E	0.151	0.129	0.065	1.170	0.243	-0.103	0.405
	N	0.095	0.107	0.050	0.890	0.375	-0.115	0.305

PsyCap, psychological capital; P, psychoticism; E, extroversion; N, neuroticism;

Model performance of Humanistic Care ability: R2= 0.480, adjusted R2= 0.465, F= 33.208, p< .001.

Model performance of Cognition: R2= 0.431, adjusted R2= 0.417, F= 31.911, p< .001.

Model performance of Courage: R2= 0.262, adjusted R2= 0.241, F= 12.675, p< .001.

Model performance of Patience: R2= 0.325, adjusted R2= 0.312, F= 24.178, p< .001.

<sup>\*</sup>P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001.