

# Role of School Nursing for progressive and safe return to classroom: COVID-19, A review for Latin America

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## Abstract

This paper is a documentary review carried out on scientific publications registered in Scopus during 2020 and the first semester of 2021 in Latin America, regarding the role of School Nursing during the return to school after the pandemic decreed in 2019 by the World Health Organization (WHO) that forced the world governments to a preventive and mandatory confinement with the purpose of reducing the number of contagions and deaths. The objective of this research was to know the main characteristics of the scientific documents published, identifying a total of 260 papers, from which Brazil is recognized as the Latin American country with the highest number of publications related to the proposed topic, registering 181 documents. Eighty percent of the identified publications correspond to journal papers, being this type of publication the one chosen by most of the authors. Similarly, a qualitative analysis was made of different examples of publications identified with the purpose of knowing the position of some authors regarding the role of school nursing in the return to school after the lifting of the restrictive measures.

**Key words:** Nursing, School Nursing, Education, Education, Covid-19.

## 1. Introduction

In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the pandemic generated by the accelerated rate of infection by COVID-19 and the high number of deaths caused by the same disease. It can be said that the appearance of COVID-19 was a turning point for the whole world that marked a before and after (Hernandez, 2020). The education sector was no exception to the social isolation measures adopted by the countries in the search to placate the contagion curve within its inhabitants, so that, almost immediately, the educational institutions began the virtualization of their academic contents with the purpose of not stopping the training processes. In this way, what until then had been an optional modality within the different study methodologies, became mandatory for all students regardless of their area or level of training, going from face-to-face to the virtualization of their academic contents (Inter-American Development Bank,

2020). Moving from face-to-face to remote access, alternatives were explored such as those designed and proposed by Dave Cormier and Bryan Alexander in Canada in 2008 and their MOOC (*Massive Open Online Course*) modality (Lopez-Meneses, Gomez-Galan, Bernal, & Vazques, 2020).

This changes to the educational field imply an additional effort on the part of the educational management to keep motivated at all times not only students but also teachers who also assumed additional responsibilities through training in the use of virtual platforms to provide continuity to their academic content, implementation of activities and their evaluation (Artavia & Castro, 2019). However, one of the advantages found in this modality compared to the traditional one is that the latter is usually unidirectional, that is, knowledge is transmitted in only one direction, while ICT-based strategies allow obtaining information in two ways, making it possible to establish evaluation and feedback processes by

means of students' opinions and grades. therefore, the perspective offered by educational institutions through virtual education covers three important aspects in academic training: the contents, both in training and research, the teaching model and the organizational model (Rodríguez, 2010) .

Within the framework of Covid-19, classrooms are gradually returning to the physical classroom to continue the training processes under certain safety measures regarding self-care to avoid an increase in the rate of infection in both children and adolescents. The control measures taken in educational centers are supported by the active participation of the school nursing staff who, with talks, distribution of pamphlets where they inform about the correct process for hand washing, alcohol, antibacterial, masks, among other measures, such as distancing between people, are some of the strategies that educational institutions are adopting for the return to physical classes, since its inception with the alternation that has also been a strategy that combines presence and virtuality to avoid crowds inside the classrooms. Ventilated spaces, no access to common areas such as cafeterias, and controlled access to restrooms, teachers' lounges and library are also part of the mechanisms to counteract the high number of contagions that this pandemic presented in its beginnings (Garcia, 2021) . Therefore, the study seeks to know the characteristics of the production of research papers and their subsequent publication regarding the measures adopted by the nursing staff in Latin American

educational institutions once they return to face-to-face classes during 2020 and the first semester of 2021.

## 2. General Objective

To analyze from a bibliometric and bibliographic perspective, the production of high impact research papers on the variable Role of Nursing in the return to face-to-face classes within the framework of COVID-19, published during 2020 and the first semester of 2021 in Latin American countries.

## Methodology

A quantitative analysis is carried out on the data provided by Scopus regarding the production of research papers whose variable includes the study of the variable Role of Nursing in the return to face-to-face classes within the framework of COVID-19, and it is also analyzed from a qualitative approach by describing the position of different authors on this topic. In order to achieve this objective, the present research is carried out based on the fulfillment of three phases explained below.

### 3.1 Methodological design

Table 1 shows the methodological design proposed for the development of this research.

	PHASE	DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION
<b>PHASE 1</b>	DATA COLLECTION	Data was collected using the Search tool on the Scopus web page, where a total of 260 published documents were identified.	Published papers whose study variables are the role of School Nursing in the framework of COVID-19 and the return to face-to-face classes during 2020 and the first semester of 2021.  Without distinction of type of research.  Limited to Latin American countries

<b>PHASE 2</b>	CONSTRUCTION OF ANALYSIS MATERIAL	The information identified in the previous phase is organized. The classification will be made by means of graphs, figures and tables based on data provided by Scopus.	Limited to the area of NURSING.  Co-occurrence of words. Country of origin of the publication. Participating authors... Type of publication
	<b>PHASE 3</b> DRAFTING OF CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL DOCUMENT	After the analysis carried out in the previous phase, we proceed to the drafting of the conclusions and the preparation of the final document.	

**Table 1.** Methodological design.

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021)

#### 4. Results

The bibliometric analysis proposed for the present study consists of the description of four fundamental points in the recognition of the main characteristics in a group of papers that share similar topics. Starting with the co-occurrence of words, which shows how the identified studies and the subgroups formed within the same subject are related. Next, the scientific production distributed by country of origin is analyzed to show the Latin American countries that have the highest number of general publications on the role of nursing in the return to face-to-face classes within the framework of the pandemic generated by COVID-19. Thirdly, the production of publications distributed by Authors is analyzed to allow visualizing the main expositors in the

previously referenced topic. Subsequently, the predominant type of publication within the group of publications identified is analyzed. Once the information was distributed, it is possible to cite examples within each category, of articles or scientific documents published that allow describing the position of the authors with respect to the proposed topic from a qualitative analysis of the same.

##### 4.1 Co-occurrence of words

Figure 1 identifies the relationship between the keywords in the publications identified through the execution of Phase 1 of the methodological design.

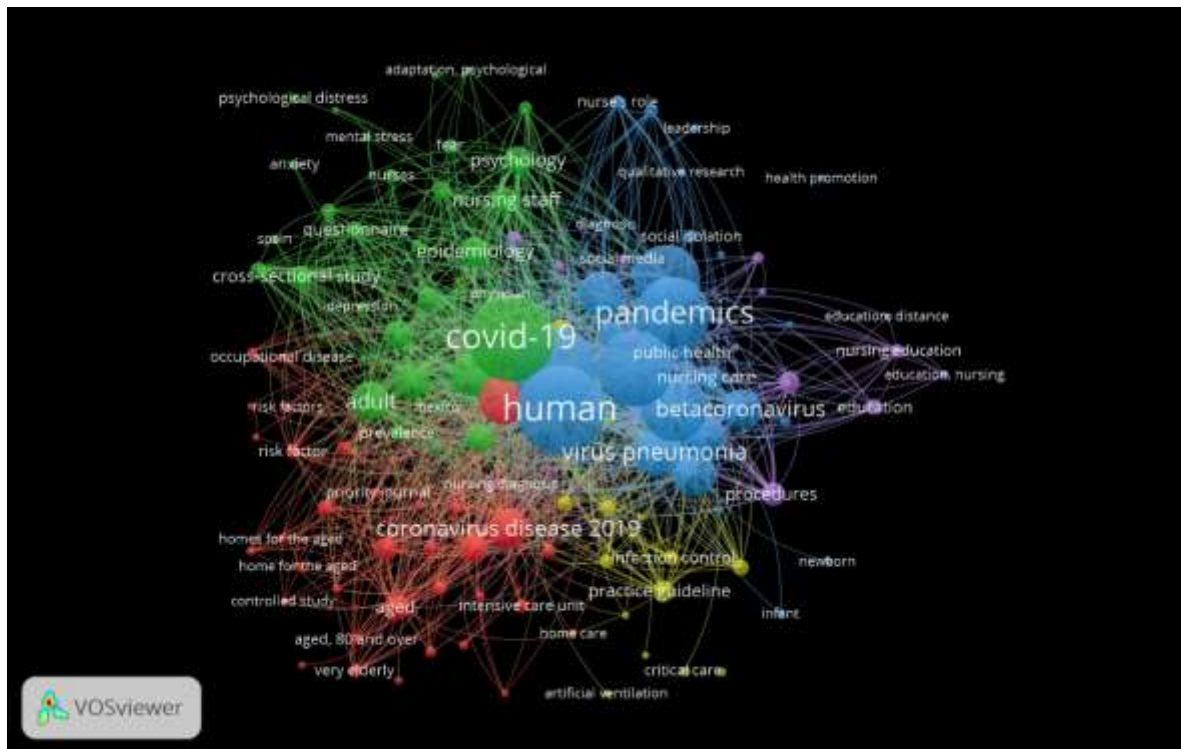


Figure 1. Co-occurrence of words

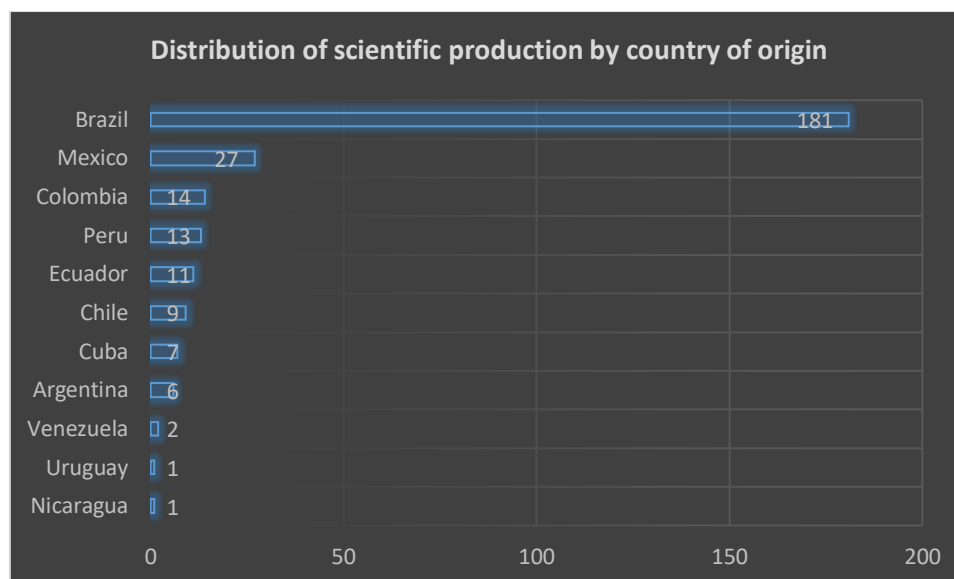
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between the publications according to their key words, and denotes an important closeness between the research carried out on Human, Covid-19, Pandemic, Public Health, which allows inferring that, within the conceptual framework of each research, the topic of Covid-19 and its categorization with pandemic is addressed, to determine consequences on human health. It is also evident a relationship between the words Epidemiology, Nursing Staff, Role of Nurses, where it is possible to highlight the work of professionals in this area who are responsible for keeping track of patients who are assisted in health institutions. The study applied to the role of nursing in the strategies designed for the return to classes shows great importance within the possibilities identified to resume attendance, reducing the risk of direct contagion among the student community and teachers, as well as

operational and administrative personnel within the educational centers. One of the most common words in the study on the proposed topic is Risk Factors, from which all measures are based, from preventive social isolation to constant hand washing, use of mouth covers, alcohol, antibacterial, all as physical measures to prevent contagion, but also the intangible component is vital, i.e., awareness of the speed and lethality of this disease without proper management of symptoms. In this way, talks, training and conferences related to the prevention of contagion are also part of the strategies used by educational institutions for the return to face-to-face attendance. A large part of the above is carried out by the nursing staff.

#### 4.2 Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of publications production by country in Latin America during 2020 and the first half of 2021.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of scientific production by country of origin.

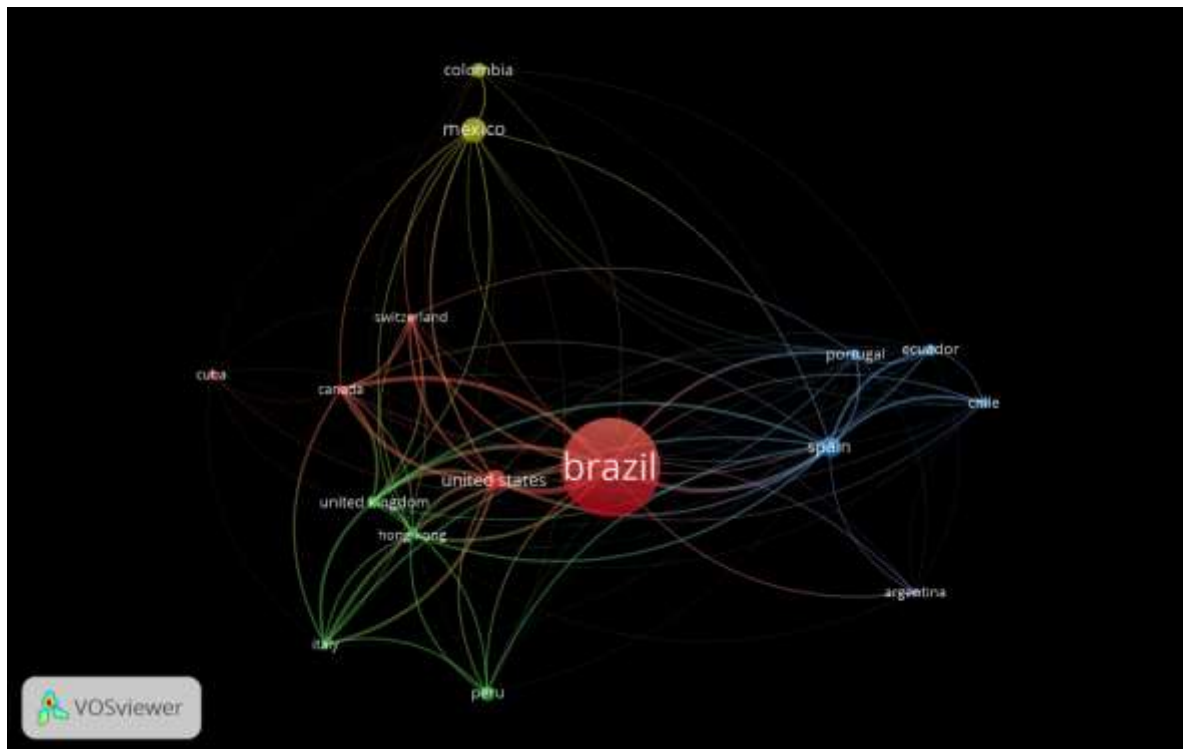
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Brazil is the Latin American country with the highest number of publications registered in Scopus since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, with a total of 181 research papers published, followed by Mexico with 27 papers, including the article entitled "*Covid-19 and long-term care institutions in Mexico: An unpostponable debt*", whose objective is to analyze the shortcomings presented in terms of biosafety protocols within long-term care institutions, such as elderly care centers where numerous deaths occurred due to Covid-19 (Mena-Madrado, Sosa-Tinoco, Lopez-Ortega, & Gutierrez-Robledo, 2021). whose objective is to analyze the shortcomings presented in terms of biosafety protocols in long-term care institutions, such as centers for the care of the elderly where there were numerous deaths due to Covid-19. The proposal to analyze which aspects need to be improved with respect to health prevention policies is of great help in the design of strategies that can be implemented even in educational institutions to prevent contagion once the return to face-to-face care is authorized. The active participation of nursing personnel who are in charge of the care of people and who, due to their work, are the most exposed to possible contagion is highlighted, suggesting an effective self-care policy on the part of nurses

to avoid the spread of the virus within this type of institutions.

Colombia ranks third with 14 publications registered in Scopus, among which is the article entitled "*Knowledge about COVID-19 and handwashing*" (Escobar-Escobar & Garcia-Garcia, 2020). The purpose of this article is to make people aware of the little-known details about Covid-19 disease and the most effective mechanisms for its prevention, such as hand washing. Hand washing techniques are explained in order to achieve positive results with this strategy, and nursing students are trained in the correct way to do it. This implies a great help in self-care in the face of the high number of contagions in educational centers, so it is suggested to have personnel to inform students and administrators on the best way to wash hands and the appropriate frequency.

The classification of scientific production by country of origin has an important characteristic, which is that a published paper can be counted as a unit by the countries that have participated in its execution. In other words, a research work may involve authors from different institutions that may even be from different countries, so that the same document can be listed for each of the participants. Figure 3 shows how this collaboration has been within the research papers identified through the execution of Phase 1 of the methodological design.



**Figure 3.** Collaboration between countries.

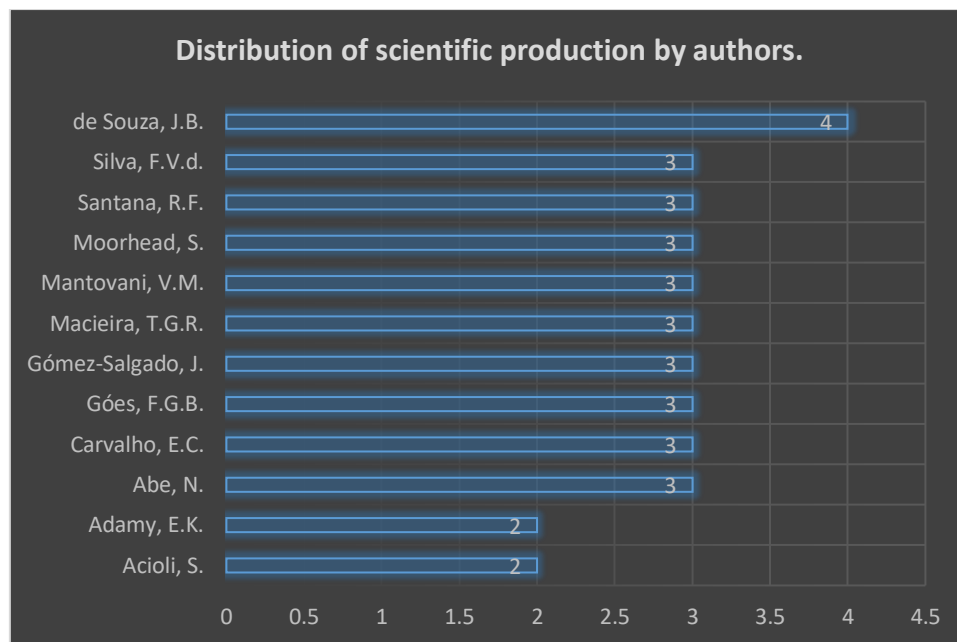
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Brazil is the central axis within the research related to the topic proposed in this paper, with publications by authors from the United States, Spain and Canada. Ecuador and Chile also present research with Portugal and Spain, while Mexico has a high participation of Colombian authors in its publications.

#### **4.3 Distribution of scientific production by authors.**

In Latin America, there is a great variety of authors interested in researching the role of

nursing within the protocols designed for the return to classroom classes in educational institutions after the appearance of Covid-19 in the world, which undoubtedly caused trauma not only in education but also in all sectors of the world economy. Figure 4 shows the main authors in Latin American countries and the number of publications they have published during 2020 and the first half of 2021.



**Figure 4.** Distribution of scientific production by authors.

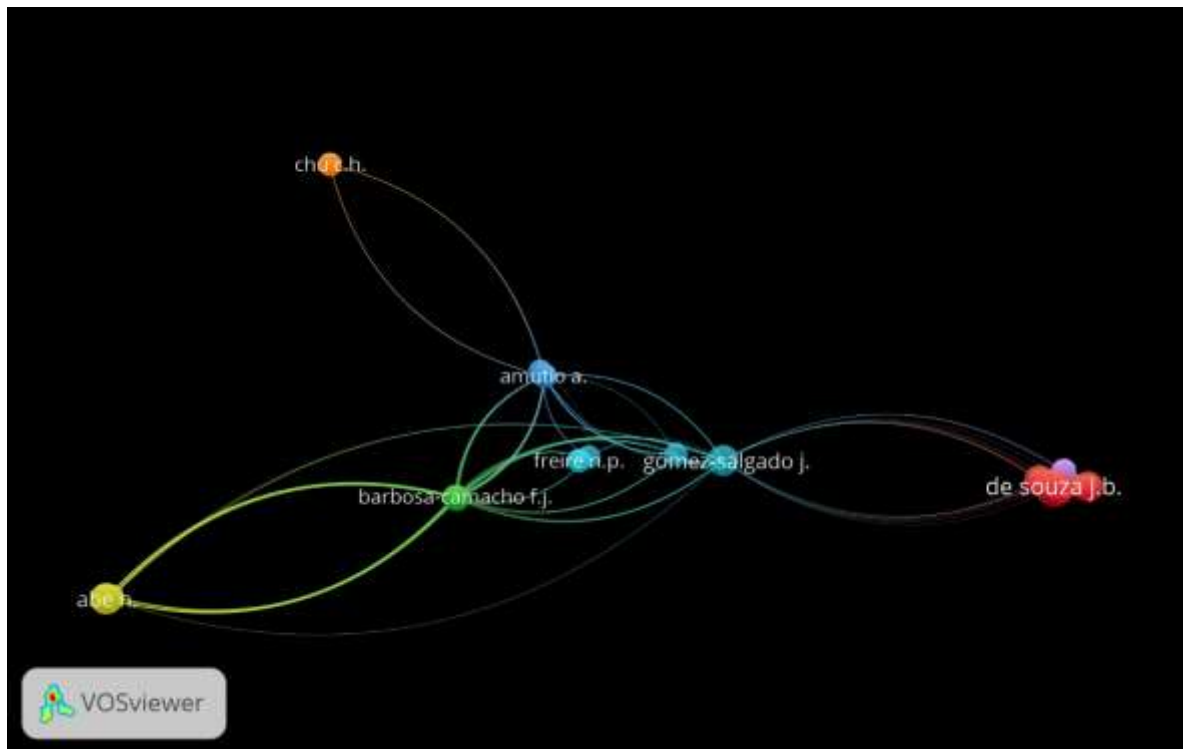
**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

De Sousa, author with affiliation to Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul of Brazil, is the main exponent within the thematic referenced above registering in Scopus a total of 4 publications among which is the one titled "*200 years of Florence and the challenges of the management of nursing practices in the COVID-19 pandemic*" (Geremia, et al., 2020) whose objective is to analyze the main challenges of nursing to face the Coronavirus-19 disease from the perspective of nurse managers in the western macro-region of Santa Catarina. Emphasizing the role of nursing in the implementation of strategies to reduce the high numbers of contagion in all types of institutions.

Secondly, there is homogeneity in the volume of publications among several authors, including Silva, Francisca Valda, affiliated with the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, also in Brazil, who registers 3 documents, among them the one entitled "*Nursing to combat the COVID-19 pandemic*" (Silva, 2020) which highlights the fundamental role of the nursing corps in the fight against the spread of Covid-19.

For both examples, the objective is to learn about the role played by nurses in Latin America in the fight against infections and deaths due to the pandemic. All strategies designed from this area of knowledge, seek to reduce the risks of infection and for the case of school environments is no exception because it is expected that with the gradual return to the classroom, complications are not the greatest, therefore the nursing department has been designated as responsible for publicizing the measures of self-care and social distancing, as well as information about the Covid-19 virus and its treatment in case of suffering its symptoms.

The classification of publications by author has the characteristic explained in the previous point, which is that for each document there is the possibility of the participation of one, two or more authors, which will be added as a unit at the time of classifying the ranking. Figure 5 shows how this work has been carried out between authors and their mutual collaboration.



**Figure 5.** Collaboration between authors.

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

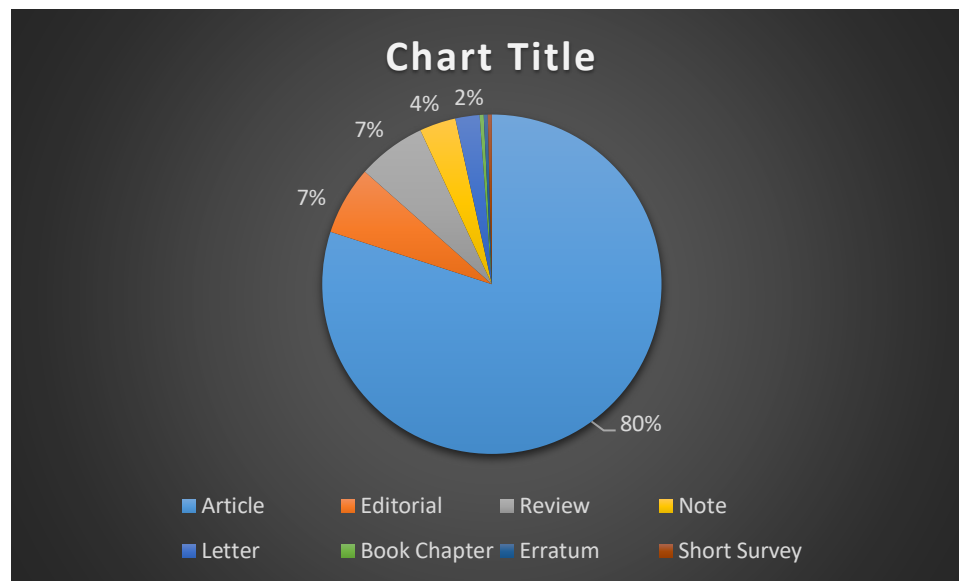
Freire, author with affiliation to Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil, is taken as an example to explain the collaboration between authors by registering articles such as the one titled "News about Brazilian Nursing in the covid-19 pandemic". (Freire, et al., 2021). in collaboration with another author cited in the present work who is Da Silva, M. and whose objective is to Analyze the impact and visibility that journalistic news brought to Brazilian Nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to clarify that in these classifications, works from Brazil predominate since, as explained above, this country is the one that has generated the most publications referring to Nursing and its role in the strategies for the

reduction of contagions that have caused deaths all over the world.

#### 4.4 Type of publication

Figure 6 shows how publications are distributed according to their type. Authors have different alternatives to publish their research, whether journal articles, conference papers, books, book chapters, among others. Scopus collects information from the main publishers or high impact journals and categorizes them as shown in the following graph. It should be noted that the total number of publications corresponds to the results obtained after executing the search proposed in Phase 1 of the methodological design.





**Figure 6.** Type of publication.

**Source:** Own elaboration (2021); based on data provided by Scopus.

Eighty percent of the total scientific production corresponds to Journal Articles, in second place, Editorial and Reviews with 7% each category. Among the reviews, one of the most outstanding is the one entitled "COVID-19: the way forward with serosurveillance without exaggerating neutralizing antibodies", which seeks to explain how different processes will be carried out once a certain rebutting immunity is achieved (Krsak, Henao-Martinez, & Franco-Paredes, 2021). which seeks to explain how different processes will be carried out once a certain herd immunity is achieved thanks to the antibodies generated not only by the infections and survivors thereof, but also by the vaccination schedules. These protocols are very important, since in this way it is determined the possible reopening that allows to improve economic and social aspects so affected during the whole pandemic.

## Conclusions

According to the biometric analysis, it is determined that Brazil is the country in Latin America with the highest number of publications related to the role of nursing in the processes of reactivation of face-to-face classes in educational institutions during the year 2020 and the first semester of 2021. It should be noted

that their interest in research on this topic may be due to its population, which is the highest in the region and therefore had a higher percentage of infections and deaths, which is why it is so important to know the current status and steps to follow regarding the management that is given from the point of view of nursing, to the reactivation of classroom activities not only in educational institutions but in any health care center.

For different authors in Latin America, the role played by nurses in the treatment of biosecurity protocols in educational institutions plays a fundamental role, since they have been delegated the function of ensuring compliance with the policies of self-care, social distancing, training, among others, so necessary when it comes to containing the number of infections and preventing deaths from the same cause. Indeed, one of the main tasks of the nursing staff in educational centers is to teach both students and administrative personnel, self-care measures, such as proper hand washing, which has proven to be one of the most efficient practices in preventing infections, as well as the use of antibacterial, alcohol and masks for times when they are exposed to a group of people. Similarly, the teaching of the most relevant details of the symptoms generated by Covid-19, its possible causes and treatment, are also assigned to these personnel, so their presence is a vital aspect for any institution that has reopened its doors to face-to-face attendance.

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