

Future Nursing and its Implications

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Abstract

Nursing continues to be challenged and rewarded by both new and changing opportunities and constraints. Professional nursing's image continues to be a major challenge for all nurses individually and collectively.

Trends in nursing practice and nursing education are changing. The changes that seem likely to occur in due course will change in the demographics, the deteriorating health maintaining factors are neglected even though some care has been taken on these issues.

Keywords: Nursing education; Nursing practice; Future of nursing.

Introduction

Nursing continues to be challenged and rewarded by both new and changing opportunities and constraints. Professional nursing's image continues to be a major challenge for all nurses individually and collectively. A number of forces that have affected the development of professional nursing still continue to affect significant issues which includes:

- Societal images and expectation of nurses
- Degree of the nursing professions control over the quantity and quality of practitioners
- Impact of technology and theory on nursing practices roles and setting
- Professional self image of nurses
- Sources of financing for health care services

Predicting the future is an occupation fraught with peril in a society and world that are changing rapidly. The changes that seem likely to occur in due course will be changes in the demographics, the deteriorating environment, risky life styles, and economics of health

care and governmental regulation of health care. The changes will be accomplished by changes in both nursing practice and nursing education.

Nursing Practice

Demographical Changes

When we look at birth rates, morbidity rates, immortality rate, and of population, the trends important to future of nursing includes rising number of elderly people, continuing increase in poverty, an increasing in cultural diversity in the population and a continued trend urbanization. Each an implication for nursing.

- Many older persons are healthy, but the likelihood of illness becomes greater on persons age. It indicates clearly nurse of the future must be prepared to work effectively with rising number of elderly persons.
- The number of people living below the poverty lines is increasing, particularly among children and elderly. When basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are unmet or uncertain, health care becomes a luxury.
- Children immunizations, parental care for pregnant woman, nutritious meals and other health maintaining factors are neglected even though some care has been taken on these issues

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- Poor people tend to put off seeking care until illness advanced and thus harder to treat
- Preventable conditions are often not prevented due to lack of education, lack of sanitation, crowded living conditions. Improper shelter, homelessness, and host of other poverty related factors
- Nursing as a profession, is committed to provide care to all people, regardless of social and economic factors to take challenges to meet these issues
 - a. Cultural diversity refers to the array of people from different racial, religious, social and geographic backgrounds who make up a particular entity, cultural beliefs and practices of the citizens are quite different. Each groups has its own health beliefs, folk remedies and conventional wisdom about health and sickness
 - b. Nurses increasingly need to take these beliefs into considerations when planning an implementing nursing care for individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Urbanization, that is, people moving from rural farming areas to cities has increased since the time of industrial revolution. That trend continues today and is expected to continue in the future. This will create more social problem (homelessness, drugs, gangs, mental illness, violence, crime). These spread over into suburbs and rural areas, creating further social change. Nurses of the future will be increasingly confronted with health problems created by these social phenomena.

Environment Changes

Major environmental tragedies such as nuclear power plant accident, burning oil wells, Tsunami, gradual decline in the qualities of the air, water, plant and animal life of the universe leads to many social and health problems. Depletion of the ozone layer, accidental lead and mercury poisonings, pesticides spilling into streams and rivers and accidental releases of radioactive steam from nuclear power plants, are all leading to health problems. The related problems of environmental deterioration and over population are health care issues that future nurses will undoubtedly have to face.

Changes in Healthy Practices

Obesity is predisposing cause of number of illnesses due to unhealthy dietary habits, lack of exercise, stress, having contact with Multipartner for sex, AIDS. Substance abuse another unhealthy habit leads to many problems. Given the predominance of these unhealthy lifestyle factors, it is clear that nurses will play an increasingly important role in educating people about wellness and self-care. Nurses will also play an instrumental in educating the public about how to be involved in the development of sound public policies concerning these issues. Nursing, through its professional association, will become powerful player in the National Health Care politics. Nurses will form coalition with customer groups. Individual nurse become politically active as voters, campaign workers, community health activities and political candidate. As nursing's public profits profile becomes higher, public scrutiny of the profession will increase. Consumers of nursing services will exercise their political power to pressure nursing to provide quality health care.

Emerging Bioethical Issues

Bioethics related to those ethical issues that are raised because of new technologies advancement in medicine and biological sciences.

- Issues related to birth involve processes that prevent conception or terminate pregnancy prematurely as well as processes that enable conception and pregnancy to occur through technological intervention rather than through normal development sterilization, contraception and abortion on the one hand, and "test tube" conception, and artificial inseminations on the other, evoke strong feelings from various groups and individuals. Each of these issues had its own ethical ramification, risks and consequences which must be weighed against the desired outcomes
- Issues related to life or death, which includes that with the invention of life saving apparatus such as the kidney dialysis unit, artificial respirator, heart and lung machine, and fetal monitor and with the development of new surgical procedures (ex. Fetal surgery, organ transplantation, etc) and new technology (ex. Genetic research, fetal research), it has become

necessary to redefine the terms of life and death.

As new technology emerges, new issues will arise, and nurses must be prepared to confront them with both changing technical skills and value system that adapts to the demands of society. Nurses have already traditionally met these challenges with renewed dedication to provision of quality health care.

Nursing Education

In future the nurses will need broad based education, assessment skills, technical competence, and the ability to deal with rapid change. The knowledge base and technology used in providing nursing care will continue to increase, as will nurses need for skill and ability in,

- Intensely acute aspects of care
- Diagnostics and decision making
- Client teaching
- Coordination of less-skilled workers
- Collaboration with client and health care professionals to improve the quality of health

In earlier days, entry level for professional was certificate level and diploma level. Now changing circumstances people are thinking that undergraduate (B.Sc Nursing degree) as entry level of professional nursing. Entry to nursing could conceivably occur at one of four level Diploma, (DGNM), Bachelors Degree level (UG-B.Sc Nursing), Masters Level (PG-M.Sc Nursing) or the doctoral degree (Ph.D. Nursing).

The current pattern, entry at diploma level, with professional education at the U.G. Level (Bachelors degree) might be perpetuated. There are some who propose that education for entry to professional nursing be moved to the master's level rather than basic degree level. This level of education would prepare the student for combination of specialized and generalized practice appropriate for developing health care delivery system. All students would need prior general education and possibly a bachelor's degree for entry into nursing, which would strengthen the liberal arts and science base for practice. Since in India predegree course (PUC) included liberal arts and science concepts, human education PUC is made as entry into nursing for both diploma and degree courses in nursing. So it is better that after PUC –

science, students can join B.Sc nursing degree courses. After a few years of experience in bedside nursing or community health nursing, they can join the Master degree courses in nursing. After that, they can think of doing doctoral degree courses in Nursing in their respective interest in the field of nursing.

As the coming decades see nursing practice becomes more exciting and autonomous than ever, the need for strong, differentiated educational preparation for nurses at all levels will be crucial. More nurses will recognize the value of bachelor's degrees for beginning professional practice and masters degrees for speciality practices. More will pursue doctoral degrees to prepare for research and theory development. In response, colleges of nursing will expand flexible educational programmes to improve access. They will also develop differentiated levels of nursing education that correspond to differentiated levels of practice. The major challenge for nursing education in the future will be to produce a steady supply of well prepared nurse's graduates in the face of an ageing faculty, rapidly changing technology, increasing cultural diversity of students and patients and budgetary constraints in higher education. So meeting continuing or advanced education needs is an individual responsibility of every nurses. It is the obligation of nurses who are responsible for their patients' care, to maintain current and relevant knowledge and skills in their field. It is important for each nurse to realize that the attainment of a certificate or a degree is not an end itself. Rather, it is to be viewed as a beginning foundation upon which to build their nursing knowledge. Nurses must continue their education if they are to continue to provide safe, quality nursing care. Additional education is also necessary for a nurse to become more highly skilled and competent. It should be viewed as an opportunity to improve nursing practice and to develop sense of self-confidence, security and professional pride.

Nursing Research

Today almost all nursing leaders and nursing organization offer professional nurse perhaps both the greatest demands and greatest rewards for nursing research. Research opportunities and needs await interested professionals in nursing. Professionals nurses are obligated both to ask the

significant questions that need to be answered and to use research findings on the basis of nursing practice. Research in nursing generates the knowledge that is used in practice, while practice generates ideas of research. Nurses need to understand research as legitimate scientific enquiry. Nursing research won't be viewed as professional responsibility, methods which professional practice could not exist.

To fulfill the professional obligations in health care delivery system, the nurses have to keep following objectives:

- Nursing education will develop programs to educate practitioners skilled in scientific inquiry at all levels of practice
- Nursing research will be an integral part of nursing education and nursing practice
- Nursing practice will be establishing an environment receptive to inquiry and professional practice.

Conclusion

Most nurses to-day would probably agree that a practice based on research is desirable. Capitalizing on that agreement, the profession could begin to present different images to the public. To help

actualize the motivation to base nursing practice on research, education programs need to prepare students in scientific inquiry while also preparing them to apply theory in the conduct of professional roles.

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