

Dual Role of Nurses-Teachers and Administrators

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The philosophy of nursing is to provide comprehensive quality nursing care to the family, group, community or individual. It is essential for both the nurse educators and nurse administrators to participate in teaching as well as supervising the students and staff since the primary focus is same, that is better nursing care.

Need of Dual Role

Nursing Education and Nursing supervision have their own area of service. But blending of the two making liaison between two services will always improve the quality or standard of nursing care and raise the standard of skill of students who are the future nurses.

Teachers are not directly posted in the clinical field. But as they are involved in teaching, they usually update their theoretical knowledge regularly for better quality of teaching than the nurse administrators do. If they abide by the rule to supervise nursing staff posted in the clinical field along with teaching nursing students, the quality of care will definitely improve. However, to succeed, this has to be agreed upon and accepted by the concerned parties.

In the same way, nursing administrators like nursing superintendents and ward sisters can supervise nursing students besides supervision of nursing staff, because they get the student nurses in the clinical

field and get the opportunity to observe, teach, supervise and correct. Since they are posted in the clinical field, they are more skillful in clinical practice since student nurses will develop more skill by their supervision. Moreover, students will learn to provide quality care with less articles as most of the time insufficient supply of articles is a hindrance for providing quality care. Students can get an opportunity for thinking alternative arrangement while being supervised by ward sister or nursing superintendent.

Quality of care depends upon knowledge and skill. Educational preparation, supervision and guidance affect it and both, the educator and the administrator are needed by one another. There is a need to prepare the nursing personnel for both teaching and service.

Nursing personnel may have different attitudes towards faculty-supervisor's dual role. They should understand and accept each other's role and this can be facilitated by in-service education programmes i.e. workshops, group discussions etc.

These are two separate departments and many a time do not realize that both the department's goal is to provide quality nursing care. They should accept each other and cooperate and coordinate between both teaching and service for improvement of standard of care. They should also liaison and not undermine each other.

Since such type of dual role is not usually present in nursing service or education, there is an urgent need to make the nurse lead-

ers (educator and administrator) aware and motivate them for dual role for improving standard of nursing care. First and foremost sensitization is needed to develop an attitude. Policy making is important to implement such responsibilities to nurse administrators and nurse teachers.

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