

Need for Nursing Informatics in India

Prashanth Nayak *

"The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It lets people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn't think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential" - Steve Ballmer

In past decade Information technology has played a key role in placing India on the global map. Advances in this field have transformed our lives more quickly and profoundly so that we can no longer survive without it. Information age has not left the health industry untouched. In India, Nursing represents the largest sector of health professions and nurses are in continuous contact with consumers, either in hospital or in community. There is need for speciality in informatics in nursing.

The role and significance of Nursing Informatics have grown exponentially over second half of 20th century. It has to be remembered that nursing informatics is not merely using computers. Till date thousands of registered nurses are employed in various posts of nurse informatics across the world.

American Nurses Association's scope and standards for nursing informatics practice (2008) defines Nursing Informatics as a speciality that integrates nursing science, computer science and information science to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge and wisdom in nursing practice.

Nurses gather data (e.g. from client assessments, care plans, medication administrations, progress notes, etc.) which they then interpret, organise and turn into information about the condition and care of the client. This information, combined with information from other clients is used to build new nursing knowledge about client conditions and nursing interventions. Health care of our clients is largely dependent on information that has gathered. When information is well managed, patient outcomes are favourable.

Scope

They serve a variety of functions within healthcare organisations, from automating nursing care to building new computer systems. They work with data, collecting, organising, and interpreting it in order to make patient care more efficient and higher quality. Role of Nurse Informatics may include project manager, consultant, educator, researcher or developer. Aside from hospitals, they

are employed in range of settings:

- ♦ Ambulatory clinics, ambulatory surgery centres, ambulatory physicians' offices and home care.
- ♦ Academia / Education - in the college setting education and training nursing informatics students.
- ♦ Research - nursing informatics professionals employed in the area of research identify best practices for implementation, training, and documentation as well as other focus areas.
- ♦ Administration - deals with automated staff scheduling, budgeting, quality assurance and outcome analysis.
- ♦ Software development, which involves the development of products that meet the needs of the patients and care givers at the point of care.
- ♦ Consultants' role - they make recommendations as to how to improve the processes and uses of computer programmes in order to improve patient outcomes.
- ♦ Telemedicine - Informatics nurses are needed to design systems and process, as well as support the systems for telemedicine. Telemedicine involves patients or others calling (or emailing) to talk to a nurse and get advice based on their symptoms or with other healthcare-related questions.

Need in India

With the endowment of growing of large number of reputed hospitals in India initiatives have been taken to move to electronic health care documentation to reduce medical errors along with improving patient care. Health care delivery is largely dependent on information for effective decision making. Every nursing action is reliant on knowledge based on information. Since nurses play a major role in client care and documentation, knowledge of informatics is vital for nurses. Though in many hospitals, nurses are involved in client care documentation through electronic media, there is no means of formal education and certification courses for them. Nursing institutions use computers as part of their curriculum so exposure to some degree of informatics comes with basic education.

Unlike in other countries, where Nursing Informatics is considered as nursing speciality and courses have been established at Master's and Doctorate levels, similar type of move is essential even in India. Though

*MSc 1st year student, RAK College of Nursing, New Delhi, at the time of writing this article.

there is lack of support from administrative setting and physical infrastructure in establishing this speciality is inadequate, it is not going to be a tough job provided there is sufficient interest and team efforts on the part of our nursing community.

To provide "High Tech and High Touch care", nurses need informatics competencies. Nurses must embrace technology and integrate it into their nursing practice. Nurses, in all domains of practice and at all levels, must be "technology literate".

Conclusion

The information revolution has changed the way we teach and learn, the way we work, communicate and even play. The way in which health care is delivered and acquired has also changed. In this context, nursing must continue to take a leadership role by way of

incorporation of technology in health care. Nurse informatics will have a key role for the team members by providing the tools and skills to assist improved and better integrated health care.

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TNAI Workshop on Nursing Administration and Supervision for Effective Patient Care

(Management Skills in Nursing: Series-XXIV)

January 11-18, 2012

at TNAI Headquarters, L-17 Florence Nightingale Lane, Green Park, New Delhi-110016

A National Workshop on "Nursing Administration and Supervision for Effective Patient Care" (Management Skills in Nursing: Series-XXIV) will be held from January 11-18, 2012 at TNAI Headquarters, L-17 Florence Nightingale Lane, Green Park, New Delhi-110016.

The overall purpose of the workshop is to update and strengthen the managerial skills of nurse professionals working at various levels to enable them to render efficient and effective nursing care. Request for registration will be considered on a first-cum-first serve basis as there are only limited seats 40. All costs for attending the Workshop will be borne by the sponsoring authorities (Institutions/Governments) or by concerned individuals as the case may be.

Participation fee:

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| (1) For outstation participants who require accommodation (fee package for Registration, Boarding and lodging for 8 days including Sunday) | Rs. 13,000.00 |
| (2) For local participants who do not require accommodation (fee package for Registration, lunch and refreshment) for 7 days | Rs. 6,400.00 |

Please note that in case of any cancellation, an amount of Rs. 5000/- will not be refunded. No outstation cheque will be accepted. For Registration forms, write to : The Coordinator (CEP), TNAI Headquarters, L-17, Florence Nightingale Lane, Green Park, New Delhi - 110016, Phone (011) 26566665, (011) 26966873, Telefax (011) 26858304, E-mail: tnai_2003@yahoo.com and tnai@vsnl.net along with the request for registration form. Kindly enclose a self addressed envelop (9"x4") with a postage stamp of Rs. 5/- affixed. Last date for receiving filled registration form and Participation fee is **January 9, 2012**. However, seats can be booked tentatively by phone/fax/E-mail.

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Chief Editor