

Nobility of Nursing

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Sickness makes a person helpless and dependent. During such state whoever comes for rescue will be highly esteemed. During sickness one of the most needed things is nearness of a person who will care dearly.

As mother is to a child so is the Nurse to a patient. She treats the patient like a child, feeding him, bathing him, making him happy and comfortable at all times. Help rendered promptly is never forgotten but appreciated forever.

Nursing is a vocation. It is not a job all can do successfully. It needs dedication, devotion, and sacrifice. A Nurse must possess gentle voice, warm touch, and ardent love. One with these qualities only will shine as a Nurse in true sense.

A nurse is not working on something material but on human being with body, soul and mind which will respond positively or negatively depending on the treatment given. So she needs empathy, sacrifice self-control, understanding, patience and judgement in order to be of real service.

Love is the key which makes service assessable. Principles of all religions lay stress on love and service. Renounced religious leaders found meaning in life through love and service for their fellow beings. They could see the mankind as their own brethren.

While reading the Bible one day a particular passage caught my attention. It shows nobility of nursing. It is evident in that particular passage that the service rendered to anyone is considered to be the service done to God.

In the final judgement all the people will be gathered before Jesus Christ. He will put the good people at his right and the bad ones at his left. Then Jesus Christ will say to the ones on his right. "You who are blessed by my Father: Come! come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the crea-

tion of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." The righteous will then answer him: "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you." The king will answer back: "I tell you, indeed, wherever you did this for

me of the least important of these brothers of mine you did it for me."

Who is the least important of these brothers to the Nurse? The patient, no doubt. The Nurse feeds the patient when he is hungry, gives him drink when he is thirsty, she receives him when he comes to hospital as a stranger, she clothes him when he is naked, she visits him when he is imprisoned in the hospital. A Nurse is doing all the work for which the reward has been promised by God.

Nursing is not a work to be considered low as some uncivilized social section may regard it. Nurses should never be discouraged by the attitude of material minded people. We should have our own convictions and ideas. Nursing is a noble profession.

The Expanding Concept of Nursing

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an accelerated pace. As Central Government has been sponsoring the training of ANMs, their number has increased more rapidly over the years as compared to Nurse Midwives. I would urge the State Governments to review the existing training facilities for nurses and earmark additional resources for their expansion. At the same time qualitative aspect should not be overlooked. We should equip them with better skill and higher education. We should also take care to ensure best possible utilisation of the available trained manpower so that their skills are not wasted, on jobs which require no training.

Some Important Issues

The basic objective of this convention, as I understand, was to discuss some of the important issues confronting the nursing profession. The nurses have also been facing certain problems about their working conditions and their status. It has been felt that the role of nursing profession in the health care delivery system needs to be spelt out clearly and the staffing norms for hospital and community are to be evolved. Reorganisation

of nursing services at the national, state and district levels is also necessary. Taking all these factors into account, I feel that there is a need for evolving a comprehensive strategy for the development of nursing profession in the country which may also ensure adequate supply of the nursing manpower to meet our short-term and long-term requirements.

We have already been concerned about these issues. A higher power committee was set up by the Government of India last year to go into these aspects. While the Committee is still looking into these problems, the Convention has given serious thoughts to some of these issues. I am sure that its deliberations would be extremely valuable for the Committee to concretise their views. The recommendations of the Convention will also be very helpful to the Government in solving some of the immediate problems and in formulating the development strategy for the health care system in the country in general and nursing profession in particular, during the Eighth and subsequent Plans to achieve ultimate goal of "Health for All" by the turn of this century.