

SOME SEARCHING QUESTIONS

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WHAT is nursing? Where have the basic principles of nursing gone? Why this kind of still in all over nurses? Why have most nurses forgotten the meaning of comprehensive nursing care? Where do we find to these questions?

The nurse has to deal with human beings. No two human beings are alike. Each one brings his or her superstitions, ideas, attitudes, reactions, own beliefs, family background, social attitudes, prejudices and habits. So the nurse who deals with the person with different types of personalities should be in such a position to deal with all.

Apparently nurses have a bad image before the public. Complaints are heard from relatives of patients in particular and the public in general. Very very negligible percentage of nurses live up to the demands of their noble vocation. This is not to say that all other professions are full of 100% eligible workers. There are drawbacks in every profession. Most professions do come in to contact with public, but none of them does the way the nursing profession does. The context is entirely different.

A person usually comes to hospital in agony. He expects immediate relief. In such situations the nurse is the one to carry out the doctor's orders as patients and relatives are strangers to the hospital atmosphere. A nurse who carries out orders

like a machine probably does not satisfy the patient or the relatives. But at the same time if the nurse talks kindly to the patient and relatives with a smiling face and necessary explanations. Psychological handling will definitely make people. As you all know psychology works wonders with human beings.

Most nurses neglect the explanation part of their duty. The doctors are no better. I feel that psychology should be included in the Medical College curriculum. The importance and influence of psychology in health as well as illhealth cannot be over emphasized.

There are many more factors that account for nurses' irritable behaviour. Personal problems, increased work load during duty hours, lack of equipments, unavailability of medicines and poor working conditions are among these. Add to these the complex hierarchy of hospitals. She is sandwiched between the fourth class employees and medical staff.

But very rarely do people understand that the nurse has these many problems. Moreover everybody demands work from her. The nurse has to have extraordinary patience to deal with situations. She should have good personality. Personality does not mean merely physical appearance, but more so the ability to understand others and handle them psychologically.

It has been noticed that student nurses who behave well put up an altogether different face when they become staff. May be she thinks that she is safe in her position. May be she is influenced by her seniors, in charges, co-workers. There are also instances where nurses chose to be sincere and therefore different from their colleagues, they were treated, as peculiar people and treated as outcastes. It needs a lot of will power to withstand such pressure from the colleagues. It is easier to lapse into laziness.

When one becomes staff or in charge it does not mean that she should give up nursing care. In fact the staff and in charge should give better care. Of course I do agree that their duties increase as they go up the ladder. But if they set good examples they can rebuild the image of the nurse before the society.

As it is said, "time is more valuable than money", you cannot get back the second that you loose. Try to use every second to a useful way that will bring good name for you personally as well as professionally.

Those nurses who are dissatisfied with their job should leave for greener pastures. Nursing as a profession is no place for half-hearted persons.

Many attribute their failure to put the theories learnt into practice to existing draw backs

in our organizations. In fact this is an escapist answer. I do agree there are draw backs but we should try to improvise the things in every aspect and try to do our best possible instead of taking the easier escapist route.

These questions keep creeping into mind. Will nursing ever recapture its pristine glory

and have once again have the bright image before people at large? Do the nurses themselves agree the hearts their hearts that their profession is really and they are proud that they are called to be nurses? Will we have the opportunity to see every nurse having at least 50% of qualities of the lady of the lamp?

The first step to finding a good name is at the first interview itself. A thorough intelligence and personality test must be conducted so that the girls with real liking for the profession will be selected. The Government should also abolish stipends for nurses. Only conscious and honest efforts by all nurses will in no time correct the image of nursing.

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