

A CALL FOR CHANGE

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HONESTLY speaking the Nursing education is becoming more and more examination oriented. The theme that the patient should be the centre figure in Nursing education is gradually fading away. Infact the examination merely tests the cramming and memory power of the students and discourages the nurse trainees from developing proficiency in the professional skills. The evaluation system needs change and it should be based on day to day performance and development of the nurses.

There should be more emphasis on learning than on teaching. The teacher should be there only to guide, direct and to provide opportunity for independent and creative thinking. If we shift our attention from teaching to learning we can discourage the practice of spoon feeding and can create an atmosphere which will motivate the student nurses to develop a learning attitude. Once we succeed in developing this attitude amongst the nurses we can definitely produce best Nurses for the best service to the community. The nurses should be exposed to the problematic situations according to the level of their understanding and their individuality should be challenged to find out and experiment the solutions under the guidance and supervision of experts.

As theory and practice are the two inseparable parts of the Nursing education there should be equal emphasis on the both. Just see how much of punctuality, attention, concentration, physical and mental preparation and the teaching-learning attitude is required on the part of both the teacher and the taught

for the formal instructions in the class room. Do we find all these things in the wards also? Let us think seriously about it and improve where we lack. There is a great need of constant supervision to help and guide the student nurses and also to correlate theory with practice so that the target of elevating the standard of nursing may be achieved. Hence the cooperation and coordination between the school and hospital is of utmost importance.

It is highly recommended that both for supervision and proper evaluation of day to day performance of nurse trainees we need competent and specialized people having thorough knowledge in theory and practice, working and spending full time with nurses on the wards. Also the senior nursing sisters working as incharge of the departments should be motivated to revitalize and increase their knowledge by joining Refresher and Post Certificate Courses so that they may contribute some thing fruitful to the profession and also accept any alterations and modifications in the Nursing field.

Nursing care is not merely the routine care of the patient. It is a science which deals with an individual during the crisis for the maintenance of his physical, mental and spiritual health. So to accomplish this tedious job we need such people in the profession who are motivated, energetic, enthusiastic, intelligent and are always ready to function ceaselessly in the community, with the community and for the community.

The biggest folly responsible for a drawback in nursing is that major

rity of nurses after being registered cease interest in studies which hinder their keeping abreast with the modern technology and newer therapeutic approaches to treat various physical and mental ailments. Obviously with the advancement in Medicine and Surgery and in technology with its refined modifications throw a challenge to the Nursing personnel to play their role efficiently in the field of Medical science. Nursing, which I believe is an integrated science has to flourish more and more from within and accumulate the knowledge so abundantly from without that it should not be left behind comparatively to any other sciences which is very essential for its existence.

Another obstacle in giving comprehensive nursing care is the involvement of nursing personnel in non-nursing jobs e.g. storekeeping, inventories and various other types of recording and reporting etc. Nurses so heavily laden with all such non-professional activities do not get enough time to render proper nursing care to the patients. These extra responsibilities do not merely tire the nurses but also deprive the patients of proper care. It also intervenes in the teaching process as the student nurses do not get proper guidance and supervision from the ward incharges.

What I feel is that whether nurses are taking these responsibilities deliberately or under pressure they should be exempted from non-nursing jobs and allowed to devote maximum time and energy for nursing care, if at all a comprehensive nursing care is desired.