

University Education For Nurses In Tamil Nadu

By K. Ramaiah*

THERE is a dynamic change all over the world in the concept of patient care. This is due to the better understanding of psychosocial needs of patients and the advancement in education and civilization in the country. Modern nursing in India began on a small scale only a few decades ago. The years between 1940-1950 have been a transition period and nursing had undergone rapid changes. As the society had advanced in every aspect people felt the need for total nursing care from the nurses. The functions of the nurses also had to be changed according to the society's needs. Therefore nursing education should be in accordance with the modern concepts of nursing. In order to meet the complex needs of patients the educational system also should be changed in order to prepare nursing leaders in the educational field and ultimately the patient care will improve."

This need was realised in Tamil Nadu and a Post-Certificate Diploma course was started at the School of Nursing, General Hospital, Madras in the year 1944. A similar type of course was started in Vellore to prepare Nurse-Administrators and Nursing Tutors for the advancement of Nursing education in Tamil Nadu.

The Degree programme, Basic B. Sc. Nursing, was started at the Christian Medical College, Vellore under the Board of Studies in Medicine, Madras University, in 1946, mainly due to the efforts of the former Vice-Chancellor of Madras University, Dr. A.L. Mudaliar.

The Radhakrishnan report in

***From an address by Mr. Ramaiah, Principal, College of Nursing, Madras at the Centenary celebrations of Nursing Education in Tamil Nadu at Madras in July 72**

1949 recommended the expansion and development of Nursing Education to produce nurses with higher qualification for the health services in India.

The Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing degree course was started in Madras in July 1967. A WHO Nurse-Educator was assigned for the Project in 1964. The College of Nursing, C.M.C. Hospital, Vellore also started this kind of programme in 1970. The Masters Programme in nursing there was started in 1969. The philosophy formulated to achieve the objectives of the College of Nursing, Madras, says that "the B.Sc. Nursing course for trained nurses is designed to prepare nurses to take responsibilities in Administration, Education and supervision in the various Government institutions and Community Health Centres of Tamil Nadu. The course is offering specialities in Medical-Surgical Nursing, Public Health Nursing and in addition to these, courses in Administration and Education also are included in the present curriculum approved by the University of Madras."

During the last five years 60 candidates have been selected from among the service staff of Tamil Nadu Government for the B.Sc. (N) course and out of which 25 candidates have graduated till April 1972.

Very recently the Government of Tamil Nadu had appointed a Working Group V on training and Research in the Health and Nutrition Task Force of the State Planning Commission. Under the Planning Commission a sub-committee was formed comprising of Medical and Nursing leaders. It has recommended to the Government that between 1972 and 1984 all the Nursing courses should be offered

by the Universities. These courses include degree programmes as well as Diplomas in Nursing. The Diploma Programmes (14 in number) would be offering courses in the various specialities such as Cardio-Thoracic Nursing, Orthopaedic Nursing, Urology Nursing, Neurology Nursing, Dental Nursing etc. These courses have to be recognised by the University of Madras for implementation before 1984.

Nursing Education at the University level would help nurses develop nursing skill to provide better patient care. It is a matter of pride that Tamil Nadu has a glorious heritage in Nursing Education in the country.

Railway Concession Restored

New Delhi :- The Ministry of Railways has issued instructions to restore railway concession to nurses in 1st and 2nd classes also. The concession was recently withdrawn.

However, the extent of concession would be 15% of the fair in 1st Class and 25% in 2nd Class. In the 3rd Class the existing concession of 50% would continue.

In a letter addressed to the TNAI, the Ministry has also confirmed that reserved accommodation for groups of nurses travelling from and to different stations for conferences and meetings would be arranged provided the request for such reservations is made much in advance.

Mrs. B. Thakurdas, 3rd Vice-President and Miss M. Philip, Secretary of the TNAI, met the Railway Minister on 28th September, 1972 and submitted a memorandum requesting the Government to restore Railway travel concession to the nurses travelling by 1st and 2nd class.