

WE AND OUR IMAGE

G. A. J. Remeswara Rao

Nursing starting with a motherly instinct in taking care of the sick at home, gradually grew to that of profession today. Since independence, it has made a considerable advancement in every way, on par with other professions. The curriculum for nurses' training programmes is being modified from time to time to suit the demands of the day and to give better and wholesome nursing care. Inclusion of Public Health and Psychiatric Nursing in the basic curriculum is a landmark in the advancement. Another commendable milestone and progress is the transformation of the Diploma and Post Certificate Schools to University degree courses such as B.Sc.(N) etc. Today we find that almost each State in our country has at least one of its own college of Nursing, catering University Degree courses in nursing. Even postgraduate facilities are available today in India in many institutions. Many of the Indian Nurses abroad today are holding commendable key positions in Education and Administration. Many of the Indian nurses were successful like their counterparts in other countries in bagging 'Doctorate in Nursing'. The number of registered nurses swelled to manifold and also the training institutions since independence. The bedstrength in the hospitals, general and specialities increased considerably. To day we find that the health care programme has become very complex with the advancement of Medical and allied services. Many of our people are not well educated and live in rural area to a great extent. It is the primary duty of our nation to provide Medical and Health Services as guaranteed in its constitution. We proudly say that the Nurse is the pivot of the primary health care and her services are indisputable and unquestionable. The pressure of work is extending fast with the advancement in medical sciences and technology. The wide range of miracle drugs with predictable and unpredictable side effects, advancement in surgery and the complex character of many diagnostic investigations demand a Nurse-Specialist in the respective field for efficient services. But today it is unfortunate, that we find a very little number of nurse-specialists in various fields such as cardiology, Thoracic surgery, Urology, Neurology, etc., while we have many medical men with these specialities. It is probably the appropriate time for us to convince the Government. The need for specialisation for nurses also, in various fields of specialisation like the

medical men in the larger interests of the suffering humanity.

It is appropriate time for us to realise that the sick and the disabled should be cared for, in the community at home, unless it is essential for them to receive the type of treatment and care which can be provided in the hospital. It is essential and probably ideal to have integrated services as neither the Hospital nor the community services in either discipline can meet the demand of the day. We find that there is an alround advancement in Nursing in India since independence. Many educated youths from the middle class and upper middle class families are coming forward to take up nursing as a career today. We have a national professional organisation. The Trained Nurses Association of India which is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses. Our professional Association aims at the upkeeping of high standards of education and service and to keep up the dignity and decorum of the profession.

We hear the tall talks of many of the leaders at national and State levels, the administrators, the elite of the towns, commending the services of nurses and praise them in their routine hypnotics speeches on platforms. But inspite of all this to our credit, we are unable to get our proper place in the society. Still our image is gloomy and cloudy in the public. Why and who is responsible for this? and who will bell the cat? Is it not an alarming problem to us and our profession and how many of us did really ponder over this matter seriously at all? Is it not the duty of our professional organisations and elder leaders to work towards this in the proper direction, to find out a suitable and workable solution. I am afraid that enough thought was not given by any one in this regard, even though, we advanced in every way and rendering the best services to the common man in the society, much more than any other professionals. We should know that the image in the public can be enhanced only by our efforts to get recognition and give a better image to the society. We can get better recognition and give better image in the society, only when the common man in the society hears, sees and gets the benefit of our services and sacrifices. Mere slogans and lectures or the tall talks of leaders will not help in any way. It is only our united effort, efficient services and fulfilments of commitments of the profession to the community that go a long way, to give proper recognition. We should remem-

Mr. G. A. J. Rameswara Rao is Nursing Tutor, Grade I, Govt. General Hospital, Guntur.

ber that we are not only nurses but also the citizens of the country and it is our primary duty to behave and be a useful member of the society and serve the best. **We also have to remember that we belong to a profession and that too a noble profession and try to modify our behaviour in and outside the field of our service, in a dignified way following professional standards, professional ethics and should never stop down to malpractices and corruption.** Nurses should be prepared to go to the villages and live with the community, preaching and practising the gospel of health. Then only we will be able, to study the community in its correct perspective which will help to render effective medical and health care.

Now let us have an introspection for ourselves to find out the drawbacks in us, before we project our feelings on someone else. The curriculum for the training programmes of the nurses is modified by the Indian Nursing Council stressing the need for the student to be exposed to the rural area such as to at Rural Health Centre for some stipulated period during the training period. This helps them to understand the community better in person than by mere studies from books. They will be able to know the likes, dislikes customs, tradition and the socio-economic conditions of the community on the spot and this will have its impact certainly on planning a suitable and workable health care for the people in that community. But I am afraid how many training schools are really able to follow this as stipulated by the INC. The answer may not be very palatable at all and we all know this very well. But still we look very much unconcerned about this matter. the reasons for this lapse may be very many, such as lack of transport, lack of funds, lack of supervisory personnel, lack of suitable accommodation in the rural area provided by the authorities for these young girls (with safety and security), etc. But most of these can be easily provided if the authorities show keen interest in this regard. The Indian Nursing Council and the State Registration Councils should also arrange for periodical inspection of schools of nursing for their proper efficient functioning. The schools also should not try to live in a false prestige but should disclose the needs to these inspecting bodies. The members of the Councils should be elected in a democratic way and should mostly be nursing educators and administrators. Any change in the curriculum, examinations, certification and registration, etc., should be well discussed with the concerned groups before actually putting in force. The teaching personnel should have their due place in these councils. The professional organisations should sponsor periodical workshops symposiums and seminars at State level by State branches and at National Level by

the National Organisations. But today we find that the State branches are very much apathetic about all these issues.

Another important factor is that we Nurses should work and behave ourselves with a sense of professionalism and cooperate and coordinate with all other like-wise organisations interested in the welfare of the community. Our associations should work with certain understanding on problems of mutual benefit. We should discourage and denounce unnecessary controversies, conflicts, jealous, and bias groupisms which is the main cause for our bad state today. People with intelligentia should have proper encouragement and merit should have its due place in the profession along with seniority. One should learn to respect the others first.

Therefore, let us all join together, wake up and know our burning problems and let us work hand in hand for the upliftment of the profession. First let us rectify our draw backs and then let us work unitedly for betterment. I am very much hopeful that '81 will enrich us with better wisdom and knowledge to strive well for better public image.

REQUEST TO SNA UNITS

Dear Friends,

It's good that some individual units send the Head office, New Delhi, an annual report of their unit while many of the 320 units are pleased to be silent. May I request you (i) to kindly **mark a copy** of the same report to your State SNA Advisor so that he/she will be aware of the activity of the units in her State and it will help him/her to present a concised meaningful report of her units at the State/national TNAI/SNA meets, (ii) could you kindly make a concise report of it (a press note for publication in the Nursing Journal of India. A report of 4 to 5 pages will occupy much space in Nursing Journal of India and many unit reports will be left out. Instead, if a brief note is also enclosed, it'll help you and me.

Thank you.

T. Stephens

SNA Advisor,
L-17, Green Park
New Delhi-110 016