Trends in Nursing Education

Vishnu Renjith	Renu G
Junior Research Fellow, Manipal College of Nursing Manipal, Manipal University	PhD Scholar, Manipal College of Nursing Manipal, Manipal University

Anice George

Professor & Dean, Manipal College of Nursing Manipal, Manipal University

ABSTRACT *Nursing is dynamic by its own way and this dynamism give rise to various trends. Sound empirical knowledge is the base of nursing as in any other profession. This knowledge is the base for all the innovations which in turn evolve as trends in nursing. The trends in nursing education are the cornerstone for the dynamic nature of nursing profession. The article outlines various trends in nursing education with reference to India. The trends are organized under the areas of Curriculum Innovations, Technology & Nursing, Student Population, Clinical Teaching Learning Process, Evaluation System, Quality Assurance, Knowledge expansion & Modes of Education.*

INTRODUCTION

From the time of Florence Nightingale each generation of nurses in its own way fostered the image of Nursing (Catalano, 2009). Nurses were trying hard to find new and better methods to help the client, their family and community which in turn lead to the trends in Nursing. Nurses' knowledge and clinical experience will result in best clinical practice (Potter, Perry, Hall & Stockert, 2013). Nursing is dynamic by its own way and it gives rise to various trends. Sound empirical knowledge is the base of nursing as in any other profession. This knowledge is the base for all the innovations which in turn evolve as trends in nursing. The simple meaning of trend is 'movement in a particular direction'. The trends in nursing education are the cornerstones for the dynamic nature of nursing profession. The article outlines various trends in nursing education with reference to India.

CURRICULUM INNOVATIONS

Periodic Revision of Curriculum & Curriculum Change: Nursing curricula are competency based and it focuses on outcome and emphasizes student participation & responsibility for learning. Accrediting bodies of respective countries revise the curriculum of nursing education from time to time.

Indian Nursing Council (INC) revised the syllabus of Auxiliary Nursing & Midwifery (ANM) course in 2006-07. The revised curriculum had; components of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Skilled Birth Assistant (SBA) module of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Standard safety guidelines for infection control practices and biomedical waste management policies (Indiannursingcouncil.org, 2015)

General nursing and midwifery (GNM) curriculum was revised in the year 2005-2006. The course duration was extended to 3.5 years (including 6 months of internship). Revised syllabus for BSc. Nursing and Post Basic BSc. Nursing were implemented from 2005-2006 in all Indian Universities. The syllabus revision was made in tune with National Health Policy 2002. The concept of National Rural health Mission (NRHM), Integrated Management of

Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), Evidence Based Nursing were incorporated in the revised syllabus. (Kaur K 2009, Kumar D, 2010, Indiannursingcouncil.org, 2015).

In 2013 Manipal University revised its curriculum for MPhil Nursing. Evidence Based Practice was included as a course for this program (D'Souza P et al, 2015). A national consortium for Ph.D. in Nursing was constituted by Indian Nursing Council (INC) in collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka in the year 2005 (Indiannursingcouncil.org, 2015).

TECHNOLOGY & NURSING

Nursing Informatics: Nursing Informatics is defined as "science and practice (that) integrates nursing, its information and knowledge, with management of information and communication technologies to promote the health of people, families, and communities worldwide." (Amia.org, 2015). Nursing informatics empowers nurses in achieving a good patient centered health care.

High Tech High Touch Approach: High tech high touch approach in nursing was devised to preserve the human component of nursing care without undermining the technological advancements in the field of patient care. Present day nursing education is preparing students to maintain the human element of nursing care with the help of sophisticated technology and gadgets.

Simulations in Nursing Education: Simulations are getting wider acceptance in nursing education system, where concepts of patient safety and consumer protection are accent. Simulation is the "process of designing a model of a real system and conducting experiments with this model for the purpose of either understanding the behavior of the system and/or evaluating various strategies for the operation of the system" (Bradshaw & Lowenstein, 2009).

Technology & Nursing Education: Technology exerts greater influence on nursing education as a tool for teaching and learning. Computers are used in all the fields of healthcare with the advent of advanced technology. That's why computer education has been introduced in the re-

vised nursing curriculum (Sankaranarayanan & Sindhu, 2012; Kaur K, 2009). The quality of nursing research increases with the greater access of literature through internet.

Advanced Educational Technology: Advanced educational technology media like projectors, Smart boards, computer models and simulation labs are now widely used by nursing teachers to provide effective teaching experiences to students. Nursing students widely use smartphones, tablets and android applications as means for educational support. Android apps provide information to the fingertips of the students in no time and is increasingly used in clinical nursing education.

Animations & Cinematic Technology: Animations are now widely used to enhance the learning experience. Video assisted teachings with the help of animation are being widely used in nursing education. Nursing procedures, physical examination, breath sounds and stages of labor can be made clear and thorough with the help of this visual learning technologies. The use of cinematic technology in the class room teaching provides a varied learning experience which engages students in learning complex material through visual illustrations (Zaunderer & Ganzer, 2011).

STUDENT POPULATION
Enrolment of Men as Nursing Students: Nursing was considered as a female profession at least in India. In present generation the trend is changing. In the past few decades the number of males enrolled for Nursing has increased, it is expected to increase this number in the coming years (Kaur K, 2009).

Changing demography of Nursing Students: In older days nursing care was provided by nun sisters and many of the major hospitals were established by missionaries. Present day nursing students represents a diverse population in terms of gender, age and socio economic status.

CLINICAL TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS
Evidence Based Practice: Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) is defined as "a problem-solving approach to clinical care that incorporates the conscientious use of current best evidence from well-designed studies, a clinician's expertise, and patient values and preferences" (Fineout-Overholt, Melnyk & Schultz, 2005). Incorporating research based evidence in nursing education enhances evidence based practice. The quality of nursing practices improves in a greater form by using evidence based practices (D'Souza Et al, 2014).

Advanced Clinical Nursing Education; Apart from being care provider nurses are performing different roles. It includes independent roles like Nurse Midwifery Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, and Nurse Specialist. Acknowledging the need for specialty trained nurses at the bedside as the front line care managers, in 2008 Indian Nursing Council (INC) developed curriculum for Post basic diploma in 10 nursing specialties including an independent nurse practitioner program in midwifery.

Supervised Training by Nurse Educators: As per INC norms the teacher student ratio is 1: 10 this ensures effective supervision for each student. Nursing educational institutions strive towards improving the clinical teaching learning process. Teacher- practitioner model and faculty student practice clinic are two newer concepts in clinical training. According to this model the teacher who teaches the students in classroom will guide the students in clinical area by guided practice and role modeling.

Clinical Instruction – Training the Trainers: Over a period of time more emphasis is given on clinical nursing education. Nursing faculty is now taking up responsibility & accountability to patient care and they acknowledge the fact that clinical exposure of the student doesn't mean the clinical practice/learning. To overcome this dilemma faced by novice as well as experienced faculty, now clinical teaching is given more emphasis and training of all nursing faculty in clinical area is getting mandatory in Indian settings.

EVALUATION SYSTEM
University Based Education: Previously, the GNM and ANM courses were offered in Schools of Nursing that were not affiliated to any University. Now, B Sc. Nursing and MSc. Nursing courses are being offered to nursing students in Colleges of Nursing which is either affiliated to, or a constituent of a university.

Innovative Evaluation Strategies: Innovative evaluation strategies like 'Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation' (OSCE), Rubrics, are now widely being used in nursing education. OSCEs are widely used to evaluate clinical skills and competencies. In clinical nursing education, rubrics are used to objectively assess student performance and it focuses on aspects of patient safety. (Renjith, V. et al, 2015).

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Educational Quality Assurance: The trend of educational quality assurance has emerged recently. It is a process of monitoring and evaluating the efficacy and effectiveness of educational provision and to institute remedial measures as and when needed. In India nursing education is flourishing in an unprecedented manner, naturally this will lead to the dilution in the quality of nursing education. Accrediting agencies like ISO has taken the initiative of accrediting colleges of nursing in India.

Advanced Nursing Courses: In recent years nursing is finding new arenas for its development and autonomous practice. Nurses in clinical area is also now focusing on their carrier advancements by continuing nursing education programs and in-service education. Higher studies in abroad is also becoming more popular in developing countries like India. There is a high demand for; Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, MPhil and PhD programs.

KNOWLEDGE EXPANSION
Expanded Nursing Literature: the last decade had witnessed a great expansion in nursing literature. The CINAHL, Cochrane, PubMed databases serves as the excellent treasure for nurses & nursing students. This has considerably helped a lot in disseminating the research finding across the geographical and economical barriers. Expansion of research based literature fosters EBP as 'retrieving evidence from different sources' is one of the main components of EBP (D'Souza Et al, 2014).

Research in Nursing Education: Research has become a major area in curriculum. Action research and the use of qualitative methodologies in research is getting wider acceptance now. Educational research focuses on enhancement of the teaching and learning process.

MODES OF EDUCATION
Distance Education in Nursing: Different universities

all over the world have started offering nursing courses through distance education. Foreign universities provide courses such as accelerated RN program, LPN to RN programs in distance education modes. In India; Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) offers various courses in nursing via distance mode.

E Learning & Online Education: E learning and online education are becoming important icons of nursing education which increases the scope of universal learning. Education is becoming accessible in the tips of every nurse by the technological advancements and the implementation of e learning in nursing (Kaur K, 2009). A wide number of free online Continuing Education (CE) programs helps nurses to keep updated with the current knowledge.

Interprofessional Education (IPE)
The need of collaborative practices among health care professionals led to the emergence of IPE. Individuals from different professions learn together in the milieu of interprofessional education (George A, Renjith V & Renu G, 2015).

CONCLUSION:
Trends are akin changes that takes place and become vogue. The technological changes, changes in demographics and health patterns have contributed to various trends in nursing education. The dynamic nature of nursing education strive to enhance the quality of care, the core of nursing.

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