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PROGRESSION OF NURSING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH: AN INDIAN STUDY

Nursing

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ABSTRACT

Nursing had originated independently and existed centuries ago in India. In past, the progress of Nursing has been hindered by many difficulties. Since Independence 1947, many changes have taken place and attitude toward nursing is still changing. Indian Nursing Council is a statutory body that regulates Nursing education and ensures measures for equivalence, exchange and practice for nurses in India and in abroad. Continuing nursing education supports the professional practice of nursing and the delivery of safe, evidence-based, high-quality care for the patient. The teaching strategies like simulation-based learning, problem-based learning, e-learning, use of multimedia in the classroom, blended learning, etc are adopting.. Opportunities involve International collaborating for conferences, International partnership indicated for the collaborative approach for education and research, the Participatory approach for the entire nursing curriculum development process.

KEYWORDS

The progress of Nursing in India has been hindered by many difficulties in the past. Since Independence in 1947, several changes have taken place and outlook toward nursing is still changing. Nursing Education in India began with very brief periods of training. The basic programme for combined general Nursing and Midwifery developed rapidly after 1871. Nursing Research in India has its origin from the thinking of Florence Nightingale, which specified that the profession is devoted to the task of expanding the professional body of knowledge through a systemic approach to solve problems in nursing. The sanitary conditions in the army base prepared by Florence Nightingale were the starting point of nursing research in India. Many developments have taken place in India, including the rise of associations, development of educational institutions, and efforts of eminent educators and administrators to directly or indirectly implement scientific approaches. Indian Nursing Council (statutory body) that regulates Nursing education in India. Indian Nursing Council has developed easier procedures for equivalence, jobs, and practice for nurses in any part of the country.

In the past few years, the field of nursing has gone through various dynamic changes. The developers have taken place at various levels like Curriculum development, use of Technology in Nursing, Diversity in Students demography and population, Change in the Evaluation Pattern, Introduction of Quality Assurance as a major part of Nursing Care, Nursing literature Expansion and Introduction of different modes of Education.

Curriculum Development
Nursing curricula are designed to develop skill and competence and it primarily focuses on outcome and highlights student participation & responsibility for learning[1]. The statutory body has the important role to revise the curriculum of nursing education from time to time in India.

Technological Innovations in Nursing
Newer Healthcare technologies have taken an upper hand in the Nursing Profession in the last decade. Use of technology in Nursing Care empowers the nursing professionals in achieving patient-centered quality care. Technology has entered in Hospitals in the form of Medical Information systems (MIS), High Tech Equipment with touch screens and incorporation of Information Technology with Nursing care thereby expanding the body of knowledge and promoting the health of people, families and Communities all over the country. On the other hand, an introduction of technology in Nursing profession had a great impact on Nursing education and Research too. Computer based teaching is also introduced in the revised curriculum and is also taking over the traditional ways of teaching. Smart Boards, Windows and Android applications, LCD projectors, teaching through videos and animations are few of the newer technologies used widely in Nursing Education and teaching pedagogies in India.

Evaluation Pattern
Nursing Programmes are affiliated by Nursing Councils at State and National levels as well as Universities in India. 'Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation' (OSCE), Evidence-based Evaluation performas', are now widely being used in nursing education. These evaluation methods are used to evaluate clinical skills and proficiencies of Nursing students. Male candidates enrolling in nursing courses have increased immensely. Students from all the different demography, belonging to different religion, different cultures are representing Nursing Profession today.

Quality Assurance in Nursing care and Education
Accrediting agencies like National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), National Accreditation Board of Hospitals (NABH), Joint Commission International (JCI) has taken the initiative of accrediting Hospitals/colleges of nursing in India. Quality of Nursing Education and Practice has improved by focusing on career advancements through Continuing Nursing Education Programmes and In-service Education.

Modes of Education in India
Wide range of Universities in India have started offering different pattern of nursing courses through Distance education mode. Education is becoming more accessible and available through this Distance learning mode, which makes it possible for the students to opt for the courses through online, and increases the scope of universal learning

Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)
supports the professional practice of nursing and the delivery of safe, evidence-based, high-quality care for a patient. Continuing Nursing Education support nurses to acquire the skills needed to practice, evaluate and critically appraise the evidence. In India, it is available through In-service education and extramural education. Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) ponders internal and external influences on practice and encourages critical thinking in the judicious application of evidence in the care of patients. EBP is integrated into the curriculum

in the form of questioning, searching for evidence, critical appraisal, and comprehensive assessment of students regarding knowledge, attitude, skills, behavior and competency, which is carried out in the form of Clinical evaluation.

Statutory councils have also emphasized upon Interprofessional research for nurses and emphasized research in the curriculum to the echoed impact of evidence-based practice (EBP) to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of care. Evidence-based practice is not a new concept to the profession of nursing, yet its application and sustainability are inconsistent in nursing practice. Despite the expansion of efforts to teach evidence-based practice and practically apply evidence at the bedside, a research–practice gap still exists.

To promote evidence-based practice Indian Nursing Council have made mandate to carry group projects at Graduate level (B.Sc. Nursing and Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Programme) and Individual research projects at postgraduate level.

TEACHING PEDAGOGIES
The dire need for highly skilled and knowledgeable nurses in the healthcare arena has influenced the teaching pedagogies in the nursing education system in India. Nursing teachers are facilitators and the approach is student-centric rather teacher-centric. In classroom teaching, apart from lecture cum discussion, seminar, panel discussion, role-play, exhibition, Microteaching others approaches have also adopted for better learning.

Co-operative learning approach expressly the jigsaw classroom and think-pair-share are been used in the classroom teaching. Reality oriented learning and adaptation of different distance learning technologies like e-learning which is self-directed and are active learning part of advanced pedagogies in Nursing.

Video conferencing, brainstorming methods are the group creativity techniques, designed for a large number of ideas for the solution of a problem . Edmodo and Google classroom is a free web service that merges classroom content, safe communications, and assessment with students.

Simulation-based learning; a high fidelity simulation which provides realistic scenarios that mimic the patient care environment and allows for the more direct application of theoretical knowledge before the student goes to clinical is highly demandable and satisfied way of teaching. Simulation-based teaching is a newer and safest way of Educational technology, which enhances patient safety and consumer protection

The study titled Analysis of an Opinion on Low versus High Fidelity Simulation among Nursing Students [2] revealed that high fidelity simulation for selected clinical skills is more effective than the low fidelity simulation according to the opinions of the Nursing students.

Another study on Simulation-Based Learning in Selected Clinical Skills Among Nursing Students in Selected Nursing College of Pune, presented at state level Nursing conference, India concluded that the simulation based learning is effective ;advanced technology to improve the clinical skill among nursing students.

Student - to - student approach is a means of learning through students. Nursing educators train group student leaders and these student leaders teach the rest of the students in the classroom. Study on "An approach to teaching pedagogy in Nursing: Student-to-Student Approach" showed the effectiveness of the approach in the classroom teaching which was presented at the Nursing International Conference, in Rome, Italy.

CLINICAL TEACHING
As per Indian Nursing Council norms, the nursing teacher-student ratio is 1: 10, which ensures effective supervision for each nursing student in the clinical settings. Case studies, case presentations, observation, nursing rounds, all types of conferences, process recording, the nursing care plan incidental and planned health teachings are few common Clinical-teaching methods.

Bedside clinics where patient's medical history and therapies are discussed in brief followed by identification of patient's problem, acquiring new knowledge through observation and study of the real patient.

Concept mapping, recognize the relationships between ideas by creating a visual map of the links. Ideas that student already has, connect with new ideas to their existing knowledge results to organize ideas in a logical way; which is flexible enough that allows new information or viewpoints to be included in the future. Useful concept which avoids copying the care plan from the textbooks.

Problem-based learning where Nursing educators present realistic patient scenarios, ask questions and require students to search for holistic answers.[3] This approach encourages active learning through self-directed learning and clinical problem-solving skills.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES
It is characterized by a highly complex practice with nurses often making life and death decisions. A current and projected faculty shortage is a serious impediment to solving the preparation of new nurses, but nursing faculty remains one of the most poorly compensated categories of nurses. In Nursing, scientists within it to generate new knowledge remains disappointingly small. Nursing is a profession charged to care for a highly diverse population of patients and yet it remains highly non-diverse in gender, race, and ethnicity. Training of Student Nurse is one of the main areas of concern, as they are the future torchbearers of the profession. For them, there has to be an improvement in the competencies, knowledge, skills, and methods of leadership and of course management abilities.

Challenges poses ;Competition for clinical sites, Provision of culturally proficient care, financial pressures – delivery of more efficient health care services, dire faculty shortages etc. Perceived Future nursing challenges include competition with electronic universities, perceptions of quality education by the consumer and industry, and long-term support and sympathy for the nursing shortage.

CONCLUSION
Trends are changing and development of Nursing Education, Practice and Research is touching its heights in India. The technological innovations, changes in demographic population and health care delivery patterns have contributed to various trends in nursing education. The vibrant nature of nursing education struggles to enhance the quality of care and Nursing Education and practice through adopting new trends and Innovation.

Because of globalization coupled with modern communication – Professionals in virtually every sector must now face competitors who live just at a mouse click in countries whose economies are growing. We, the nurses, can take advantage of this and work towards the growth of the profession by building a strong Nursing organization which will work for a similar cause worldwide and that is improved patient care and professional dignity.

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