

CHALLENGES OF NURSING IN ERA OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract

Nursing profession and challenges are noted in every evaluation for engaging into continuous improvement. This article is highlighting few challenges of the profession in Covid-19 era of pandemic among the domains of Nursing education, service and research.

Keywords: Nursing, Challenge, Covid-19, Pandemic

INTRODUCTION

Challenge is a call to prove validity with justification. Nursing is an ancient part of Medicine. Till date, there is toil of decision and critical thoughts as if it is a profession or an occupation what can be referred 'as a profession'. So the journey was in advancement with the view from 'as a profession' to 'is a profession'. Since the end of 2019, world is trapped under impact and effect of Covid-19 pandemic situation. It is speculated to shed the long term shadow over all disciplines including Nursing with visible immediate effects. The article would try to focus on domains of nursing in such crucial time of Covid-19 pandemic

CHALLENGES IN NURSING EDUCATION

Though Nursing is eternally rewarded and praised for active role play in pandemic situation, nurses have been called warriors; so many student nurses dropped out the course for its vulnerability of getting infected.

As all education sectors are evolved highly on online training programme, nursing curriculum also thrived to reach students optimally by following the trend. In this course, human interaction is mediated by machine but essence of human touch is missed eventually except any way forward or solution. Online learning has increased out of pocket expenditure for internet connection for both students and institutions. Group based laboratory practice has lengthened and impacted more time consumption and has disturbed economy of money, material and resources.¹ Due to less use audio visual aids machinery has been malfunctioned in lack of maintenance. Accessing library has become limited for the most of the students due to distance and home based classes. For long distance students, staying in hostel is also a source of risk. In clinical field, supply of PPE for large number of Nursing students is a huge challenge for hospital authority. Even after coverage of vaccination, covid-19 infection is affecting young adult which is yet to be statistically computed.

CHALLENGES IN NURSING RESEARCH

In professional identity nurses pursue research activities in every walk of patient care². Covid-19 related research projects have undermined research on other diseases and morbid conditions. Hospital wards and nursing resources are separately dedicated to Covid-19 patients more than other conditions. There are numbers of hindrances confronted for data collection during such crisis situation. The facility research is changed to online research.

Due to problems in access online methods like goggle form, surveys are not understood by participants. They can not help doing response for unclear technical load. So, response rate is quiet less. In this way, value of research is missing and rate of fabrication is increasing.

CHALLENGES IN NURSING SERVICES

Nursing service challenges are remarkably evident through all media since the commencement of pandemic. Already, the countries are in nursing staff shortage and in pandemic nursing and medicos resource have been highly infected and even died. PPE and waste management related expenditure has been increased with concern. The physical set up and arrangements for safe homes, ambulance and their disinfection have been serious issue. Prolonged duty hours have immensely affected nurses, like- dehydration, musculoskeletal issues, errors in activities etc. Availing leaves have been difficult by nursing teams.

Moreover in-service education has been disrupted due to heavy isolation duty. Personal needs of hygiene, timely diet, elimination have been interrupted badly due to heavy work load. In such scenario, nurses are competing to leave service to patients and shifting towards Nursing teaching cadre, even Nurses are trying to move to other jobs for transition like other administrative jobs, business etc. This is alarming for Nursing profession.

CONCLUSION

Challenges are emerged from Nursing student life to professional practice and advancement. Nurse and midwives have three core professional needs which must be met for wellbeing and motivation at work, to minimise workplace stress by autonomy, belongingness and valuing contribution towards work. The challenges are indicating that there is a big halt for progress and time to get a surplus contribution from all ancestors. Through more awareness and reality orientation, students and Nurses can be motivated for rejuvenated sense of profession. Person friendly leadership ventures are required for decreasing drop out and discontinuation from the profession and ensuring quality care for the generation.

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