

Contemporary Issues in Nursing Profession

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Abstract

This article sought to examine the contemporary challenges that affect nursing profession. The inquiry emanates from the recent report published by the World Health Organization that indicated that the number of students enrolling for nursing program has declined. Many other scholars have also identified that nurses faces many challenges in their professional line of work which range from leadership to remuneration and risky work environment. Such challenges continue to increase with the increasing health demands among many individuals and hence the need to present an insight into the issue for improved healthcare system.

Introduction

Many people consider nursing as an inferior profession. Such considerations have thus marked the profession of nursing with contempt and the consequential poor reputation that has gradually escalated over the decades. After the ancient days of Florence Nightingale, nurses have continued to operate under strict rules and guidelines which they have not been able to change. As such, Skar remark that their freedom of operation and even the autonomy to execute their instinctive ideologies has been highly limited [1]. Consequently, nurses face many challenges that have led to the decreases registration of new learners. This article examines some of the contemporary issues that affect the nursing profession by addressing three questions presented below.

What are the Causes of Poor Reputation of Nursing?

Registered Nurses possess adequate training and are well equipped with skills and tactics of clinical operation. Morris et al. recognize that they also have strong management skills beside the other professional values [2]. Yet, they are continually regarded as inferior and with restrained leadership capabilities. Karimi et al. record that "England in the middle of the nineteen century, nursing was not a decent job" [3]. The poor reputation is acknowledged to be the main cause of shortages of nurses in the various health institutions [4]. As a result, stereotyping has risen to high levels. This arises from the 'inferior' state of nurses as compared to the doctors. The idea that nursing begun as a practice of women has also contributes negatively [5].

What are the Current Leading Challenges in the Profession of Nursing?

Media criticism is an aspect that has largely contributed to the poor image of nursing. Many scholars have expressed that the media often given unfair "and inaccurate portrayal", reports that negatively affect nurses' operations [6]. Apart from the media, other challenges that have been reported include low financial income and hazardous work environment [4]. These challenges have lately increased due to the increasing population health demands and hence the need to address the various retention schemes for the registered nurses [4].

How does Leadership Influence the Operation of Nurses?

Morris et al. reported that nurses exhibit little inter-professional relationship and this is one of the factors that influence their professional capabilities [2]. Therefore, their services have been indirectly restrained under the leadership of other professionals such as doctors who seem to instruct their operations. It is noted that even after a century in practice,

nurses still have very little space and scope to execute their leadership skills. Arguably, the limited leadership opportunities deprive them of joy and comfort of operation. Tuckket et al. suggested that research and leadership skills should be instilled in the nurses' coursework so as to give them the chance of leadership and boost their performance [7].

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