



Challenges for the Future of Nursing

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Editorial

The year 2022 begins. Today's world is struggling with the pandemic of COVID-19, but also the pandemic of non-communicable diseases, especially obesity. But it is this globally challenging situation that has shown the importance of providing high quality healthcare. However, it also revealed short comings, especially in the area of human resources in the process of providing nursing care.

The lay and professional public, state governments, ministries, focused their attention on health workers, their occupancy, importance, but especially on their ever-growing shortage.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has long been drawing attention to the growing shortage of nurses all around the world. Nurses are irreplaceable in caring for patients in different states of their health, taking into account the current situation. In the 21st century, they are crucial in the process of striving for sustainable development and fulfillment of tasks, both at the global, international and national levels. Their activities are mainly focused on the care of mental health, the fight against non-communicable diseases, ensuring preparedness and action in the event of emergencies, pandemics, epidemics or war conflicts. Patient safety and the implementation of comprehensive nursing care, which is focused on meeting the needs of patients of all ages, are always paramount [1].

It has been shown that nurses live and work in different conditions, receive vocational training at different levels and in different qualities, and mainly migrate to countries where job opportunities are better than at home.

It is therefore essential to implement the policy aimed at creating conditions that are acceptable to nursing care providers and enable them to make the most of their human and professional potential.

The attention of the experts is primarily focused on the education of future nurses which is also connected with mobility and migration of nursing staff. Optimal models are sought, the questions of whether theoretical or practical teaching is more important and how to find the necessary balance between them. Sufficient resources and determined effort to monitor the needs of today are essential for quality education.

Nursing curricula are designed to be a driving force for nurses in the provision of quality healthcare.

Another important requirement of the time is the issue of even distribution and retention of nursing staff. This is even more challenging task than education itself. This requirement depends on the health care system in the country concerned, as well as on the financial condition that allows the system to motivate and fairly evaluate the work of nurses. This activity is already related to leadership and human resources management in nursing, as well as its consistent medium and long-term planning. It is linked to the creation of appropriate working conditions for nurses.

This area is the source of great differences between countries and therefore it is necessary to address the optimization of the use of the professional potential of nurses.

From the point of view of the WHO, the modernization of nursing care standards also seems to be urgent. Their consistent implementation leads to an increase in the quality and safety of patient care.

The world is globalizing, nurses around the world are connected through international structures and professional societies, nurses are constantly increasing and expanding their education, working scientifically, teaching, educating, developing theories, shaping new models of nursing care.

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The nurses of the 21st century are a powerful voice that needs to be heard, because without them, quality health care is not possible.

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