

History of the Nursing in Nepal

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Background of modern Nursing:

The modern form of Nursing was started by Florence Nightingale. Before that it was influenced by religious groups. In the 15th and 16th centuries, nursing was dominated in Europe by religious bodies including Benedictine and Augustinian sisters, Franciscan brothers and sisters of charity. The original motivation for caring for the sick was in order to ensure one's salvation by engaging in self-sacrificing work. That is why nursing was considered as a noble work today the salvation has been replaced by a desire to serve people, nation and the world with the help of scientific technology.

Actually Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) revived nursing during her life time. She said "Nursing is to help the patient to live". She was one of the most influential reformers of her time. Even today her writings remain as relevant as they were 120 years ago. Her own practical experiences combined with her own aims for the nursing profession gave her a greater insight in to problems of hospital administration.

Nursing education in Nepal before 1972:

Nursing existed in Nepal from the very beginning at first, the mother or other woman at home provided nursing care to the sick, injured and old. Nursing has passed many phases by the inner spirit of nursing is the same care of people. To be successful in nursing, nurses must enjoy their work. Nursing is a service which can be practical with personal satisfaction and earn a living at the same time.

But now that concept of Nursing has changed. These changes are mainly due to change in the concept of health, pattern of illness and disease, and progress in science and technology. Now it has come out of the hospital to the community with concept of primary health care. The nurses role is more expanded towards the promotion of health, prevention of diseases rather than just providing care to the sick.

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But there was, however certain nursing implications that affected nursing negatively. When nursing was first introduced various difficulties were encountered. Few girls were educated and nurses training was socially unacceptable. There were difficulties to overcome in the beginning. Only 15% of student population in the country were girls, and the attitudes of the society was another problem. Nursing was considered to be a very low type of service in the society. Most parents from high classes were opposed to the idea of sending their children to study nursing.

These difficulties were the same in the same in Florence Nightingales day by but over the past century nursing has become a respectable profession in Europe. Nepal's acceptance and respect for nurses was greatly encouraged by HRH princess Prekshya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, who took nursing training during 1973-1976. Education for girls is now widely promoted and the number desiring to enter the profession has increased greatly. There is greater awareness of the need for nurses their skill is increasing.

Before 1956 A.D. (2013 B.S.) in Nepal, Nursing service consisted of few midwives trained in India and some local trained compounders. Hospital in Nepal was first established in 1890 A.D.(1947 B.S.) and that is Bir Hospital. But nursing service was practically non-existent. Medicines and dressings were done by doctors or compounders.

In the early 19th Century, Nepali people become little aware of health, specially the Rana Family. So they started to send Nepali ladies for nursing training in India, time to time.

During the Rana period, from 1928 to 1985 B.S. four ladies, Vidyawati Kansakar, Radha Devi Malakar, Dharma Devi Kansakar and Bishnu Devi Rai were sent to Allahabad, India, for 18 months midwifery training, After completion of their training all of them were put at Bir Hospital for their service. At present Bishnu Devi Rai is the campus chief of Lalitpur Nursing Campus.

The second lot Dr.Uma Devi Das and Miss Rukmini C.Shrestha were sent for staff nurses training in India in 1952 or 2009 B.S. The course was 3 years 9 months and one year internship, all together 4 years and 9 months. After finishing the training both ladies came back to Nepal in 1956 and 1957 A.D. (2013 and 2014 B.S.) and started working in the HMG school of Nursing which is the Nursing Campus, Maharajgunj, at present Dr. Das is the Director of Nursing Campus.

In 1953 (2010 B.S.) the 3rd lot of ladies, miss Tara Devi Tuladhar, Rupa, Mithai, Krishna Vijaya, Rupkeshari and Vidhya Thapa were sent to India for 8 months midwifery training. After coming back from training, all of them were appointed to prasuti griha, Thapathali as midwives. Most of them are still working in different places.

Later on with the effort and influence of late king Mahendra and Juanita Fleming, R.N. a nurse missionary, the nursing school of Nepal was opened at Surendra Bhawan, Sanepa, Lalitpur in 1956 A.d. with the help of the WHO.moreover, the changing pattern of health concepts of the people of Nepal specially the intellectuals and health personal determined the need of Nursing service in Nepal. At first the school was managed and run by WHO. nurses. There were fifteen students in the first intake of nursing school, out of which eleven students passed successfully and four discontinued their education.

After three years of Nursing education, the school was moved from surendra Bhawan to Chhetrapati and a few years later, the school was moved to Bir Hospital Compound, at Mahaboudha. In 1972 it was named Mahaboudha Nursing Campus, after T.U. took over all the health related education programmes in Nepal. Finally the campus moved to Maharajgunj on chaitra of 2042 (14 March 1986) in its own building and renamed maharajgunj Nursing campus. The present campus is built by the Government of Nepal.

Before 1960, Most students were accepted in the nursing program just under matriculation(That is S.L.C. incomplete). The new requirement for admission into the program was now S.L.C. Pass and entrance exam. At the time the training program was run by His Majesty's Government and the duration of the nursing course was 3 years 6 months. In 1959 another school of Nursing under the "Union Mission to Nepal" was established in Nirbhawan, separate from HMG school of Nursing Mahaboudha. Both school over accredited by the Nepal Nursing council which gave the final examination and registration to the graduates. In 1972 when Nir Bhawan Nursing school came under the institute of medicine, it became a branch of Lalitpur Nursing Campus

become independent from the maharajgunj Nursing Campus. Academically both campus follow the rules and policies of T.U. Iom.

Nursing education in Nepal after 1972.

In 1972, all health programmes were placed under Tribhuvan University. so the Nursing school Mahaboudha become nursing campus mahaboudha. The nursing student had to take the same compulsory courses as other university students. There were more theory class with fixed internal examinations, student received certificates in medical science from the University when they passed their final examination. Nursing education was now reduced from three and half years to three years of study. In 1973, HRH princes Prakshya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah joined the Nursing training. This brought a great change in social outlook in nursing. Now nursing is accepted by society and many young girls join the nursing training.

In 1980 the University semester system changed back in to the annual system but the nursing education remained for three years. Since 1981 admission requirement has been S.L.C. pass with second division scoring merit is Science, Mathematics and English.

At present there are seven nursing campus in the country; Maharajgunj, Lalitpur, Bir Hospital, Pokhara, Biratnagar, Birgunj and Nepalgunj.

Great changes occurred in 1986, all certificates nursing programmes enrolled 10% male students in their programmes. But after four batches of intake this policy was stopped.

A Bachelor programme of nursing began at maharajgunj nursing campus in 1977(2034 B.S) with more emphasis on midwifery. Later in 1987 the emphasis was changed to community health nursing, adult nursing 1983 (2042 B.S.) In 1988 (2045 B.S) all bachelor nursing curricula were recognized and a two track B.N. program was initiated with specialization in community nursing and hospital nursing. A masters program in nursing has been started at the nursing campus, Maharajgunj from 1995.

History of Nursing Service at Shree Birendra Hospital

Trichandra Military Hospital was established in 1982 B.S. The first nurse Ex.Capt, Gyani Shah was appointed in 2018 in the post of 2 Lt. Her Qualification was ANM (Axillary nurse midwife). The second nurse Lt.Col. Sashikala Rajbhandari (Retired) was appointed in the post of 2 Lt. in 2019 B.S. She was also ANM. But She passed Bsc. Nursing 4 years Course from India in 2038. Lt. Annapurna Kunwar Capt. Janki Giri and Maj. Mohan Deveji Basnet were trained from India and appointed in the post of 2Lt in 2022 in Trichandra Military Hospital. Lt.Col Bindu Shrestha and other four Nurses were trained from HMG School of Nursing Chhetrapati and appointed in the post of 2Lt. in 2024 B.S. Since 2045 B.S. Nurse was appointed in the post of 2Lt. At present Lt.Col Bindu Shrestha is the Metron of Military Hospital Chhauni. Hospital was moved from Mahankalsthan to Chhauni in 2047 B.S.

Lt.Annapurna Kunwar and Capt. Marmit Tamsang were among the first to do parachute jumping training in 2030 B.S.

In 2049 B.S. Nursing service was changed into Technical service group.