Nursing as a new concept in Kurdistan

Editorial

The American nursing association defines nursing as the protection and promotion of health, abilities to prevent illnesses and injury alleviation of the suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human illnesses and advocacy of health care toward individuals, families, communities, and the population. In Kurdistan, a new era of development in different health aspects was witnessed in late 90s in response to the increasing need of the population for efficient nursing care; this eventually led to the establishment of a new College of Nursing which was a crucial step toward boosting the knowledge and the skills of Kurdish nurses in various health institutions. The need emerged at a time were the health organisations were very well equipped with the skillful and dedicated physicians and lacked the nursing resource in terms of experience and up to date knowledge. The separation of Hawler Medical University as a professional medical university from Salahaddin University in 2005 gave a tremendous boost to the college to develop and improve its educational quality by commencing a higher educational programs resulting in (322) BSc's, (37 ) MSc's and (11 ) PhDs . Initially the college relied on lecturers from Baghdad and college of medicine. However, we recently started to recruit Kurdish nursing lecturers and professors from abroad. Furthermore, the college is also very keen to peruse developing its own staff; this was reflected by the fact that a handful number of our students have recently joined the Human Capacity Development Program in Higher Education (HCDPE) and other programs for Master and PhD. Unfortunately, one cannot asses the immediate effects of the current changes on the health system of Kurdistan as a whole due to the limited number of applicants to the college. However, the influence of some graduates is beginning to be noticeable in some medical specialties such as cardiology, accident and emergency department and the critical care units. Our college is persistently trying to develop and progress in order to improve its educational qualities and to create an academic and scientific bridges with numerous international universities as well as actively participating in local and overseas
scientific events. This direction is demonstrated through the involvement of all Iraqi universities in the ‘Delphi program’ in which four projects were assigned to HMU, from which two was allocated to College of Nursing. The first one was assigned to develop the midwifery curriculum in 2012-2013 in corporation with Surry University, UK. The second program will be in corporation with Edge-Hill University in which 10 lectures will participate in clinical education training. We are continuously aiming to promote the nursing profession among our students by enlighten them about the role nursing in medical care. Moreover, nationally we celebrate the nursing day on 12th of May of each year, being the birthday of the iconic Florence Nightingale, who had an enormous contribution to the nursing profession worldwide. For this year our college chose the title (Nurses in Kurdistan make a difference) during the ‘Nursing week’ event which contained seminars, presentations, role play promoting smoking cessation which all focused to enlighten the public about the role of nursing in our society.

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