

The State of Nursing Education in Malaysia.

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Introduction

**The nurse is viewed as subservient to the doctor,
- who merely carries out the orders of the doctors in relation to patient care.**

That is the old view of what nursing is about.





In the beginning, nursing was considered a “calling” which required little education.

Taught basic skills to keep the patients comfortable in hospitals – “on the job” training.



**Florence Nightingale
introduced proper
nursing education in
1860 at St Thomas
Hospital in London,
based on her
experiences in Crimea.**

Nursing as a practice and profession has experienced significant changes – over the years, the role and responsibilities of the nurse has evolved.

Nurses must have knowledge, be skilled in implementing life-saving procedures, be responsible for assessing, diagnosing nursing problems, plan and implement appropriate care, evaluate effect of care etc..

History of nursing education in Malaysia

The development of nursing education in Malaysia started in the 1940s by the Ministry of Health.

It was based on nursing education in the UK since Malaya was a British colony then. It was hospital based.

Nursing education : 2 levels at certificate level.

Assistant Nurse training – a 2 year programme for candidates who had an education up to Form 3 or its equivalent.

Registered Nurse training – a 3 year 4 months programme for candidates who had an education up to Form 5 or its equivalent.

Concentrate on the registered nurse education.

In mid 1960s - A private school of nursing established at Assunta Hospital.

1968 –School of Nursing at University Hospital was established.

Shortage of nurses – in mid1970s – the training was reduced to 3years only.

Many more schools of nursing established by the Ministry of Health and a few private hospitals.

In 1992 – nursing curriculum was changed to upgrade it to Diploma level.

In 1993, Ministry of Education approved the setting up of a degree programme in nursing at University of Malaya - the first nursing degree programme in the country.

It was a post registration programme – taking in RN with minimum 3 years clinical experiences plus post basic course. This programme was to prepare nurses for leadership positions – as nurse managers, educators and clinical nursing specialist.

Since then, many universities have also offered nursing degree programmes - UNIMAS, IIUM, USM, UPM, UKM, etc.

Now, the bachelor degree is a generic basic nursing course – taking in school leavers.

Post graduate programmes at masters degree and PHD are also available in many of these universities. Private universities are also involved.

Post Basic nursing courses :

1960s, Midwifery course – 2 levels :

- ❖ Midwife – 2 years course for school leavers with education up to Form 3 or its equivalent.
- ❖ Staff Midwife – for RN – a 1 year course.

Later other courses – psychiatric nursing, public health nursing – 1 year course.

6 months courses : ICU, paediatric, orthopaedic, coronary care, perioperative care, ophthalmic, etc

Advanced Diploma courses :

In 1967, with the help of WHO, two courses were introduced at University Malaya Medical Centre : Nurse Tutor Course and Nursing Administration Course. The programmes were first conducted by nurses from WHO, and staff of UMMC as well as UM.

Later two other programmes were added – the Maternal & Child Health and Midwifery Tutor Course in 1975.

In 1990, the Medical Assistant Tutor Course was implemented following a request by the Ministry of Health.

The Advanced Diploma courses were the highest level nursing programmes in Malaysia from 1967 – 1993.

These courses were open to all nurses in Malaysia as well as nurses from SE Asia (Vietnam, Indonesia, Brunei, Laos) & Pacific countries (Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea). The overseas students were sponsored by WHO. Majority of nurse leaders in Malaysia were the products of the Advanced Diploma programmes

Challenges in nursing education: Many nurses with degrees now.

1. JPA has not been quick to provide nurses with posts that are consistent with their qualifications. The number of posts are very few and thus many nurses with degrees are being paid diploma salaries.
2. Nurses with degrees have to show a difference (with diploma nurses) in the way they carry out their duties.

Challenges in nursing education:

3. The need to have only one level of nurses.

No longer having Assistant Nurses course.

Diploma programmes to be phased out so that all RN are degree holders. Currently MOH have stopped conducting diploma courses.

Nursing courses (diploma and degree) are now being conducted by public and private colleges and universities.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

