Letter to the Editor

COVID-19 Pandemic: Opportunities for Continuing Nursing Professional Development

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In the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses are on the frontline of prevention, control, and care (Kim 2018). Due to time constraints, lack of facilities, shortage of personnel, and insufficient experience in the management of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), nurses are unable to optimally adapt to the newly introduced guidelines and protocols. Bridging the gap between guidelines and clinical nursing procedures plays a key role in the management of EIDs Elit HP play ebook(Lam Kwong et al., 2016). Today, global health systems are under pressure by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the World Health Day in 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) urged accelerated and extensive investment in nursing education. As such, suggestions have been provided for nursing training and research areas to improve the nursing status and successfully overcome COVID -19, while also rebounding and preventing the recurrence of a pandemic.

- **Suggestions for Promoting Nursing Training**

- Reviewing and upgrading academic nursing education by adding new courses (e.g., nursing in pandemics and emerging diseases) to the nursing education curriculum based on international and national goals;
- Extensive investment in promoting the quality of nursing training and increasing the student admission capacity to address national and global nursing staff shortage, as well as providing services based on the new models of holistic care and modern technologies;
- Using modern technologies and the internet to improve the quality of nursing students' training, develop in-service training for nurses, and prevent the disruption or cessation of their training;
- Providing intensive nursing training courses, which could be provided in universities (6-12 months) to prepare nurses for frontline service, provide primary care services (Padula and Davidson, 2020), and promote the role of these professions in shaping positive experiences of care.
- Preparing nurses through specialized and practical skills training to address the needs caused by epidemics/pandemics of infectious diseases (Padula and Davidson, 2020) or other similar crises;
- Empowering nurses and nursing students to use their acquired knowledge and skills creatively in the care and treatment of clients;
- Determining standard methods and criteria for evaluating nursing students in terms of virtual education; these criteria are often measurable indicators that must be available and credible for the assessment of different parameters.

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- Recruiting competent and interested individuals for the nursing profession by properly introducing this profession to the community, which will result in the provision of better care services and preventing employees' resignation from the organization;
- Asking for the opinion of professors and students to improve the quality of nursing education

• **Suggestions for Promoting Nursing Research**

- Conducting research in the field of nursing education during pandemics, health crises, and emerging diseases;
- Conducting further accurate research to improve and reform various dimensions of the nursing role, including education, care, and the management of various crises;
- Conducting studies on the application of modern technologies and their impact on identifying, educating, supporting, and managing patients and clients, as well as controlling the spread of infectious diseases (Peeri Shrestha et al., 2020);
- Researching nurses' experiences and needs during the COVID-19 pandemic; curating and archiving nurses' experiences are essential to delivering optimal care to COVID-19 patients and managing similar crises in the future. Identifying nurses' personal and professional needs and concerns regarding the COVID-19 outbreak serves as a starting point to ensure future safeguards are in place to protect nurses' wellbeing and meet their needs (Arnetz Goetz et al., 2020; LoGiudice and Bartos, 2021).

In conclusion, a better future should be built for the nursing profession after the COVID-19 pandemic to provide high-quality healthcare services.

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