

▪ *Editorial*

*Nursing Educational Program Diversity:
Desirable or Undesirable?*

Hoda Zaki

- **Nursing** is a profession of multiple skills, within the scope of practice it becomes unlikely that all skills taught in the educational system will be practiced in all areas, some skills will be of importance to a specific area and others of less or even not required. It is therefore of importance that the environment and location of the Educational Institution be a guide to a certain percentage within the curriculum.

Rural areas have needs that may not apply to urban areas, curriculum should meet the community needs if it considered to make an impact to the health status and its promotion. Differences or diversity in educational programs can be conducive to creativity, innovation, and adaptability to societies hence impact change and promote health.

With the advancement in technology, systems and progression of societies it becomes even more valuable to consider inflicting these changes to meet the needs of the local society, if not totally, partially.

Considering that we are to plan a program for a Faculty of Nursing in a coastal region, it is of value to consider inclusion of information through courses about conditions and disease related to the area, skills needed to promote health habits in the society, prevalence of certain conditions and their management. For example, “asthma” is usually more common among coastal population and is triggered by high level of humidity, whereas sun stroke is more common in arid Saharan communities as in upper Egypt. Locations of cities or Governorates near highway is probably more likely to have a higher rate of car accidents. Not only is the location a parameter considered in course selection but defines the character of the graduate and uniqueness.

There has always been the debate of having a unified program in Nursing education, my thoughts to this is it is probably required in pre university education to set a background of educational material which becomes the platform for further studies , however, at the level of University this becomes a deterrent to the value impacted by the community to education as well as the value of the services and development ensued by education as well as the commitment of the graduate to offer skills and knowledge to their community.

On the other hand, if we are to comply to the general consensus of accepting the uniformity of one prototype with 20% difference, we should consider having a licensure exit exam that reflects the uptake of knowledge and is set in a way to manifest the skill in critical thinking and the different ways the students use the information they have studied, thus basically uniqueness and diversity is seen in the graduate performance which will probably be built through the nontraditional method of teaching adopted by each educational Institution.

In conclusion, Education basically is a continuous process which equips students with skills and knowledge which eventually triggers questioning and research that is reflected positively on improvement of both health and living conditions, this knowledge is only achieved during study years which brings the “student “in free contact with the environment and community members, enabling thought and understanding magnitude of problems and hence solutions

*It is without doubt that variety/diversity creates competition and
competition creates excellence ...
and that is the essence of education and development.*

EJNHS Head of Board

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