

Decolonizing Nursing Education

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Historical Background

- Nursing education has been shaped and influenced largely by the western culture
- Nursing education policies, regulations and programmes were developed from models based in the UK
- While there has been much transformation in the profession many of the ideologies remain embedded in Eurocentric thinking and philosophies
- Indigenous knowledge and practices remain minimal in nursing programmes and are often within topics like Transcultural practices

Changes in Nursing Education

- The nursing education system is going through a number of changes in South Africa
- All nursing qualifications are now in the Higher Education band of the HEQSF
- The registered/professional nurse will have a Bachelors degree
- All specialist qualifications will be at post graduate level
- The new qualifications have also made provision for career progression and better articulation allowing individuals to progress within the profession

Barriers to Change

- Nursing Education Institutions at college level remain isolated from the rest of Higher Education
- The Bachelors degree offered at College and University levels will lead to some level of discrimination from the employers end
- Readiness of public colleges to participate in the new programmes
- Mind set of nurse educators to develop critical thinkers
- The required clinical hours may perpetuate, the profession remaining a vocation
- Nursing students and financial remuneration

Opportunities

- To ensure psychometric assessments used for the recruitment are aligned to the culture and behaviour patterns of local people
- To review the language of instruction and communication with patients
- To use the implementation of the new qualifications to decolonize the nursing education system by ensuring that indigenous knowledge and practices are fully incorporated
- To apply the Ubuntu principles to fuel the development of caring compassionate nurses
- To retrain nurse educators in terms of local healthcare practices and beliefs

Way Forward

- Timing of the change in nursing education comes with huge opportunities
- Requires a joint approach amongst the regulator, tertiary institutions, employers and students
- Discussion needs to move from NQF levels and naming of qualifications to what kind of nurse the people of this country require
- South African nurse leaders to develop our own Nursing theories and practices rather than blindly adopting international practices
- More research to be done on the integration of indigenous knowledge, health care beliefs and practices and the caring philosophy into nursing education systems.

Thank You