

The Historical Influences on Nursing and Nursing Education

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Nursing has evolved over centuries, starting as a way to comfort and provide hygiene to disabled and sick people, leading to the establishment of the first hospital in 380 A.D. As the medical field gained momentum and continued to evolve, the nursing profession became more instrumental in helping patients feel comfortable and cared for. Eventually, nursing became a standalone discipline that has played a pivotal role in healthcare systems. There are five key historical moments in secular nursing school: nursing school, hospice program, nurses association, and political involvement.

The first historical moment starts with the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. Nightingale defied the social norms of becoming a wife and mother, pursuing nursing even with her family's disapproval. She was instrumental in her time, decreasing the death rate of soldiers, mainly through hygiene. She later established and founded the Nightingale Training School, playing a crucial role in nurse education.

Another critical historical moment in the nursing profession was establishing The American Nurses Association (ANA) in 1896. At the start, the association was called the Nurses Associated Alumnae to improve nursing care during the war. Through ANA, the first law in nursing was passed in North Carolina before other states followed suit. In 1911, the Nurses Associated Alumnae adopted ANA, with the mission to improve the working environment and create nursing touchstones.

Yale Nursing School, established in 1923, is a significant historical moment in nursing education, being the leading independent school teaching nursing in America. In 1925, Yale offered its first Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree after completing a mandatory college

education. This prerequisite for Yale degree later changed in 1934, requiring students to have attained another bachelor's degree from any other college or university.

Florence Wald established the first hospice that cared for terminally ill patients. She got inspired by life experience while nursing her respiratory illness. Wald later became a nurse, researcher, and professor. The first hospice was established in 1974, launched by Wald to provide in-home care, particularly to the disabled and people with life-threatening illnesses.

As a nurse politician, Eddie Bernice Johnson supported policies that propelled nurse education and nursing. Once nursing education took root, the profession progressed rapidly, with an annual increase in job opportunities for registered nurses. They provide emotional support and guidance to patients and families and manage patient care.

Trends That May Impact the Future of Nursing and Nursing Education

The nursing industry is rapidly changing, shifting technology, an increasingly elderly population, and legislation. These factors have forced the nursing field to evolve, ensuring that healthcare organizations provide the best care. Shifting demographics is a major trend that has forced the nursing field to evolve in various ways. With emerging globalization, the nursing population is becoming diversified. Therefore, diversity shapes the nursing industry in various ways, improving care delivery. Nurses are an integral part of healthcare, but in recent years emerging leadership opportunities have pulled nurses to fill the growing leadership needs of the organization. The leadership opportunities in healthcare systems are increasing, requiring further studies to acquire the necessary knowledge base.

Today, technology is taking overwork, and the growing role of informatics in healthcare is shaping the nursing field. Technological advances have brought changes in collecting and storing patient information, such as a patient portal, electronic health records, and wearable devices.

Therefore, such changes affect nurses' daily duties, creating professional positions that focus on health data. Today, healthcare is focused on the population's health to mitigate comorbidities and risk factors. The health population focuses on the health of a community or entire group of people, involving community-wide interventions, such as educating the population on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The growing need for nursing education impacts nursing and nurse education. Recruitment of nursing is focused on best practices that improve patient outcomes and the health of a population. In the future, healthcare facilities will only employ people with higher education, such as masters or doctorate degrees, pushing people to acquire higher degrees (Gray, 2016).

References

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