The Role of Nurses and Midwives in ensuring sustainable Public Health Development in the Contemporary World Region/ National
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BSc(Nursing), MBA (Healthcare Administration), MSc (Nursing), Diploma (Hospital Admin)

- Religious Sister of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross of Leige
- More than 20 years of field and institutional experience
- Medical Administrator and Executive Director: St Elizabeth Hospital, Mumbai since 12 years
- Current President of the Catholic Nurses Guild of India
- Advisory Board Member of CBCI-CARD
- Expertise in Disaster Management and in Riot and Earthquake Relief Operations
- Rural India Paramedical Trainer – Barefoot Doctors Campaign
- Worked with Orphans and Unwed Mothers in a counseling, resettlement and rehabilitation programs
Maximizing the impact of nursing and midwifery on improving & protecting public health system.

The challenges we face in terms of population health and well being are huge.

Therefore each one of us are chosen to become

Angels of mercy....

“The Nurses & Midwives”

to heal the wounded world.
Faced with the above challenges, God was looking for some strong women......

& guess... Whom did He find?
GOD FOUND SOME OF THE STRONGEST WOMEN AND MADE THEM NURSES
Before I elaborate on the roles of nurses and midwives let me put the subject matter of my presentation in a context of India.
We need to understand our function of the presentation and define a few terms such as:

- Public Health
- Sustainable Development and Sustainable Public Health
- Understanding of Role
Public Health:
Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities.
A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality & accessibility.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

... development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

It contains within it two key concepts:

The concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; &

The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.
The formation of the nurses and midwives depend on following:

a) The candidate (nurse or midwife) – her background,
b) The formator - her education and her commitment
c) The content (subject mater to teach/learn) – How reality based it is?

a) The methodology – How the subject matter is taught?
b) The Environment of learning – Is it discrimination free?
Tree of Patriarchy

Social Institutions:
- Family
- Education
- Religion
- Economy
- Judiciary, Media
- State

Beliefs of patriarchy

Harrassment:
- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual

Discrimination

Poor Health & Education Facilities

Female Feticide

Poor Nutrition

Dowry

Unequal Wages

Female Infanticide

Illtreatment of Widows

Early Marriage
Keeping in mind the above formation and mind-set of our nurses and midwives, the role becomes more challenging and demanding towards Public Health.

I want you to join me in looking at the Nursing Students in all our Nursing Schools.

Look at her with the baggage she comes with!
To meet all the expectations from the nurses and midwives, let us ask ourselves:

Have we trained our nurses to face the challenges of public health in a contemporary world?
Nurses’ Baggage

Challenges

- Isolation
- Lack of Intellectual Stamina
- Ambition to work in the institution
- Large population at PHC
- Lack of infra structure at PHC
- Drug Addiction
- Verbal & Sexual Abuse
- Gender Bias
- Safety & Security
With the above challenges
If our training is empowering and based on sustainable development, I am sure she will be able to fulfill the role that is expected of her.
Role and responsibility:

Better health of: individuals, families & communities.

When the nurse has deepened her understanding of herself and others, she will be

“The CHANGE”,

the change that she would like to see in others.
The nurse is called to be:

- A competent nurse,
- A caring mother,
- A compassionate counselor,
- An innovator and
- A guide.
Understanding of Role per say:

A prescribed or expected behaviour associated with a particular position or status in a group or organization.

Role has two important components:

1) Efforts on the part of the role holder
2) Required competencies (knowledge and skills) for the role
3) The Character, Mind-set and attitude to carry out the role
EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE NURSES & MIDWIVES (COMPASSION IN PRACTICE)
Communicator /helper:
REQUiRED COMPETENCIES
(KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR THE ROLE)
Advocacy:

PROTECT WOMEN’S HEALTH

PROTECT WOMEN’S HEALTH

STAND WITH WOMEN

PROTECT WOMEN’S HEALTH
Health and Safety Campaign

Indian women organization aims to support women across India in order to improve their quality of life and be free from violence, rapes and murders.
WHAT DO PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DO?

1) As a public health professional, you will be trained to perform one or more of these ten essential services: Monitor the health status of a community to identify potential problems.

2) Diagnose and investigate health problems and hazards in the community.

3) Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues, particularly the underserved and those at risk.

4) Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

5) Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
WHAT DO PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DO?

6) Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

7) Link people to needed personal health services and ensure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

8) Ensure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.

9) Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

10) Research new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.
Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research—in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured.
As catholic nurses let us think and reflect how we can make public health more sustainable in whatever little ways that we can contribute so that every human persons be in the urban slums or in the remote villages, enjoy good health and wellbeing by our very presence and holistic approach towards total development and growth in health care.
THANK YOU