

Nursing: a profession of multiple dimensions

Ana Lúcia de Assis Simões¹

In the period from May 12 to 20, 2016, we celebrated the 77th Brazilian Nursing Week, occasion that was also celebrated the 90 years of the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEn) existence, with an invitation to reflection on the historical and political construction of the Brazilian Nursing.

This moment was a good opportunity to recall a journey full of challenges, dilemmas, efforts, overcoming and major advances in the profession, which was recognized as 'healthcare profession' in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Rooted in the field of science, which studies the health care, Nursing has become and has established itself over the years as a human activity for humans. From the perspective of ABEn (2016, p.14),

understanding the value of nursing work requires an ethical and political concept to address issues relating to the historic process of the profession, stereotypes and prejudices, as well as issues related to the political dimension of the profession, its knowledge, models and practices.

Lessa and Araújo (2013) highlight the importance of knowing and valuing the history of the profession, building a scientific board to support the practice and to promote political participation, so that the greatly desired professional recognition is achieved.

Profession with multiple and heterogeneous characteristics, sometimes conflicting and ambivalent, presents several socio-political skills, reflecting its uniqueness and the need to build and extend knowledge that support the professional performance at different levels (DAL PAI, SCHRANK, PEDRO, 2006) whether in health care, education, management or research. In health care, it is essential that nursing, in addition to technical competence, ground its practice on scientific evidence, identifying the needs of the client / family / community in achieving a holistic care that values the human being.

The achievement of the nurse professional practice, grounded on these assumptions, necessarily requires a careful professional training process, whose pedagogical projects guide the ongoing teaching-learning processes and that, effectively develop critical and reflective attitudes in students, promote interdisciplinarity, value the ethical and humanistic dimension and make clear the need to build solidarity links with the community assisted. Reflecting on the ethical and political dimension of the professional competence, Burgatti et al. (2013)

¹ Nurse. PhD in Nursing. Associate Professor at the Universidade Federal do Triângulo Mineiro. Nursing Department in Hospital Assistance. Postgraduate Program on Health Care. Uberaba, MG, Brazil.

emphasize the need to use teaching strategies that make possible attribute sense and meaning to life experiences, since such instruments favor the qualification of professional education.

Still in the scope of the profession, it is clear that management positions at different levels have been increasingly occupied by nurses. In performing that role, it is necessary to develop management and human skills that enable the achievement of effective results in health services. Therefore, the adoption of more democratic management models is critical, favoring the participation of the different actors involved in the process, as well as the sharing of knowledge, the exercise of creativity and professional valorization.

In turn, research in nursing, driven from the creation of postgraduate programs in the country, has presented both quantitative and qualitative advances, contributing to the organization and improvement of professional scientific field. However, nurse researchers still have major challenges to be overcome, as highlighted by Salles and Barrier (2010), which are: meet the policies of funding agencies seeking approval of their research projects; develop investigations that address the research priorities of national agendas, support Nursing in the production of its own knowledge, create mechanisms for the internationalization of scientific production and strengthen national scientific journals.

In this context, Pires (2009) emphasizes the responsibility of Nursing to contribute to the production of knowledge that can support care actions to preserve human life in its fullness, during the different stages of the living process.

Thus, Brazilian Nursing, over the years, experiences a continuous process of growth and development; a construction of its own body of knowledge; strengthening and recognition as a socially relevant practice, through respectable contribution in health and people's quality of life, while maintaining its essence and its role: to take care!

REFERENCES

1. Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem. Semana Brasileira de Enfermagem. Caderno de Dicas, 2016. Brasília (DF).
2. Burgatti JC, Leonello VM, Braciacchi LAD, Oliveira MAC. Estratégias pedagógicas para o desenvolvimento da competência ético-política na formação inicial em enfermagem. *Rev Bras Enferm.* 2013; mar/abr; 66(2):282-6.
3. Dal Pai D, Schrank G, Pedro ENR. O Enfermeiro como ser sócio-político: refletindo a visibilidade da profissão do cuidado. *Acta Paul Enferm.* 2006; jan/mar; 19(1):82-7.
4. Lessa ABSL, Araújo CNV. A enfermagem brasileira: reflexão sobre sua atuação política. *Rev Min Enferm.* 2013; abr/jun; 17(2):474-80.
5. Pires D. A enfermagem enquanto disciplina, profissão e trabalho. *Rev Bras Enferm.* 2009; set/out; 62(5):739-44.
6. Salles EB, Barreira IA. Formação da comunidade científica de enfermagem no Brasil. *Texto Contexto Enferm.* 2010; Jan/Mar; 19(1):137-46.