



SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Report No.7 of 2020

REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES,
REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

Point of Public Importance regarding “Ban on Diploma Certificate for the nurses resulting in shortage of Paramedical Staff and causing concern amongst the medical community” raised by Senator Dr.Sikandar Mandhro on 3rd February, 2020

PRESENTED BY
SENATOR KHUSHBAKHT SHUJAT
Chairperson SSC on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

I, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present the report, on behalf of the Committee on Point of Public Importance regarding **“Ban on Diploma Certificate for the nurses resulting in shortage of Paramedical Staff and causing concern amongst the medical community”** raised by Senator Dr.Sikandar Mandhro in the Senate on 3rd February, 2020.

2. The matter was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination for consideration and report to the House.

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1. Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Chairperson
2. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
3. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
4. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
5. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member
6. Senator Dr.Ashok Kumar	Member
7. Senator Sikandar Mandhro	Member
8. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
9. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
10. Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
11. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
12. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
13. Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot	Member
14. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member

4. The Standing Committee considered the issue in its meeting held on 4th September, 2020. The Committee disposed of the matter and decided to submit the report to the House. The meeting was attended by the following members, namely:-

1. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
2. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
3. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
4. Senator Dr. Asad Ashraf	Member

5. Senator Dr.Ashok Kumar	Member
6. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member/Mover
7. Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
8. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
9. Senator Prof. Dr.Mehr Taj Roghani	Member/Mover
10. Senator Sana Jamali	Member
11. Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member/Mover
12. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination	Ex-Officio Member

SUMMARY

Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) with consultation of HEC decided to discontinue three years diploma courses in Nursing after 2018. Phasing out diploma is not the root cause of shortage of Nurses. The Degree program is being introduced to set an elevated benchmark for improving education and to produce a common competency based training. It is as at par with the international standard. Phasing out diploma and the commencement of degree courses will not only advance the healthcare system but also promote evidence based practices.

The following data/statistical report was presented before the Committee.

Updated Registered Nursing Professional (Diploma) Statistical Report as on 24 August, 2020	
CATEGORY	COUNT/FREQUENCY
Registered Nurses (RN)	88571
Registered lady Health visitors (LHV)	16515
Registered Midwife (RM)	16072
Registered Community Midwife CMW	5894
Registered Family Welfare Workers (FWW)	1494
Total	129253
Updated Registered Nursing Professional (Degree) Statistical Report as on 24 August, 2020	
BSN (Post RN)	5673
Generic BSN	3764
Master in Nursing (MSN)	311
Master in Public Health (MPH)	221
PhD	9
Total	9978

Though the above mentioned data gives a dismal picture yet it was assured that the number of Nurses will increase as almost all the Medical colleges have started nursing degree programmes. Entry criteria for the nurses has to be F.Sc (Pre-Medical) in place of matriculation so that they can understand minute complexities of different aspects of health care systems. This

Discipline is getting highly technical and intricate day by day and definitely it is beyond understanding of the matriculate nurse. Basic understanding of the human body, its functions along-with the technical understanding of the equipment is very essential to handle patients in the critical care units.

Nurses working in the critical care units need to understand the mechanical ventilation to improve patient-ventilator interactions and also to minimize the chances of injuries. There are different modes of ventilator support and the critical care nurse needs to understand the scheme of alternative modes of ventilator support. How a well-synchronized mode can be used by specifying the control variables, breath sequence and targeted scheme. The whole system needs profound understanding that is beyond the capacity of a matriculate nurse. F.Sc (Pre-Medical) as the basic qualification for Nursing Programme will improve the quality and standard of the Health Care.

The whole critical care is a matter of the living-dying process of human beings and inappropriate treatment conducted by incapacitated nurses results in casualties. The transition from curative to end-of-life care in the intensive care unit is often fraught with ambiguity and anguish. Only a well-educated and expert nurse can demonstrate the ability to actively protect the vulnerable patients. In such situations the nurses' actions definitely influence the outcomes, either in a pleasant gift of life or the prolonged dying process would always haunt the members of the bereaved family.

The nurses play a pivotal role while responding to patient's extreme vulnerability with actions to prevent further technological intrusion, honour patient and family wishes and facilitate a healthy life. It's a matter of life and death and the basic qualification needs to be enhanced for professional responsibility, maturity and communication skills. The nurses can exert a powerful influence on the clinical and ethical component of patient care.


The discussion revealed that there are sufficient opportunities for those who wish to join the medical care system with matriculation like Midwife, Lady Health Visitors (LHV) and

Nurse Assistant etc. Replying to a question, the Ministry dis-agreed that in any way such an enhancement of education criteria will deprive the matriculate aspirants who wish to join the paramedics. They have other opportunities to join the health department and meanwhile during education they can improve their qualification as well thus enabling them to step up on the ladder of promotion.

Acute shortage of nurses resulting in poor and inappropriate health care system also came under discussion and the Ministry assured the Committee that with the passage of time the Ministry will outdo itself, exceed expectations and overcome the challenge of shortage. All the public and private sector teaching institutions have started the courses in this regard.

RECOMMENDATION

As per international standard and to improve the quality of technical field of the nursing care, the Committee endorsed the point of view presented by the Ministry. The Committee agreed that such an improvement of qualification will not only enhance the standard of nursing staff but also bring their qualification at par with that of international standard. For matriculate candidates, there are other programmes like LHV, Midwife, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Family Welfare Workers and at the same time they have an opportunity to improve their education. So the commencement of the Degree programme is a positive development in this field.


(Javaid Iqbal)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Khushbakht Shujat)
Chairperson Committee