Nursing education in Serbia and the problems the profession of nursing is facing

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"The unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge."

Virginia Henderson
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

- Nursing is a professional activity, which requires continuous development, monitoring and constant adjustment, based on scientific observation.
- The nurse is constantly present in the care of patients in all stages of the process of care.
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

- Efforts to enrich nursing knowledge from other disciplines is just a logical continuation of the development of medicine itself and the process of care.
- The role that the nurses were given by the World Health Organization requires greater knowledge and higher level of education, which is set as a task for each member country of the World Health Organization.
Modern nursing is characterized by connecting nurses at the global level and the solving of common key problems. The general trend is that the recommendations and solutions related to nursing at the global level become valid and binding in all countries.

Modern nursing favors education as a priority in the professional life of nurses. Higher education of nurses is a priority of modern states.
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

• The success of the work of nurses - the quality of health care depends not only on their humanity and on mastering of the modern technology. It depends on the continuing education of nurses. That is why today, in times of constant changes it is necessary to make progress in the nursing profession through continuous learning in continuing education programs.

• The problems of modern nursing are most evident in the lack of education and lack of progress in the profession.
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

- In our country there is a tradition in nursing and the care of the sick and in need of help.

- Even in the twelfth century in the Serbian monasteries, monks and nuns have fostered health culture and education, which were at that time unknown in the royal courts of England and other countries of Western Europe.
The process of professional education of nurses began in Serbia in 1860.

In 1952, the first state Higher Medical School for Nurses of the Yugoslav Red Cross opens, and the higher education of nurses begins.

Higher Medical School in Zemun opens in 1958.
At this point young people in Serbia can learn at 33 secondary medical schools in which they are offered six types of education:

- nurse / technician,
- pediatric nurse / technician,
- gynecological and obstetrical nurse / technician,
- nurse-educator,
- dental nurse and
- health caregiver.
The current situation in higher education

- APRIL 2007 – High Medical School of Professional Studies in Belgrade (Zemun) accredited
- JULY 2007 – High Medical College of vocational studies "Milutin Milankovic" accredited (private institution)
- APRIL 2008 – Professional studies of nursing accredited in Kragujevac and Nis faculties
- AUGUST 2008 – Programme for nurses accredited in High Medical School in Cuprija.
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

- The first level of education of nurses involves academic and vocational studies.

- Higher education of nurses realized within the academic studies for a period of four years in Novi Sad and Kosovska Mitrovica, gives after completion to the graduated students the title of organizer of health care and 240 ECTS.

- Higher education in vocational studies for a period of three years implemented within the Medical Faculty in Kragujevac and Nis and in other High vocational schools awards the title of professional registered nurse and 180 ECTS.
The second level of education of nurses consists of specialist academic studies (60 ECTS) and specialist vocational studies (60 ECTS). At this level of education there is a problem of mobility in education up to the third degree, because the vocational studies (180 ECTS) and specialist professional studies (60 ECTS) offer less ECTS than required for admission to doctoral studies (the students are missing 60 ECTS).

There are suggestions to overcome the problem, as it is done in some European countries, via the master in vocational studies (120 ECTS), but the recent legislative changes enabled the professional master, which does not offer passage to doctoral studies.
List of titles

NURSES

ACADEMIC STUDIES

BACHELOR
ORGANISER OF HEALTH CARE

GRADUATE
GRADUATE ORGANISER OF HEALTH CARE (NURSE)

VOCATIONAL STUDIES

BACHELOR
PROFESSIONAL NURSE

SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL NURSE
SPECIALIST

MASTER
MASTER PROFESSIONAL NURSE
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

• Health Care in Serbia, as well as the future of nursing, heavily depends on the education of nurses. Nurses in Serbia will join the nursing community of Europe through staff education, creation of an independent health policies and research in the field of nursing.

• Programs of Higher Education of Nurses in Serbia should be continuously developed, in accordance with international standards and standards of the EU.
NURSING EDUCATION IN SERBIA

- Nurses make up almost half of the total number of employees in the health care system and, according to the World Health Organization, provide 70 percent of health services.

- In hospitals and health centers throughout Serbia there are currently 50,415 nurses and technicians. In our health system, barely one in ten nurses has a High medical college or Faculty degree, while the legal minimum in the European Union is 30 percent.

- According to data from the register of members of the Chamber of nurses and medical technicians of Serbia, 46,657 employees have a secondary education, and only 3,758 has higher and university education.
Graphical representation of the percentage of nurses with higher education in the total population

Education of nurses

- 10% Secondary school
- 90% Higher medical school
PROBLEMS

• IN THE POSITION OF HEAD NURSES there are a lot of nurses with secondary schools and/or sanitary technicians, laboratory technicians, physical and occupational therapists.
• LOW STATUS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES
• HEALTH CARE IS INVISIBLE, undefined, dependent and difficult to measure
• MINISTRY OF HEALTH does not fully recognize PROFESSIONAL NURSES AND PROFESSIONAL NURSES SPECIALISTS
• THE CHAMBER OF NURSES DOES NOT ISSUE LICENSES FOR WORK TO PROFESSIONAL NURSES THAT COMPLETED HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER 2007 AND THE REFORM
POSSIBLE WAYS TO SOLUTIONS

- Job classification, recognition of diplomas of higher education (issued after 2007), precisely defining the titles of new jobs in the nomenclature of occupations; increased coefficient and the change of the amount of wages;

- Increased support of the government and relevant ministries in their work and financial support of the state and health institutions in granting scholarships to nurses who need to be more educated.