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Role of professional associations

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Abstract

Professional organizations and associations in nursing are critical for generating the energy, flow of ideas, and proactive work needed to maintain a healthy profession that advocates for the needs of its clients and nurses, and the trust of society. Role of Professional associations and union is encouraging all nurses to engage in their professional organizations and associations, noting how these organizations contribute to the accountability and voice of the profession to society.

Keywords: professional association, professional organization skills, professional benefits

Introduction

Need of an Association

People have always been in search of others who share common interests. Associations exist to provide this opportunity, as well as to serve a purpose, such as working to improve the environment or to promote medical research, advocacy for seniors, and more. Professional associations, or organizations, have been defined as groups of people who share a set of professional values who decide to join their colleagues to affect change. Many Nursing associations set standards and objectives to guide the profession and specialty practice.

Reasons For Involvement

Organizations need all types of members, both active and passive participants, so that they can carry out their missions and conduct activities and business. Organizational involvement can improve nursing morale.

Benefits on Participation in an Organization

Personal Benefits

Skills Learned from Organizational Involvement

- Conflict resolution
- Interpersonal communication
- Public speaking
- Mentoring
- Conducting meetings
- Creating agendas
- Facilitation
- Delegations
- Consensus building
- Strategic building
- Team building
- Political advocacy
- Legislative work/Lobbying
- Problem solving

Professional Benefits

Tangible Benefits from Organizational involvement

- Substantial discounts on continuing education
- Certification
- Credentialing

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- Group insurance plans for professional liability, hospitalization and disability.
- Travel services, such as auto rentals, hotel stays and restaurant visits.
- Quick access to staff experts on practice advocacy.
- Legal, legislative and educational issues.
- Professional standards and discounts on professional journals.

Professional Associations

The Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI)

The TNAI is a national professional association of nurses. The present name and organization were established in 1922, but its history of development goes back to 1905. The TNAI had its beginning in the Association of Nursing Superintendents which was founded at Lucknow in 1905

Various activities of the TNAI implement its aims, and they are

- setting up basic Nursing curricula
- TNAI gives scholarships for Nurses who wishes to go for advanced study either here or abroad.
- Stimulated action to organise the State Nurses and Midwives Registration Councils.
- Initiated much needed study and improvement of economic conditions for Nurses.
- Conducting studies on aspects of Nursing on its own as well as in collaboration with some other agencies. E.g. "Study of Socioeconomic Status of Nurses in India (1972)".
- Nursing Survey in India is one of the important projects on which TNAI had worked in collaboration with Coordinating Agency for Health Planning (CAHP), now known as Voluntary Health Association.
- Holds its National conferences biennially.
- Participates in studies and orientation programmes conducted by Indian and International agencies.
- Continuing education: Since 1984 onwards, TNAI Headquarters has been organising a minimum of two programmes of a week's duration every year.
- Celebration of Nurse's Day (May 12) every year with meetings, conferences, dramatics, etc.
- Helped to remove discrimination against male Nurses
- Establishing funds for the purpose of upgrading education and also infrastructure for the Association's purpose. For e.g. Diamond Jubilee Fund, Platinum Jubilee Fund, Florence Martyn Computer Fund, Ms T.J Mehta Memorial Fund.
- National Awards to Nurses who are qualified eminent personalities.

Release of Publications

- Handbook of TNAI [First copy- 1917], The Nursing Journal of India [A monthly Publication, first in 1910], History of nursing in India and Pakistan, A Public Health Nursing Manual, Hindi translation of Basic Principles of Nursing care by Virginia Henderson, Indian Nursing Yearbook (1982), Simplified Microbiology.
- Besides attending to professional interests of the Nurses the TNAI provides financial assistance of the crippled, the aged and the sick nurses.

Benefits to the Member of the TNAI

- Gives a feeling of belonging and security because a number of Nurses are united through the organization.
- Professional activities give you ample opportunity to develop leadership ability and professional poise; keep abreast of changes, and share and solve professional problems.
- Journal helps you to be informed of current events in Nursing and offers opportunities to publish articles.
- Economical benefits in form of railway concessions (50% for students for educational trips, 25% for Nurses), scholarships for advanced study.

The Student Nurses Association (SNA)

The Student Nurses Association organised in 1920, is associated with and under the jurisdiction of the TNAI.

In addition to providing a means of personal and professional development for the Nursing student, it serves as a source of membership for the parent organization, TNAI. The assistant secretary of the TNAI serves as an advisor for the SNA.

The purpose and Functions of the SNA are

- To help student nurses learn how the professional organization serves to uphold the dignity and ideals of the Nursing profession.
- To promote a close rapport with other student nurses.
- To furnish student nurses' advice in their courses of study leading up to professional qualifications
- To encourage leadership ability and help students to gain a wide knowledge of the Nursing profession in all of its different branches and aspects.
- To increase the student nurse's social contacts and general knowledge in order to help them with their total personal and professional development.
- To encourage both professional and recreational meetings, games and sports.
- To provide a special section in the Nursing Journal of India for the benefit of students.
- To encourage students to compete for prizes in the Student Nurse's Exhibition and to attend national and regional conferences.
- To help student nurses develop a cooperative spirit with other student nurse which help them in future professional relationships.
- To provide a means of having a voice in what the Association stands for and does.

Activities of the SNA include

- SNA Exhibit
- Organization of meetings and conferences:
- Maintenance of SNA Diary
- Public Speaking and Writing
- Project undertaking: -
- Propagation of Nursing Profession
- Sociocultural and Recreational activities

The International Council of Nurses (ICN)

Founded in 1899 by Mrs Bedford Fenwick, is the oldest international professional Organization in the health care field.

Activities of ICN

- Reflects the wide range of interests and needs of its international membership, focusing on such areas as nursing education, economic and general welfare of nurses, Nursing practice and service, Nursing legislation, Nursing research and cooperation with other health professions.
- Important aspect of ICN's role is the coordination of activities with other international organizations in the health care field and acting as a spokesman of Nurses at International level.
- Also makes policy statements on health and social issues and offers a great variety of seminars and statements aimed at maintaining and improving the status of the Nurse and the standard of Nursing around the world.

The Indian Red Cross Society

Indian Red Cross Society is a voluntary humanitarian organization, established by an Act of the Indian Legislature in 1920.

Activities

- Disaster relief
- Aid to institutions
- Maternity and Child welfare
- Hospital Welfare
- Health Education
- Nursing services
- First Aid and Ambulance
- Blood Bank

The Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI)

The CMAI began in 1905 as a fellowship of Christian missionary doctors to provide spiritual and professional sharing and support.

Activities of CMAI

- Mentoring leaders
- Health and Development
- Consultancy services

CMAI offers assistance to develop capacity in key areas such as:

- Organisational Development
- Community Health and development
- Health Care services
- Education and Training
- Policy Advocacy
- Dialogue with the Church on health, healing and wholeness
- Supporting new health and development initiative

World Health Organisation (WHO)

The WHO is a specialized, non-political health agency of the United Nations, with headquarters at Geneva. It came into force on 7th April 1948 which is celebrated every year as "World Health Day".

Role of WHO in various areas

- Prevention and Control of Specific Diseases
- Development of Comprehensive health Services
- Family Health
- Environmental Health

- Health Statistics
- Biomedical Research
- Health Literature and Information
- Cooperation with other Organizations

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF was established in 1946, for the purpose of helping mothers and children in countries affected by World War II. UNICEF's Headquarters is at United Nations, New York. Its regional office is in New Delhi; the region known as the South Central Asian Region which covers Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India, the Maldives, Nepal.

Services

- Child Health
- Child Nutrition
- Family and Child Welfare
- Education- Formal and Non Formal
- In collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF is assisting India in the expansion and improvement of teaching science in India.
- Science laboratories equipments, workshop tools, library books, audiovisual aids are being made available to educational institutions.
- Currently, UNICEF is promoting a campaign known as GOBI campaign to encourage 4 Strategies for a "child health revolution".
 - G for growth charts to better monitor child development.
 - O for oral rehydration to treat all mild and moderate dehydration.
 - B for breast feeding, and
 - I for immunisation against Measles, Diphtheria, Polio, Pertussis, Tetanus, and Tuberculosis.

The Indian Nursing Council (INC)

The INC, which was authorised by the Indian Nursing Council Act of 1947, was established in 1949 for the purpose of providing uniform standards in Nursing education and reciprocity in Nursing registration throughout the country. The INC was given authority to prescribe curricula for Nursing education in all of the states. It was given authority to recognise programmes of nursing education or to refuse recognition of a programme if it did not meet the standards required by the Council.

Additional responsibilities were given to the INC when the initial Indian

Nursing Council Act of 1947 was amended in 1957. The INC was then asked to provide for registration of foreign nurses and for the maintenance of the Indian Nurses Register.

The INC authorises State Nurse's Registration Councils and Examining Boards to issue qualifying certificates. This recognition is given, however, only after those bodies have been recognised by their state governments.

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