

# Changing Value of Accreditation and Quality Nursing Education in India

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## Abstract

The health workforce plays a paramount role in strengthening of the health system. However, this workforce must be adequate in number, competent and incentivized. Nursing and midwifery edifying institutions (NMEIs), nursing councils and authoritative bodies can play a paramount role in engendering qualified graduates.

*Definition:* Accreditation is the process of formally obtaining credibility from an authorized body. Higher education accreditation is a type of quality assurance process under which services and operations of post-secondary educational institutions and programs are evaluated by an external body to determine if applicable standards are met. If the standards are met, accredited status is granted by the agency.

*Definition:* A good-quality education is one that provides all learners with capabilities they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies, and enhance individual wellbeing.

The professional higher education describes a distinct form of higher education that offers a particularly intense integration with the world of work in all aspects like governance, leadership and management, program, course and subject module specifications like curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment, research, consultancy, training, student support and student progression, innovation and best practices, learning resources, and infrastructure.

**Keywords:** Accreditation, Quality education, Nursing, Curriculum

## Introduction

Accreditation and quality education are two sides of one coin. Accreditation is an incredibly important facet of your education. The current healthcare environment is dramatically different from the past and it is the health system that shapes the scholastic system and pathways. The involution of the healthcare influenced by the incrementing longevity, minimizing of hospital stays, scientific and technological advances, equivalence, poverty, discrimination, disasters, violence and cultural diversity

leads to several challenges that threaten the health and wellbeing of the Indian population.

The institutional accreditation agencies evaluate colleges and universities to assess their own performance and compare themselves with other schools. The committee is constituted by representatives from dedicated accredited institutions. The accreditation requirements vary from country to country and regional to national accreditation. In most of the countries around the world, the function of accreditation for higher educational institutions is

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conducted by government organizations, such as ministry of education or department of higher education in human resources development ministry. Nursing education is a consequential and integral activity that demands an exhaustive and objective evaluation of its processes and products.

### Value and Benefits of Accreditation

Value of accreditation for university, department, college or school and student serves to inculcate public confidence in the institution and assure quality curricula. As far as student aspect is concerned, it serves several important purposes. Quality assurance is now a major consideration for providers of goods and accommodations in the society, especially in accommodation industries of higher edification and the health accommodations. Nursing is a vocation that amalgamates scientific principles and technical skills to achieve quality care. This goal is achieved through nursing education. A degree from an accredited university allows you to access to state, national, and international financial aid.

The degrees from healthcare schools and institutions are recognized by other institutions and transfer of credits can be done easily or can earn higher-level degrees. For a nurse to be efficacious within a dynamic involutes healthcare system and to avail clients achieve outcomes, nurses need to be cognizant, resourceful, and able to work well with other healthcare practitioners.

The licensing is recognized and the students can sit for the licensing or certification exam of other countries as it is important for healthcare careers. The prospects for the job market amend the value of the candidate if the degree has been obtained from a recognized institute.

### Characteristics of Quality Education

Education is the capacity to feel pleasure and pain at the right moment. It develops in the body and in the soul of the pupil all the beauty and all the perfection which he is capable of – Plato.

Quality edification is an amalgamation of numerous components such as school organization and policy which involve leadership, philosophy, mission verbal expression, objectives, key result areas, financial management, staff development policy, and equal opportunities policies.

Qualitative teaching is an important aspect of quality education. Quality teaching influences learning and poor quality teaching has a negative effect on students' learning.

### Challenges in Meeting Nursing Education

- Several reports have highlighted paramount problems in nursing education, emphasizing that quality must

not be sacrificed in the country's current drive to scale up nurse training provision. Key issues need to be addressed and inadequate educational monitoring and governance at state level (for example, sub-standard institutions perpetuate to receive accreditation despite being unable to meet INC and university standards) should not be permitted to admit the candidates.

- The filling of vacant faculty vacancies is one of the tough tasks for every institution. The upgraded competencies in nursing education need to be met so that the quality of the product could be preserved from generation to generation. The improved pay bands and rewards are additionally major concerns in most colleges. As teaching staff salary is very least when compared to staff nurses in the hospital, so most nurses prefer to go to the hospital. If this condition perpetuates, within few years, most colleges need to cease their operations. University and Nursing Council should look into this matter and should do something to solve this quandary.
- Perennial learning should be introduced at all levels of inculcation with an accentuate on information technology according to the transmuting scenario.
- The lack of quality education may lead to poor performance and safety issues in clinical settings as well. Besides, the curriculum requires to be reframed as it is poor in terms of international standards.
- The challenge does not occur in isolation and gap between nursing services, and education needs to be bridged. The poor resources for clinical skills teaching and overlapping of nursing students in government or corporate hospitals or private nursing homes lead to low caliber of practicing key skills in specialized areas.
- Many accredited or unaccredited institutions are the equivalent of diploma or degree mills providing nothing of actual value to their students. Students should always check the quality and accreditation of the institution before taking admission to such mills.
- Amidst all the challenges, it is important to mention that there are some centers of excellence in nursing education in the country which maintain high standard and quality of the institution, but there is very limited content or documentation available regarding their success.

### Recommendations

The paramount of research was established by Florence Nightingale in 1854, when during the Crimean war she found the military hospitals and barracks to be overcrowded, filthy, rat and flea infected and destitute of in aliment, drugs and essential medical supplies which she found led to the men dying from starvation, waterborne diseases, and infection from wounds.

This, she achieved through systematically assessing, organizing and reporting data. Data analysis availed institute

sanitary reforms and thus significantly reduced morbidity and mortality rates among the soldiers. The student nurse should therefore be edified while in training to utilize best available evidence to develop the orchestration of care and intervention through participation in research activities. During the training, students should be made vigilant of research findings in any publication in referred journals, citations and gratification of clients' accommodations.

The Nursing Council of India may integrate some new components in current accreditation guidelines and even encourage some nursing schools to establish QA system.

The new specialty areas and a wider availability of choice-based courses should be made available for the nurses for better opportunities and a greater value at global platform. This could only be possible by sharing the policy matters and curricula of quality education with exceptional understanding of global healthcare challenges.

Nurses working at higher level should be involved and be recognized in policy understanding at national platform to bring uniformity in the standards of nursing education in all states of the country. The vacancies should also be created according to the introduction of new courses to elevate the interest of the nurses in this dying profession.

The documentation, success story of the system, and processes of the institutions that have succeeded to set a benchmark of quality assurance should be published for reference of quality nursing education.

Nursing students should be permitted to take part in medical research projects and nursing department should have link with digital media so that nurses can access and know new developments in the nursing field. Nursing faculties are allowed to practice nursing in hospitals and should accompany the students in clinical areas as well.

Technology can play an important role in the delivery of course material, course management, improved access by students and faculty with improved learning outcomes. A wide range of information technology applications should be introduced in nursing education like e-learning, simulations, blogs, and availability of online scholarly and research journals. Technologies such as clinical simulation and e-learning can help institutions to expand their teaching capacity and standards at par.

## Conclusion

Nursing today has witnessed several transmutations, successes and challenges through an abundance of stride and movement. Nurses have widened their scope of their work; however, while the roles and responsibilities have multiplied, there are still concerns with regard to development of nursing, workforce, cull and recruitment, placement as per specialization, pre-service, in accommodation training and human resource (HR) issues for their vocation magnification. This divine profession must be saved and preserved for the future.

The shortcomings should be addressed at the earliest to culminate the corruption in nursing profession so that the doors for the authoritative ordinance of Indian nurses in the developed world remain open in near future too. The policy makers should support new adapted and innovative models of education system that enhance level of accreditation and quality learning.

**Conflict of Interest:** None

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