

OPEN FORUM

NURSE THE NURSES OF TAMILNADU

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The reign of Dr.J.Jayalalitha's rule in Tamilnadu has empowered the women since time immemorial. The year 2012 has dawned for a special group of women namely the nurses of Tamilnadu with G.O.Ms.29 declaring the eligibility of the nurses passing from both the private College and School of nursing to enter into Government services by appearing for a common entrance exam. The Government order is a boon for the nurses of Tamilnadu and a bright future beholds the nursing profession at large.

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF NURSING PROFESSION

- A novice nurse may opt for a diploma in nursing by enrolling oneself in a 3 ½ yrs course named Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM)
- A novice nurse may other wise opt for a bacculerate programme in nursing to obtain a degree namely B.Sc (Nursing) degree, 4 years course .

For a Diploma nurse to become a Degree holder he /she must undergo Post Basic B.Sc (Nursing) programme of 2 years duration. Well, only the nursing profession demands a minimum of one years experience before applying for a further qualification.

M.Sc (Nursing) and Ph.D in Nursing and Post Doctoral in Nursing is available in every state providing ample opportunity for every nurse to be in par with other

professional courses. Further Diploma programmes in various specialization are available such as Neonatal Nursing, Neuro Science Nursing, Oncology Nursing, Critical Care Nursing, Emergency & Disaster Nursing, Cardio-Thoracic Nursing, etc.

THE SYLLABUS AND CURRICULUM

The curriculum plan of the nursing institutions falls in line with vision and mission of the health needs and the syllabus of the nursing profession is prescribed by the Indian Nursing Council the apex body of the nursing profession and is followed by all the Institution in India. Equal weightage is given in the syllabus for the students to gain both practical and theoretical knowledge for the holistic care of the individual, family and community health demands of the community.

The novice are subjected to yearly exams in all the nursing programmes to quality themselves as competent nurses after every year of study be it Diploma, Degree or Masters.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSING INSTITUTION

A Charitable Trust, Society or a Philanthropist, or an entrepreneur can establish a Nursing Institution only after obtaining a Government order. A suitability certificate is obtained from INC,. there after an affiliation order is obtained from the

concerned University /board of the state government. The State Nurses & Midwives Council provides a grant of recognition for the establishment of those Institutions which have obtained the above mentioned permissions.

THE UNIFYING FACTS

The citizens of Tamilnadu ought to be empowered with the following facts of the nursing profession.

- Government or private Nursing Institution is governed by Indian Nursing council (INC)
- Every Nursing Institution abides by the rules & regulations of INC.
- The Institutions are subjected to annual inspection by the INC, the affiliated University / Board of the State Government and the State Nursing Council.
- The panel of Inspectors / panel of examiners consist of faculty from both Government & private sector.

All the Nursing Graduates ought to obtain a license from the concerned State Nurses & Midwives Council to practice the noble profession.

THE NUMBER MATTERS

In a span of 20 years the Nursing Institutions proliferated in Tamilnadu State to cater to the health needs of the country. As on date there are 196 Schools of Nursing in the Private Sector and 23 Schools of Nursing in the Government Sector in our State. There are 147 Colleges of Nursing

belonging to the Private Sector and only 3 Colleges of Nursing in the Government Sector. Roughly 2000 students pass from Government Institutions per year, the man power is definitely inadequate to cater the population of Tamilnadu, where two beds need to be allotted for every 1000 population. Where as from private sector 8000 nurses are passing out every year!!

THE BOON FOR NURSES OF NEIGHBORING STATES

Many states in India have an unbiased attitude towards nurses trained either from a Government, Mission or Private sector to serve the health care consumers by obtaining a Government job.

An equal opportunity is provided for all the diploma/graduate nurses to work in the Government run health care settings.

The Government in these States have an unbiased approach in their distribution of their GDP for health care man power. ie., The nurses who qualify from both the private and Government Institutions appear for a common entrance exam, to obtain a Government job. This fair deal is well appreciated and the rights of every nurse as a citizen is ascertained.

THE TAMILNADU NURSES PERSPECTIVE

The rights of every individual as a citizen is exerted in their ability to franchise their vote, tax payment and possess a ration card. Is not a Government job the right of every nurse?

An Engineer, a medico, a law student of private institution is eligible for a Government job through a common entrance exam whereas only the Nurses are deprived of Government job till date. In the year 1930 the Government order was then issued providing an opportunity for all the nurses who joined in the Government Institution a Government job soon after completing their studies. The order was issued as there were no nursing institutions in the private sector at that time. In this new millennium the Government order of 1930 was revoked in Tamilnadu with the Supreme Court order to provide equal opportunities for all the nurse graduates of Tamilnadu to obtain a Government job.

The Government Nurses are the only cadre who receive free education and stipend during their study period. On completion of the course they soon become eligible for a Government job. The GDP of 3 % allotted for health by our state is only distributed for the Government students' welfare throughout their life span i.e., free education, stipend, Govt. salary, pension and other benefits.

Government nurses have acknowledged that they have good practical experience and not theoretical knowledge, whereas, private nurses have got good theoretical knowledge and not enough practical experience. This statement should be severely condemned as this is not true.

Nurses in general have an opportunity to go abroad. Nurses go through a meticulous process of filling forms, writing tests, entrance exams and other vigorous requirements. It may be Ireland, USA, UK,

Gulf countries or anywhere else, the procedure may vary from country to country. In this context, either the nurse is trained in government or in private college she goes through the same process to fly abroad, nobody knows if she is nurse trained in a government college or trained in a private college. They all pass the exams and complete the requirements and go abroad. This does not mean that private nurses are better than government and vice versa. This statement seems to be ridiculous! Are government nurses afraid to face exams and follow a common entrance?

There are a good number of the corporate hospitals in Tamilnadu which are private started by different politicians and industrialists. The government hospitals can only meet the demands of a small proportion of the public, but the majority of the public is taken care of by the private hospitals. The VIPs of Chennai also use the private hospitals rather than the government hospitals. Does this show that nurses working in the private hospitals are not capable or not efficient in taking care of the majority of the public? Was there regret by the public or a VIP on the care given by a nurse working in the private hospitals? This is something to ponder on.

The G.O. Ms. 29 will bring about a revolutionary change in the nursing profession and enable every aspiring novice nurse to work for the Government by facing a common entrance exam to prove their knowledge and competency

We, the nurses of Tamilnadu salute to our Honourable Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalalitha for being a beam of light and life for every nurse of Tamilnadu.