

NURSING WITH A DIFFERENCE

TRUST Established in Delhi 1998

"Let Each Day Be Your Masterpiece" Galatians 6:9

THE RISE AND FALL OF NURSING – ASSAM THE GATEWAY TO EAST

Précis Of Contents

While this report is written to assist Nurses in the North East of India, it has relevance for all Nurses working in difficult areas and circumstances in, Asia and other parts of the world.

It reflects on the underlying causes of distress and disillusionment of Nurses in the profession, and gives baseline recommendations to counteract or improve their conditions. It is designed to give the reader an overview as a means of triggering memories and stimulating fresh thinking for further reading, discussion and decisive action.

The information has been compiled following considerable discussion with many people in the various areas of the Nursing Profession.

The issues presented in detail are:

1 Introduction (pp.1-2)

- a. Why Assam? (pp1)
- b. Intent (pp1)
- c. Conviction (pp2)
- d. Recommendations (pp2)
- e. Conclusion (pp2)

2. People Groups (pp.1-9)

This section seeks to reveal the stepping stones and bridge to effective reconciliation.

3. Main Report (pp.1-13)

- a. The science and art of Nursing is embodied in Nurses who are people. Nurses feel intensely, think according to their frame of reference, and may or may not have arisen from a privileged background.
- b. Nursing Culture is a direct development from the richness drawn from every people group represented.
- c. Nursing culture, like every culture, arises from the good, the not so good and the evil that prevails in it, at any given time.
- d. The time has come for Nurses to come together to re-evaluate our culture and to take specific action to redress the ills. To move forward with the dignity and grace that is freely available, but is fast becoming lost, through grasping after what has proven to be 'straws in the wind'.

- e. When the art of Nursing is suppressed the scientific component becomes a cold technical input. The Nurse may become a technician but a technician cannot become a Nurse.
- f. Nurses feelings may be expressed, or suppressed, as a means of self-preservation significantly influencing his or her ability to apply the Science through the Art of Nursing.
- g. In the midst of increasing confusion, chaos and constant demands made on Nurses, the effort to keep the balance, has in many instances become impossible.
- h. This serious situation needs a much greater input by older retired Nurses and Nurses who are taking time out from active Nursing. Once a Nurse always a Nurse, unless one's Government authorization has been annulled, through negligence or malpractice.
- i. It demands the courage of practicing Nurses to take time to reconsider, and to action on what has been thought through. Difficult indeed when everyone is either chasing time, or has given up, and is drifting through time. **But it is not impossible.**
- j. This report concentrates on the important task of bringing all the aforementioned aspects together, with a deep concern and sensitivity for those who must combine and translate the art and science of Nursing, into reality in very adverse conditions.
- k. It is concerned with helping each Nurse break down barriers and to help each other build creatively. Thus the recommendations seek to enhance the dignity and worth of each Nurse, so that with genuine joy and hard work, the art, science and productivity of Nursing is kept alive.
- l. It recognizes that Nurses are not a nebulous body of unthinking uncaring robots, a definition that turns Nursing into an unrewarding job that has to be done for economic survival.
- m. In the Hebrews language the word for skill encompasses both skill and wisdom. Key words that will help Nurses achieve this are spirit, truth, balance, theology, community, culture and excellence.

Sincerity is no substitute for skill
Nurses are hungry today
Let us sit together at the wedding of
knowledge and wisdom of Nursing and feed each other .

4. **Recommendations** (PP.1-6)

Each of the six recommendations is directed to redressing mistakes and achieving wholeness in Nursing.

5 **Appendixes**

- I. Provides details of Assam's population
- II. Provides a list of institutions visited between 24 September 2004 and 11 January 2005
- III Facts and consequences.