

## Editorial

# Evolution of Nursing as a Profession

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Dear Readers,

Charting the evolution of nursing has revealed certain interesting facts about the nursing profession. From the earlier days of subservient practices in nursing, this profession has come a long way, foraying into the arena of specialisation in nursing, research in nursing, technological advancements in nursing and independent nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists.

One of the thrust areas and strengths of nursing education and nursing profession has been the community outreach services provided by nursing students, faculty members and nursing professionals. There is a widespread and deep reach of students and teachers of nursing in the community, both rural and urban, by way of providing services pertaining to the promotion of physical, mental and social health, prevention of disease, early diagnosis, referral and rehabilitation in order to cater to the healthcare needs of a large, increasing population. The rapid expansion of the nursing labour force has also taken place. However, it has happened at a cost, with little regard for educational quality. While the shortfall of trained nursing professionals remains a challenge, the provision of quality nursing education, in the context of dynamic healthcare needs and professionalism of nursing education, has been emerging as a bigger challenge.

Nursing's quest for professionalism has shaped nursing education and practice, past and present. The emergence of professional practice models, over the years, has led to the evolution of nursing from simple tasks to the complexity of knowledge-based practice in rapidly changing healthcare organisations. Crises in a system create new opportunities and the healthcare system faces crises time and again, (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic) creating new possibilities in nursing.