

The Role of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Social Attitudes towards the Human Aspects of the Nursing Profession

Dear Editor,

One of the international challenges for nurses, especially in developing countries, is dissatisfaction with social status and not being seen as they deserve. The social image of nursing is one of the long-standing concerns of this profession, which has extensive effects on many other issues.^[1] Despite its rich theoretical background, the practical manifestations of “humanistic nursing” and “lovely caring” are not tangible to all clients and collective memory. So that criticism about caring quality is still part of feedback from clients. At the present time, there seems to be a turning point in the history of modern nursing; the emergence and spread of Covid-19 virus as an international threat has disrupted all global equations and seriously affected normal life in most countries. This uninvited guest, has created a unique opportunity in some ways for the recognition of the values and real position of nursing. The pervasive social fear, its unknown and mysterious outbreak, and uncertainty about the future have caused health and medical staff, especially nurses, to play the role of health soldiers and the savior of human lives, depicting beautiful manifestations of humanity by giving a lot of life and soul costs, altruism and merge “love and caring” that have been explained for years by theorists.^[2,3] For example, in Iran, all the media, high-ranking officials and groups of people praise the efforts and sacrifices of the medical staff and nurses which can be found only once before, during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. This situation is also reported in many other countries, including Germany, Italy, and so on. Although nurses and healthcare professionals have always been in touch with infectious patients as part of their profession, global focus on COVID-19 pandemic have provided a unique image depicting the important role of nursing. These sacrifices are unprecedented after sacrifices of “The Lady with the Lamp”, in reducing Crimean War-induced mortality in modern nursing history.

These rapid changes occur in the year 2020, which is designated by the WHO as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife” to emphasize the vital role of nurses and midwives in promoting public health. More than other measures, COVID-19 pandemic has helped to achieve this goal. Although daily death of many people is heart-rending, the proper management of the current situation can be influential in flourishing nursing profession, promotion of nursing social status and realization of the humanistic and moral potential of nursing profession.

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Conflict of interest

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