Innovation in Nursing Practices

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Abstract

Nowadays the importance of scientific knowledge has been increasing and healt-care applications are changing rapidly. The increasingly aging population, chronic treatment of acute illness depending on which treatment applications have changed the perspective on the quality of the patient's care and maintenance. Innovation is the most important tool for improving the community's quality of life. Usually, the concept of innovation in the health sector and in particular for nursing, new approaches, technologies and ways of working is described as a process of development. Innovation is vital for improving the quality of nursing care and it's sustainability. The planning of nursing practice, submission and evaluation of the use of innovative strategies are among the key factors that directly affect the quality of the service. Based on all of these reasons and in the light of the literature, this compilation is prepared to offer information of innovation in nursing practice.

Keywords: innovation, examples of innovation, nursing.

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1. Introduction

Nowadays the importance of scientific knowledge has been increasing and health-care applications are changing rapidly. The increasingly aging population, chronic treatment of acute illness depending on which treatment applications have changed the perspective on the quality of the patient’s care and maintenance [3, 12].

Nowadays commonly used "innovation" word varies in definition in the literature. Innovation is defined as “New or significantly modified product (good or service), or process; a new marketing method; or in business practices, the implementation of a new organizational method in workplace organization or external relations” [9]. In another definition, innovation (invention, innovation, creativity); also refers to the creation of new and useful ideas and implementation [1]. However, anything which is new cannot be counted as innovation. Because the basic dynamics of innovation is not "that everything new", but "economic and social return or converted into a value-added innovations" [16]. The National Health Service (NHS) “Institute for Innovation and Improvement” (2011) state innovation is about doing things differently or doing different things to achieve large gains in performance. It is a myth that most innovations come from laboratories, policy makers or senior leaders. Most innovations, whether in the public sector or the private sector, come from staff working within those organisations [14, 15]. Due to the reduction of resources, continuous changes and increase in information, innovation and creativity have become a must.

The creation of new and useful ideas is definition of innovation and economic growth and capture of the country is the most important tool for improving the welfare and quality of life. Innovation, new ideas, products, is the process that creates value as the output method or service [13]. In addition, the creativity is to think of new things; if innovation is to do new things [4, 11, 13].

2. Innovations in Nursing Applications

In general, the concept of innovation in the health sector and in particular for nursing, new approaches, technologies and ways of working is described as a process that has been developed [3, 11]. International Council of Nurses (ICN) defines innovation as "new approaches, technologies and ways of working development process" [5, 10]. Innovation can be about tools, technologies and processes, also can be applied to either an organization or an individual's attitudes, and behaviors may be related studies [5].

ICN and the European Union (EU) were declared 2009 as the year of innovation in which increment of the competitiveness of countries and scientific institutions all round development which makes clear the absolute targets [1]. Innovation, the community's quality of life has been reported as the most important tool for the upgrade. Innovation in the field of nursing; The complexity of the nursing and health care system to focus on patient safety at national level, the more innovative nursing practice of nursing and health care organizations and health care is needed because they demand [17].

Innovation is vital in terms of improving the quality of nursing care and maintaining. ICN (2009), as stated in its report, innovation in the nursing practice has a significant role, in terms of promotion of health, prevention of disease, identification of risk factors, prevention and health enhancing developers’ behavior, maintenance and management of the new information to have qualified / methods / services findings. In the planning of nursing services, submission, and evaluation of the use of innovative strategies are among the key factors that directly affect the quality of the service. Because nurses know what they do is important in a complex service system, which is based on scientific basis, they know what is important, they are able to see their services through continuous revision to question whether it is appropriate and effective, however, they also have the responsibility for deciding which way is more effective, high quality and efficient in terms of cost [3, 11]. Also, Leininger (1984) stated that there cannot be treatment without care, but without treatment, care is
still possible [11, 12]. Since nurses are at the center of care, there cannot be innovation in care system without nurses. There is almost no treatment or program in which nurses’ initiative is not important. [14].

ICN reminds that in the health care system nurses "care" is an extremely important and in complex services what they do, what they do for, and being aware of that are the scientific basis, ICN also reminds them to make reviews of the services they provide to question whether it is appropriate, in what way and they give the ways which is more effective, and perhaps reminds that quality research can provide cost effective care. In short; "If you fit Nursing into few business you have been doing, you do not even know the essence, if you cannot explain those businesses, there is no need to make a profession struggle, because you cannot success, you cannot be useful” Who will succeed it? ICN reminds and warns [11, 13].

3. Examples of Innovation in the sphere of Nursing

Examples of innovation performed by nurses in the world can be observed. Florence Nightingale is considered as the beginning of the modern nursing, in the 1800s, "more livable world; which will not be given to us, so without hesitation we should try to create this world. We must change the life rather than to comply, "she pointed to the necessity and inevitability of change. We see that Nightingale holds the first record in the nursing field and the first person who made statistics in the world, she is the creator of the intensive care unit, as evidenced by its contribution to environmental improvement, and she also prove the relationship between infection and care [13].

Again, Florence Nightingale, she found out that following childbirth there is “puerpal fever” related to the environment which is one of the oldest examples of innovation. She has observed the mother death rates after childbirth due to the fever and she arised the question “Whether home environment is more deadly compared to hospital environment after childbirth?” Her study showed that the death rate was higher in the home environment and her innovative thinking that has resulted as the rescue of many women's lives [3].

Locke et al. in evaluating the impact of introducing administrative assistants to support the workload of ward managers, focuses on the issue of innovation and increasing effectiveness. Findings from this study make interesting reading and provide evidence of how workload redistribution can support increased quality of care by enabling ward managers to spend less time on administrative tasks thus having increased time to spend with patients and leading staff [14].

As it was stated in to report of ICN (2009) Kambarami (1999) the care of preterm thought to be a dangerous process when there is a misuse of the incubator and it is also expensive, as an innovative strategy he developed "kangaroo care" model. In this model, the baby is left on the mother's bare chest, it provides control of body temperature with skin contact, it is economical, safe and socially applicable, it can be adopted easily. Thus, it is used in many neonatal intensive care units for years [3].

Another innovation, made by a nurse, who won the innovation prize in 2009, who is working in a renal transplant unit, Jamie Rutherford, made a study about “transplantation of plasma exchange in patients undergoing filtration. Rutherford was concerned about the the pre-transplant patients’ situations who were losing time for filtration and dialysis plasma exchange, he made an innovation which reduces the time spent processing combined with two hours of driving device connectivity [5].

In an example of the innovation carried out by nurses in Turkey, an "inventor" recognized by the nurses, Özlem Bekteş developed "Stomakit". Stomakit adapter is for cutting the skin protective stoma dressing apparatus. It is used in the care and maintenance of colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy. Since it is transparent, it allows seeing the content from across the stoma and controlled safely, easily and it is also time efficient. Also thanks to the leaking of stoma content below the adapter side cutter and protective properties and it provides a dry dressing area [6].
Furthermore, the Faculty of Acıbadem University of Health Sciences can be given as examples of innovation developed by Turkish nurses, ‘Nursing Creativity’ themed project, organized by the Department of Nursing; Nursen Ülke won the first prize in the contest with the project “Portlet”. “Portlet” project made life easier for chemotherapy patients, it helps them to get rid of the device called “infusor”, it helps patient by giving the drugs in special pockets, so patients are able to pursue their daily life. In the same competition, “clogging branule” project developed by nurse Nuğran Arslan was in the second place, and nurse Hürkan Cantutan and Sema Kınataş "Smart Pajamas" project has won the third place [7]. In fact, such competitions encouraging innovation for nurses and quality are the most important ways that help nurses to exhibit their projects in this field.

4. Conclusion

As a result, nursing profession, in order to exist in the changing and evolving world order should keep open all channels, all the assets, merge them and should strengthen the professional education and knowledge should improve the quality of the assets held open to all members of the profession [1].

Although there are examples of innovation in the nursing field can be seen above, innovative ideas and services performed by nurses is becoming increasingly common today, all around the world. Nursing profession is strengthened by a rapidly evolving world it has to be to shed light on innovation and professional training. Therefore, innovation is increasingly getting strong today in all areas of work, innovative ideas and work developed by nurses should be supported by private and public institutions and the necessary procedures should be the promotion for nurses in this area.

References

[5] Received August 05, 2008 from: http://www.stomakit.com
