

The valorization of nursing in coping with COVID-19*La valorización de la enfermería para afrontar el COVID-19**A valorização da enfermagem no enfrentamento da COVID-19***Carolina Alves Felipe¹**

ORCID: 0000-0001-6910-0454

¹Regional Nursing Council of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**How to cite this article:**Felippe CA. The valorization of nursing in coping with COVID-19. *Glob Acad Nurs.* 2020;1(2):e12. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5935/2675-5602.20200012>**Corresponding author:**Carolina Alves Felipe
E-mail: carolinafelippe@coren-rj.org.brChief Editor: Caroliny dos Santos
Guimarães da Fonseca
Executive Editor: Kátia dos Santos
Armada de Oliveira

Invitation submission: 09-17-2020

Currently, Nursing is the profession that represents the largest health workforce in the world, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and was considered, for the 17th consecutive year, according to the research carried out by the Gallup Organization, to most reliable and ethical profession among all evaluated. In Brazil, according to data from the Federal Nursing Council (COFEN), there are more than 2.3 million nursing professionals (including nurses, technicians, assistants and midwives) who work in the scope of care, management, teaching and research^{1,2}.

It is understood, therefore, that the profession is essential for the provision of quality care throughout the organizational health structure, contributing to the production of knowledge and the construction of public policies that represent the real need of the global population, becoming the foundation for the functioning of the entire system. However, despite its representativeness, the category faces significant challenges, from training to the labor market, which need to be tackled, since it is subjected to constant social, economic, political, geographical, and cultural changes.

Despite this context of difficulties, there were important milestones for the valorization of nursing worldwide in the last two years, with emphasis on the launch of the “Nursing Now” Campaign, in 2018, by WHO and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), whose objective is to value and highlight the importance of the role played by the Nursing professional, which is fundamental for the achievement of sustainable development goals³.

In addition to the “Nursing Now” Campaign, WHO announced, after the 72nd World Health Assembly, held in Geneva, in 2019, that 2020 would be the “International Year of Nursing”. This aims to defend more investments for professionals and improve working conditions, education, and professional development. The year was chosen in honor of the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth³. This commemorative milestone brings to light the discussion of the need for more than 9 million nurses and midwives to achieve the goal of universal health coverage by 2030. In addition, it highlights the gaps in Nursing that are progressively filled with the encouragement to scientific research based on successful and innovative practices. The Lancet, at the end of 2019, reported on the relevance of the publication of the Report on the State of the World in Nursing for political changes in favor of the category.

During the celebrations for advancing the valorization of Nursing, even in January 2020, the world found itself facing the emergence of a disease caused by the so-called new Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2).

This event mobilized authorities, scientific societies, organizations to face what WHO characterized as a pandemic, decreeing a maximum state of global alert. It is at this juncture that the importance of nursing professionals in facing this disease is evident, which led to the collapse of the global health system⁴.

According to data from the COFEN Observatory, the vulnerability of the nursing professional who is on the front line is undoubted. About 36 thousand cases of the disease were reported by the institutions, 36% of which are in the Southeast Region. The lethality rate corresponds to 1.8%, with 32% in the Southeast Region, where the largest number of health services and labor in the country is concentrated. This deplorable fact was caused by the

lack of human resources, scrapping of institutions, terrible working conditions with a lack of personal protective equipment, among others found by the professional bodies^{2,4}.

The appointments of these bodies at national and international levels only reflect the vulnerability of these professionals who work on the front lines, given the circumstances, already known and reported, which were aggravated by the advent of the pandemic.

With the outbreak of the New Coronavirus Pandemic, there was notoriety for the valorization of nursing as a socio-political being. In addition, it reaffirmed the urgent need for discussions of evidence-based practice to minimize the gaps between practice and care, encouraging and expanding research in the area and in the development of Nursing for the future.

References

1. Brenan M. Nurses keep healthy lead as most honest, ethical profession. News Gallup [Internet] 2017 [Cited in 2020 Sep 17]. Available from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/224639/nurses-keep-healthy-lead-honest-ethical-profession.aspx>
2. Conselho Federal de Enfermagem (Cofen). Observatório de Enfermagem. Profissionais infectados com COVID-19 informado pelos enfermeiros responsáveis técnicos/coordenadores. Observatório da Enfermagem – Conselho Federal de Enfermagem [Internet] 2020 [Cited in 2020 Sep 17]. Available from: <http://observatoriodaenfermagem.cofen.gov.br/>
3. Reynolds NR. 2020 - Ano dos Profissionais de Enfermagem e Obstetrícia: ativando o potencial e o poder da enfermagem. Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem. 2020;28:e3279. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1518-8345.0000-3279>
4. Silva MCN, Machado MH. Sistema de Saúde e Trabalho: desafios para a Enfermagem no Brasil. Ciênc. saúde coletiva. 2020;25(1):7-13. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232020251.27572019>

