

RELEVANCE OF SOCIOLOGY IN NURSING**Dr. Pratap Kumar Ghorai**

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pkgvktu@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Relevance of Sociology in Nursing is very appropriate in contemporary health hazard-based society. If a doctor and nurse want to cop up with the health hazard and various illness and diseases of patients with diversified family, community, sect, caste, creed, society and religion. The health worker and nurse should have strong knowledge regarding the behavioural pattern, community sentiment, caste and class-based status and individuals, organisational and institutional set up. The knowledge of sociology, not only for knowing the above said factor & process but to judge human being humanistically put emphasis on human values mainly. A nurse always treats a patient as a human being will judge humanistically and never emphasise on his/her economic status, political connection and religious & educational qualities but only on humanity. The key teaching of humanity is the basic subject matter of sociology; sociology is the mother subject of all humanities discipline.

Key Words: Hazard, community, sentiment, humanity, relevance.

INTRODUCTION

In order to study about the relevance of sociology in nursing at first, we have to know about the meaning of sociology and nursing. Sociology is the science of society, famous American sociologist **Kingsley Davis** has given an appropriate definition of sociology as *Sociology is a general science of society*. Sociology is under the group of social science as special social science and general social science. Only sociology is a general social science because sociology study entire society very generally. But other social sciences are special social science because other social science study a social perspective very specially that's why political science, philosophy, anthropology, history, economic, psychology are the special social science.

- Founding father of Sociology **Auguste Comte** have defined **sociology as the scientific study of social phenomenon.**
- Famous evolutionary British sociologist **Herbert Spencer** have defined **sociology is the study of social evolution and change.**
- Famous French sociologist **Emile Durkheim** defined as **sociology is the study of social fact.**
- German sociologist **Max Weber** defined **sociology is the interpretive understanding of social action.**

The word 'nurse' is derived from the Latin word 'Nutricia' which mean to take care of sick where as nursing is a process of caring patients, Mother of nursing

- **Florence Nightingale** defined **Nursing as the act of utilising the patient's environment to assist him in his recovery.**
- **Verginia Handerson** defined **nursing as assisting individuals to gain independence in relation to the performance of activities contributing to health or it's recovery.**
- **World Health Organisation** has established an appropriate definition as **nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families groups and communities, sick or well and in all setting. It includes the promotion of health, the prevention of illness and the care of ill, disabled and dying people.**

So, from the above definition we can define that nursing is a caring activities of a nurse help to recover a health problem of an individual, here health includes physical, mental and social health.

The relationship between sociology and nursing: sociology is the scientific study of society, community, groups, family and individual and their various patterns of relationship and interaction which may be macro, meson and micro in nature. Famous French sociologist Emile Durkheim have emphasized on social institution. Society is stand on social institution. Mainly social institutions are two types as

Social Institution

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Primary Institution (Religion, Education, Economics, Politics and Health)

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Secondary Institution (Law, examination, constitution, parliamentary procedures)

Nursing is under the health institution which is the primary institution and the pillar of the society. In the contemporary society, people are suffering various health problems and health hazards, infanticide, abortion, child mortality, malnutritional problems of girl child, pregnant mother,(insufficient food, shelter and clothing due to poverty,) malnutrition, diseases and injury where it has an important role of doctor and a nurse. The role of the doctor is to prescribe the process of treatment but the total treatment process will be implemented and succeeded by a nurse. So, a nurse should have proper knowledge regarding the patient's mental health, physical health & family, community, social background, economic, educational and religious status, occupation & profession. Thus, a nurse should have an in depth knowledge regarding the subject matter of sociology ,that will be very helpful to a nurse to render a proper service to patients.

Following responsibilities factors for the relevance of sociology in nursing as:

❖ **Nurse should know individual's behaviour;** a nurse will have proper knowledge regarding the behavioural pattern of an individual because individual to individual varies their behavioural pattern. So, to render a proper service and care to patients, a nurse should learn sociology. Only Sociology has great scope to judge an individual very generally.

❖ **A nurse should be well aware regarding group behaviour;** a nurse always know regarding the patients family as well as about primary group and also patients kin group from where he/she belong then the nurse will be able to realise the motivation ,mentality attitude aptitude of the patients and able to render proper service, that's why a nurse should have sociological knowledge very clearly and able to realize the problems of patients collectively.

❖ **A nurse know patients community status;** from which community a patient belong- this is vital for a nurse. A patient have some sentiment as well as community sentiment, so where according to the sentiment of the patients nurse treat him/her accordingly, otherwise where can be a great probability of chaos & violation. So, where has a clear conception regarding the community status of a patients, community is the basic concept of sociology. A community member develop a sense of we-feeling. It is a kind of community relation and identification. So during the time of handling of a patient a nurse should count that matter very carefully.

❖ **A nurse will know well about various institutions in a social system;** from where a nurse will gather profound knowledge regarding the life style of the patients and will be able to assume about the pattern of diseases and reason behind their disease. Also, the profound effect of institution on the patients. For instance, religious institutions have a prisomic effect on human life through which several physical and mental problem may create very easily .An another institution is economy, a base of the society. Only economic affluency are more helping of others prosperity and progress of an individual. A nurse should know regarding the education as well as basic understanding of the patients , because of both side communication and realization.

❖ **A nurse should have knowledge regarding society** ; what is society, it is a web of social relationship, the internetworking of social relationship among individual groups institution. So, society is not separated and segregated but linked and interdependence on each other. Education, health, law, examination, politics, economics, religion and others social institutions are interrelated and interdependent on each other if one become weak and invalid than other social institutions and social system will face problematic situation. As a basic pillar of the society is health care and treatment a nurse can play vital role to render her service for patient to give proper care ,a nurse should have proper knowledge regarding the social as well as sociological knowledge.

❖ **A nurse should know the religious status of a patient**; religion is a vital institution of a society. In our great and big democratic country like India where has several religions as Hinduism (79%), Islam (14.2%), Christian (2%), Buddhism (1%), Jainism (5%), Sikhs (2%) , others (1%). Several religious persons have several behavioural and ideological differentiation. A nurse should have good knowledge and respect of the patients and his or her religious belief, faith, thinking etc. A nurse never hurt and under estimate to any religious belief.

❖ **Realisation of social and human value**; sociological knowledge provides us great realisation regarding social value as well as human values because sociology teaches us to judge individual and human being by the human value and humanistically, and never on the basis of economic, politics and religion but judge by humanistically, always lay emphasis on his or her emotion, demand, feeling, sorrow, enjoyment, likeness dislike, adjustment, maladjustment, socks, pathology, crisis, malnutrition and diseases. So, where a nurse has a great scope to judge her patient before caring and healing. Sociology increases the realisation of human value among the nurses.

CONCLUSION:

In the concluding part, we can say that sociological knowledge is more relevant in nursing because before going to give caring, at first, a nurse shall know the knowledge of an individual, groups, institutions and its various patterns of relationship (micro, meso, macro) and its structure and functions which will be more helpful to judge or treat an individual. A nurse never treat patient as an ill or wounded man, no hatred, no stigmatization will be there , but only have well acceptance of the patients like own brother sister, father mother ,as well as God. When a nurse will serve her patients then she will think that she is rendering her service to God .Once **Mother Teresa** said that *when I wash the lepers wound then I think that I am washing the wounds of God.*

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