

Ramaiah Webinar- Feedback on the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill 2020

The existing Indian Nursing Council Act (INCA), 1947 and the state Nursing Council Acts that concurrently govern nursing in India are siloed in their approach to nursing education, practice, and the integration of the two. The emphasis on nursing education is skewed towards particular courses; that on nursing practice is skeletal and scattered. Overall, the lack of a comprehensive structure hampers the advancement of the nursing profession which crucially impacts recipient access to healthcare across private and public institutions in India.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), India has proposed a draft National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill (NNMCB) which when finalized will repeal the INCA. In response to the invitation for comments from the public and stakeholders, the Ramaiah Public Policy Center in association with Ramaiah Institute of Nursing Education and Research proposes a webinar to analyse the bill systemically and propose a systematic approach to improving it. The webinar will synthesise the comments from domain experts and stakeholders on the draft NNMCB through a structured brainstorming exercise, and provide systematic feedback to the MoHFW.

The webinar will review the NNMCB through the lens of the ontology of nursing education and practice (Figure 1). It will draw upon the recommendations from the earlier Ramaiah webinar on 'Nursing Practice Act in India' (Friday, September 25, 2020) (Sanjeev et al., 2020) to highlight the strengths and shortcomings of NNMCB.

The overarching focus of the webinar is the extent of integration between nursing education and practice. Related to it some significant issues are:

- a) Do the composition, function, and powers of national commission:
 - i) Reflect the heterogenous local issues and ground realities?
 - ii) Include representation by private healthcare institutions?
- b) What is impact of the following clauses?
 - i) Entry and exit examination for admission to nursing?
 - ii) Prerequisites for registration of nurses, and registration when nursing education is acquired outside India?
- c) What is the impact of the following issues?
 - i) Use of title, scope of practice, continuation of licensure, and remuneration for various nursing cadres in nursing practice?
 - ii) Checks and measures to ensure employment of qualified nurses by private clinical establishments?

Ideally, a bill such as the NNMCB should be based on the state-of-the-research, -policies, and -practice globally and in India. The feedback to NNMCB would be the first step in addressing the challenge of nursing education and practice systemically and systematically.

Nursing Education and Employment			Nursing Practice	
Education	Employment*	Type**	Location	Outcome
Induction	Recruitment	Nurse Associate	Institution	Availability
Education	Confirmation	Associate Nurse	Private	Quality
Certificate	Remuneration	Multi-Purpose Health Workers (Male)	Public	Distribution
Bachelor's	Growth	Midwifery Associate	Community	Geographical
Master's	Promotion	Auxiliary Nurse & Midwife (ANM)	Independent	Specialty
Doctoral	Leadership	Lady Health Visitor (LHV)		Mobility
(Re)Training	Protection	Midwifery Professional		Safety
(Re)Placement		Nursing & Midwifery Service		
		Executive		
		Manager		
		Nursing Professional		
		Nurse		
		Nurse Educator/Faculty		
		Public Health Nursing Officer		
		Clinical Nurse Specialist		
		Nurse Practitioner		
		Nursing Care Assistants		
		Home-Based Personal		
		Other		

*WHO Global Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery 2016–2020

**As given in the Draft National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2020

Figure 1: Ontology of Nursing Education and Practice

Date: Friday, November 27, 2020

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (IST)

Facilitator: Dr Arkalgud Ramaprasad, Director, Ramaiah Public Policy Center; Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Moderator: Dr Sonali Tarachand Jadhav, Principal, Ramaiah Institute of Nursing Education and Research

Coordinator: Dr Anupama Sanjeev, Research Fellow, Ramaiah Public Policy Center

References

Sanjeev, A., Jadhav, S. T., & Ramaprasad, A. (2020). *Report on the Ramaiah Webinar-Nursing Practice Act in India*. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.14749.13287>