



RELIGIONS AND NURSING

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ABSTRACT

Nursing has remained due to variety philosophies in different period. Although they are interested in all religions health and disease, the effects on nursing leave has been different. For many years nursing has been known to themselves as professional people who want to deprive the world of pleasure. Therefore, pious and devoted people had been cared to patients. Women's social status, as can a place in the nursing profession revolutions in some countries and limited nursing profession by being under social pressure. The main task of nurses is the care. Jews in medicine, patient care is described in the Torah. Christianity was also affected as it affects all institutions of medicine and patient care. The protection of health in Islam, there are many verses and hadiths related care and treatment. This has led to social solidarity among people. Despite all this it means that nursing has been understood too late. The modern age, the industrial revolution, mechanization, improvements in women's rights movements and medicine has led to the advancement of patient care. In the 19th century, the importance of hospitals and nursing services began to be understood better.

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INTRODUCTION

Since religion and faiths help patients to better cope with diseases, to increase social support and to avoid from harmful behaviors such as substance abuse, it is important to understand that religion has psychological, social and behavioral effects on physical health [1]. The concept of religion originates from Latin word “religare”, meaning “affiliation”. But in Arabic it has meanings such as “penalty, worship, the route preferred and followed, obedience and to see servant” [2].

Humans that had to live in the form of community from the early periods of history up to present day felt themselves obliged to stay loyal to certain principles. Humans considered reasonable that the things desired by them could be desired by other humans and had to meet on common grounds [3]. Religion is an organization that existed together with human and will continue to exist. Humans considered illness as a punishment of Allah for centuries and evaluated it as an event to be recovered by the decision of Allah. They arranged therapies according

to their religious beliefs [4].

Effect of Religions on Nursing

The basic duty of nurses is patient care. Patient care is being practiced since early centuries where diseases existed, because diseases have been seen from early centuries and in each period therapy and care were needed. During historical process patient care has sometimes come to forefront with religious effects but has lost its prestige in other periods due to disappearance of religious authority [5]. In early eras, important persons such as tribe chiefs, tribe or village wizards and monks had took over the care and treatment process. It is reported that hospitals were established and operated in Egyptian, Ancient Greek and Indian civilizations hundreds of centuries before Christ [6]. In the period of saints people begged for help from Christian clergymen known as “healing saints”. As an extension of this period, in Islamic culture dervish lodges and hermitages undertook a similar role in Anatolia [7].



Religion and Nursing in Jews

Emergence of health-related institutes and patient care has occurred in religious context in distant past. Beginning from 2000s B.C., Jewish people settled on Mediterranean shores accomplished important advances in the medicine. The patient care-related information in the Old Testament included “prohibition of pork, hygiene-related practices, recipe for making medications from herbs and data related to lepra [8]. They made reporting contagious diseases mandatory so that they can be effectively controlled and they believed in isolation of patients and burned their belongings and scratched the walls of the place where patients kept in. They placed a great importance on pregnancy because they knew the importance of childbirth, postpartum period and the hygiene in these periods; they raised midwives but nursing was ignored [9-11].

Religion and Nursing in Christianity

In Christianity, in early years where religious provisions dominate the patient care, Jesus Christ, most of his miracles were to recover patients, has become the source of inspiration and to help poor people has become one of the fundamental factors in spread of this religion. Elite people who accepted Christianity have started working in charities as the Christianity that mandates providing help for needy persons, almsmen, disabled individuals and patients has become more prevalent. So many rich and noble women devoted themselves to health care services and benevolent services as nuns. In the context of Christianity, the first patient care organization where women took part, was established by Phoebe who was a religious, elite and skillful “Dekones”. “Dekones and dekons” who were the notable figures in the field of patient care in the mediaeval medicine, sustained a tradition originated from the classical period. Churches and monasteries imposed preconditions for the women to be dekones; such as to be virgin or if she is a widow, to be married only once. The senior dekones within the institute decided who would be dekones and those accepted started their task after they were blessed. These took tasks either within or out of churches. So, visiting nursing and patient care has started at homes and it was developed as a female occupation. Famous dekones Fabliola had visited homes one-by-one, had patients brought to her home and used her home as a hospital. It is well known that she was very knowledgeable about healing wounds and feeding patients. No woman has been as successful as dekones in works related to hospital and nursing. As a result of dekones and dekons working in charities have opened their houses to be used for the care of patients and poor people, these houses have turned into nursing homes and took the name of “Diakomia”. The guest houses opened for strangers and rich people were called “Zenodokia”. Subsequently, Zenodikas turned into great organizations and institutes with nursing homes for patients and leprous persons, orphanages, widow-houses, hospices and

buildings for physicians and nurses. This grouping continued until XII. Century. After this century hospital and aid agencies started being built separately. Meanwhile, church started gaining strength gradually and monasteries were built. Nursing tasks were carried out by monks and nuns; female patients received care from nuns and male patient from monks. Monasteries established by Christian women provided for individuals who accepted to obey church’s provisions in both thought and practical life an environment with trust and freedom; in monastery those women who interested in subjects such as patient care, medication preparation, housekeeping, help to needy, painting, literature and gardening were managed by a head nun called “Abel”. Abels who raised talented members related to nursing, gained a great respect in mediaeval period. They cared for patients in hospitals and provided medical help for 800 years [8,12].

Religion and Nursing in Islam

In Islam women have first took part in care of wounded and patient people is in the era of Hz. Mohammad who has about 300 hadiths (sayings) about preventive medicine and public health [8]. Hz. Mohammad’s a few sayings related to health and hygiene are; “When you get up in the morning, wash your hands”, “Keep vicinity of your houses clean”. Kur’an commands “Clean your clothes”. This cleanness points to the material and spiritual sanitation as well as the dirty clothes and physical hygiene. Cleanness of clothes is important in terms of protection of spiritual health and also it protects human health from contagious diseases. A clean and healthy dress provides humans a sense of trust and especially protects them from inferiority complex and its adverse consequences. This is not an underestimable situation in terms of spiritual health [13]. Hz. Mohammad prohibited unqualified individuals’ attempts to treat patients. As in the subjects such as nourishment and sanitation, he made recommendations related to changing place during illness, staying away from those with contagious diseases and paying attention to mouth and dental health. Eating honey, blood donation and cauterization are among the applications that protect health. Among the people who provided patient care during wars, there were persons from Prophet’s family; Hatice, Ayşe, Sevde, Hafsa and Meymune. In Islamic medical history the first mobile field hospital was founded by nurse-physician Rufeide (kuaybe) binti Sad el-Ensariye (el-Eslemiye) (Torun 2014). The first female population for wounded and patient care was established in Hz. Mohammad time. Despite all these, the meaning of nursing was understood too late. During this era, patient care was not more than feeding critically ill patients and performing their certain duties [14].

At the era of Great Seljuk Empire, emperors have founded hospitals, nursing homes and baths and in these hospitals physicians, surgeons, pharmacists and others worked. Ottoman physicians were trained in these



hospitals with master-apprentice relationship and received diplomas from their teachers. At this period, women in the field of health have come to forefront with the hospitals founded for their behalf [8]. Women who had to adopt a house-ridden life style tried to get well with their own possibilities when they got ill or with the help of physicians who were trained by their mothers or grandmothers. To call physician home or to go health institutes that accept female patients have become necessary only in serious conditions. To consider woman confidential has been the most important factor preventing the receipt of therapy and care services. Giving importance to woman's health has gained pace in the second half of XIX. Century with the modernization works in health area [8]. Works such as housekeeping and child care are among the women's responsibilities who participated in work life [15].

In terms of world's medicine history the most important event in 18. Century has been the discovery of smallpox vaccine. 19. Century Turkish physicians such as Mustafa Behçet Efendi and Şanizade Ataulah worked on smallpox vaccine. Smallpox vaccination has started in our country in 1840. Free vaccination was initiated in medical school located in Galatasaray. After vaccination was started vaccinators were raised from among youths [16]. In Şeşen's study called "Medical Training in Eyyubi Period" teachers used to protect students and patients. Balahaddinreisületıbbası İbn Matran had new physicians worn "hil'at" a robe of honor. He always interested in his students and used to give them free books. İbnMatran and Muvaffakuddin Abdtilaziz el-Sülemi were very affectionate to their patients, they used to cure poor patients free and hand out medications and food. One of the most important reasons for hospitals to become widespread is treatment of poor people in these medical centers by government [17]. In resources related to history of nursing, the pioneers of this profession appear to be the monks and nuns who consider helping needy-unfortunate-ill individuals a divine duty [18]. It is reported that Hz. Lokman and his coeval Hz Davun (B.C. 1055-974) were first to use music in therapy. While Hz. Lokman has cured his patients with drugs, Hz. Davud (his nice voice is praised in Kur'an) often treated patients with his nice voice and instrument; it is reported that he entered the patronage of an emperor called "Saul" after he cured him this way. In ancient times human has always scared of mentally ill persons and mental diseases and thought that these illnesses have emerged through the effects of some supernatural powers. The physiological and psychological influences of music on humans caress human spirit and appease it [19]. Belief played an important role both in all terms of human life and in development of communities. In a study carried out by Silvestri et al. on chemotherapy

patients emphasized that belief had an important place in making medical and therapeutic decisions [20].

Ottoman Turks demonstrated considerable developments in social welfare, established aid agencies for poor and needy people and opened up nursing homes for patients and wounded individuals. Subsequently, these nursing homes developed and turned into large hospitals. In Ottoman Empire women started working in social works and patient care voluntarily. Although skills and abilities of Turkish women working either at homes or in hospitals related to patient care are appreciated, they made no contributions to nursing profession since they were not educated. In the modern sense, establishment and development of nursing profession has started together with declaration of Republic [21].

Religion and Nursing in New Era

In new era, industrial revolution, mechanization, women's rights movement and advances in medicine have led to improvements in patient care. The medical education and applications that continued as a master-apprentice relationship until renaissance progressed in the direction of scientific principles in following years. In 19th century the need for hospitals and nursing services has increased as a social trend. Along with the health problems brought by industry and mechanization, insufficient hygiene, nutrition disorders, infectious diseases increased the importance of public health as well as specialization in clinic areas [9,10,12, 22]. Florence Nightingale has laid the foundation of modern nursing education in the world. Nightingale has opened up Nightingale Nursing School in 1860. When the changes experienced in nursing education in our country were examined it can be seen that these changes have mostly influenced by social and political developments. In our country, need for nurse was sensed especially during Balkan wars (1911-1912) and the World War I experienced right after [14, 22,23].

CONCLUSION

The advances occurred in the history of nursing are the indications of approaches, values, medical point of view and at the same time though system in that period. The faith and social alterations are important factors in development of communities' thought systems. Human's level of knowledge, belief and alterations in social structure have caused distinctions in conception of concepts and these distinctions have shaped up health care services. Patient care has been shaped up with cultural structures throughout the history and the one that influenced most among these structures has been religion. Therefore, the nursing profession that plays the most effective role in patient care got into different forms and was affected by religion.



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