

MY DAYS WITH INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL.

The Indian Nursing Council is entering its own home on Monday the 27th June 2016. It is one of the historical date and event in the life of Indian Nursing Council. From 1949 to 2016 is the period of 67 years. The change was an ongoing process. The Act of Parliament was an instrument but it is the people who shouldered the responsibility as Office Bearers and the support staff all have contributed directly or indirectly to bring INC to this status.

I am the eye witness of this change from 1985 onwards. In 1985 I was appointed as Ad hoc Inspector. In those days a team of two inspectors were chosen from different States. One Senior Tutor who was also holding the charge of the Matron from Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) we were asked to visit nursing schools from Madhya Pradesh. At the end of Inspections we were asked to visit INC office and handover the reports in person. New Delhi was not new to me due to my association with Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) When we reached INC Office the moment we entered the Office, I started sneezing as I am allergic to dust. We were asked to see Mr Sharma who was the then Assistant Secretary (Admn.) He was seating in a small cabin with heap of files on his left and right hand, we could hardly see his face. All the staff was seating in a hall like place with heaps on the tables, in around and even on the floor. It was a typical Government office in those days. The first impressions disappointed me.

Back home in the Maharashtra there was a discussion how Mr Kulkarni was selected as Ad hoc Inspector for INC. I was surprised to know and I am mentioning this with due respect to my colleagues in those days that they hardly know what is INC and what is the role of the INC in nursing education. The Inspection by INC was a rare occasion. Then after I came to know the INC inspection of their Schools of Nursing was not done for past 8-10 years. After 1985 The INC Inspection was a regular program for me. I was sent to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, Karnataka. We used to have cyclostyled papers from INC along with TA /DA forms. These inspections widened my field. Today when I look back and remember the kind of inspections we were doing and compare it with today's well defined system I realize how long the route we have travelled. The INC has undergone changes which we never dream even. INC recognition was limited to Inspections of School of Nursing. Today INC has become an International entity. During my one of the inspections in Gujarat I met with Ms K. Variyani the then Registrar Gujarat Nursing Council. This was a unique personality. She was the first nursing personnel to explain me what is INC in many details. She gave me the copy of the INC Act and Byelaws and Regulations and asked me to read it carefully.

On 6th April 1996 I was shocked to receive a letter signed by R Gujaral the then Secretary stating the Letter of the Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 14th March 1996 that I am Nominated on the Indian Nursing Council as Member. The original letters are with me even today. In the same letter names of the following persons were mentioned.

Dr(Ms)Madhavi Sharma of Noida(Ghaziabad) Maj.Gen B S Saraswati of Nandnanpalli (Andhra Pradesh) Ms Thapari Pautu .Dy Director Mizoram Dr (Ms)N.F.Dastoor Ahemadabad (Gujarat) Shri V S Shelke Advocate Latur (Maharashtra) Ms Nayana Potdar SNTD Wome's Unitversity Mumbai. Smt Hashmut Haque Senior lectures from Culcutta (now Kolkata)

There was also a list of other 71 persons nominated under various sections of the INC Act. This was a surprise for me and also and extend my professional and personal horizon to the national level. On 31 March I was elected to be the member of Education Committee and also Executive Committee of the INC. On 28th July 2000 Mr T Dileep Kumar the then ADG (Nursing was elected as the President INC.This facilitated the implementation of decisions of the INC. The Budget for the INC was increased as he was strongly advocating for the INC and nursing education in the country. As far as I am concerned these opportunities enriched my knowledge, views and thinking by interacting with these great personalities selected from all over the country. Let me confess that the senior members molded me . This nomination /elections brought me close to INC. At this time the look of the INC has started changing. The computers entered the Office.The major task which was taken at this time to revise all the courses in nursing and bring the uniformity in the implementations of all nursing courses. It was not limited to contents but also guiding the State Nursing Councils how to implement it. (The Guide for Schools of Nursing) Standards and norms for Physical structure, Laboratories, Clinical / practical record books etc.

The INC has started expanding its horizons. In every decision and task undertaken It was in the context of Indian scenario. The global footsteps were followed. Every attempt was made to go closer to the global nursing pattern. For any Profession to develop quantitatively and qualitatively the sound education system is the first and important requirement. Here you cannot work in piece meal formula or in compartment system. You have to have a Visionary Planning not for a couple of years but the span has to be beyond 20 years or so. You have to broaden your way of thinking and actions too. India is a conglomeration of multidimensional cultures. The length and breadth of our country is having developmental states. There are the parts so well developed that it is closed to the world class. The doors of the nursing educations were opened to Private Sector and PPP model. The learning from the International experience also began in the form of Indo-Australia project on Nurse Practitioners. Up gradation of Schools of Nursing to Colleges of Nursing

attached to Medical Colleges under Government Sector and permit Private Sector Hospitals and Hospitals for Super Specialty like Tata Memorial Hospital for Oncology specialization. This was a demand of nursing profession. The voice was getting momentum to have Ph.D (Nursing) in the Medical Universities.

This is the greatest change that the nursing fraternity which was hardly knowing about INC, now they developed a confidence in INC and realized that INC is bringing them close to the Global Nursing in all aspects. The INC did not neglect any voice of nurse and responded with decision and actions. The changes in the INC office and making in like a corporate office enhanced the speed of the work. Staff development programs changed the working system. It was due to this change the INC was able to take more responsibilities and implement them successfully. The Orientation programs Ad-Hoc Inspectors and Registrars strengthen the INC.

If as a Representative of Nursing Profession will be failing in my duties if I do not mention the excellent cooperation, help and guidance given by the Ministers and the Ministry Staff in the Health and Family welfare Department of the Government of India from time to time to INC in its efforts. The greatest appreciation and the gift has come in the form of raising the status of the Nursing Advisor in the Nursing Division. When the pat of appreciation comes from the home others follow. The GFTM International Program, Recognition and re-entry to India in the List of Members Nation by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) are a few to quote. There are many in pipe line.

It is my pride and a pleasure that I had an opportunity to participate and be the eye witness for this is Journey of INC. No words are have ability to express my feelings towards my predecessors, the colloques with me during my tenure who changed me along with INC.

I am grateful to MR T Dileepkumar for bearing with my shortfalls and educating on my thinking. I would not dare to say that I have learnt up to his expectations but at least I did my best in how to face the Bad Patches, Criticism and keep marching. His typical change in the tone of calling me "Kulkarnij....." was enough for me to be ready to receive mouthful and then cooling down and explaining me where I have to improve. Many are unaware of the fact that he is just like a Jackfruit. You have to follow a protocol for getting the inner sweet stuff. Every conversation with him was and is an experience for me to correct myself.

INC has taken the Jet Speed. Covered many destinations but many more are calling. GOD SPEED SHALL I SAY. Jai Hind.

A B KULKARNI

Former Member of the INC.