

Editorial Comments / Redaksionele Kommentaar

We as health professionals are facing multiple challenges in our changing South African society. Some of these challenges and possible solutions are described by authors in different articles in this edition of Health SA Gesondheid.

As always educational challenges are on top of the list of issues we need to address in the health sciences. The paradigm shift from traditional lecturing to problem-based learning and community based education makes more demands on facilitators at the School of Nursing at the University of the Orange Free State. The authors of this article come to the conclusion that re-education and continuous support of academic staff are essential for this programme. At this same School of Nursing the developmental level of black first year nursing students was determined. The authors are of the opinion that once deficiencies in the student's developmental level have been pinpointed, meaningful support should be offered that could contribute to the student's development.

In a country with multiple cultures, the challenge is there for health professionals to provide culture congruent information based on the patient's communicated needs. This is especially so in preventing the spread of HIV/Aids. In the article on condom use among junior secondary pupils it was found that subjective norms about condoms were found to predict condom use intention and thus also risk to get infected by HIV/AIDS. An appropriate health educational programme needs to be developed to address this issue in a culture congruent manner.

As always there is the challenge to facilitate the practice of western as well as traditional health practices to the benefit of our people. Nurses are positioned in such a manner in the health practice that they can function as advocates between western and traditional health practices.

Lastly there is the challenge of under-utilisation of the advanced practitioner in midwifery and neonatology because of a lack of knowledge in the population and other disciplines in the health field. There is an expressed view by the authors of this article that the future holds promise for these advanced practitioners, where they can be utilised in curative as well as primary health care.

Well, at least we can state that we as South African health professionals lead interesting lives with all the challenges we face.

***Marie Poggenpoel
Editor***

Daar is verskeie uitdagings in ons veranderende Suid-Afrikaanse samelewing wat ons as gesondheidsberoepsgroepe in die gesig staar. Sommige van hierdie uitdagings en moontlike oplossings word beskryf deur skrywers in verskillende artikels in hierdie uitgawe van Health SA Gesondheid.

Onderwysuitdagings is soos altyd bo-op die lys van sake wat ons behoort aan te spreek in die gesondheidswetenskappe. Die paradigma skuif vanaf tradisionele klasgee na probleemgebaseerde leer en gemeenskapsgebaseerde onderwys plaas meer eise op fasilitateerders by die Skool van Verpleegkunde by die Universiteit van die Oranje Vrystaat. Die skrywers van die artikel kom tot die slotsom dat her-onderrig en deurlopende ondersteuning van akademiese personeel essensieël is vir hierdie program. By hierdie selfde Skool van Verpleegkunde is die ontwikkelingsvlak van swart eerste jaar verpleegstudente vasgestel. Die skrywers is van mening dat sodra tekortkominge in die student se ontwikkelingspeil vasgestel is, betekenisvolle ondersteuning gebied moet word wat kan bydra tot die student se ontwikkeling.

In 'n land met veelvoudige kulture, is die uitdaging daar vir gesondheidsberoepsgroepe om kultuurkongruente inligting te versaf gebaseer op die pasiënt se gekommunikeerde behoeftes. Dit is veral so in die voorkoming van die verspreiding van MIV/VIGS. In die artikel oor kondoomgebruik by junior sekondêre leerlinge is bevind dat subjektiewe norme oor kondoomgebruik, kondoomgebruik intensie voorspel en dus ook die risiko om geïnfekteer te word met MIV/VIGS. 'n Toepaslike gesondheidsonderrig program behoort ontwikkel te word om hierdie saak aan te spreek in 'n kultuurkongruente wyse.

Soos altyd is daar ook die uitdaging om die praktyk van westerse sowel as tradisionele gesondheidspraktyke te fasiliteer tot die bate van ons mense. Verpleegkundiges is so geposisioneer in die gesondheidspraktyk dat hulle as advokate tussen westerse en tradisionele gesondheidspraktyke kan funksioneer.

Laastens is daar die uitdaging van die ondergebruik van die gevorderde praktisyne in verloskunde en neonatologie omdat daar 'n gebrek aan kennis is in die bevolking en ander dissiplines in die gesondheidsveld. Die skrywers lig die mening dat die toekoms belofte inhou vir hierdie gevorderde praktisyne. Hulle kan gemobiliseer word in kuratiewe sowel as primêre gesondheidsorg.

Wel, ten minste kan ons sê dat ons as Suid-Afrikaanse gesondheidsberoepsgroepe interessante lewens lei met al die uitdagings wat ons in die gesig staar.

***Annatjie Botes
Assistant***