

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE OF A MASTER OF NURSING STUDENT

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I started my nursing career at Baqai Medical University/Pakistan, by joining the Diploma in nursing program in the year 1998. After completion of the program I took up my first job as a Registered Nurse at Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in 2001 and worked there for 9 years. I have worked in the general as well as private wards, in Emergency Room, Out-Patient Department and Labour room. Most of my experience is in working in the Labour room of IGMH where I spent 7 years. I took the responsibility of a shift-in-charge and sometimes, Nursing Coordinator during off hours.

I continued my nursing education by joining the Diploma in Midwifery course at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)/ the Maldives National University (MNU) and went on to do a Bachelor of Nursing degree at the same university. After working as a nurse I joined the MNU where I took up a contract job as Associate Lecturer and worked there from 2011-2013.

After the expiration of my contract, I decided to do higher studies and enrolled in the Master of Nursing course which commenced in June 2013 at the MNU. It was my pleasure and honor to be able to join the first batch of Masters of Nursing in the country, and to study with very skilled and experienced nurses from different areas of nursing. In addition to what the course offered, we were able to learn a great deal from each other's experiences. We were each other's support and inspiration; we were "comrades in arms". Despite of facing some technical difficulties as the course was new, we had a very good learning experience at FHS. All our lecturers were very supportive and walked the extra mile to cater to our learning needs. They perfectly balanced challenging us, and supporting us when we did not comprehend something. We had limited resources such as text-books, therefore, we shared them among ourselves most of the times. In addition to the support from the faculty, I received support, assistance and guidance from Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) to conduct my study for my Masters' project, especially the doctors, nurses and clinical assistants working at Reproductive Health Center (RHC) of IGMH.

My journey of obtaining the Masters in Nursing came along with its fair share of challenges. For the first time in 18 years, I was jobless. I was faced with the difficulty of managing my time working on assignments whilst looking after a newborn as well as an older child. The guilt, desperation and exhaustion often left me with the thought to quit the program. However, my family, friends and colleagues kept encouraging me. Their advice and undying support allowed me to continue by focusing on the positives, dividing all the tasks into smaller ones and accepting every little help that I could get. Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah and continuously asserting my goals and never giving up, I was able to complete my Masters degree with the highest CGPA. Anything is possible if you truly believe and persevere.