

## MY JOURNEY IN NURSING EDUCATION



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Would a Nurse ever complete her education? Would she finish her learning? We always hear the term, once a nurse, always a nurse. However, there are certain conditions required to remain in this profession. Nurses must learn and grow in the profession to provide evidence based care. Knowledge is a vast dimension where the end line always opens a path enhancing knowledge. My keen interest in studying and to grow in the profession remains passionate and this article focused on how I have reached to where I am today as a Nurse educator.

I have completed my Masters in Nursing Science in 2013. One of the happiest moments was the day I held the Certificate issued by North Umbria University in the United Kingdom, accredited and attested by Maldives Qualification Authority. To achieve that piece of paper wasn't easy, yet not impossible. There was a moment I recall while I was writing an assignment, my daughter made juice and brought biscuits for me to have. There were moments when my son applied some soothing balm on my swollen ankle and made me comfortable to sit at the working desk. I cherish the tremendous help and support provided by my colleagues in Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital

and Villimale Hospital during each time I was doing further education.



The most life-changing and crucial time for me was during the study period of Bachelor of Nursing. This was the period of life where I learned we cannot finish assignments burning just one night of midnight oil. A student must be disciplined in her/ his studies. This was the time when intellectual in-depth learning is essential to understand each area of nursing care delivery. We cannot learn some lines from a book. Critical thinking, reflective studying, and applications of various theories became fundamental in all the subjects of this course. A small study group of colleagues with the aim of religiously studying became the moral support of each other. Revision sessions were held among us, pillows from our bedrooms became patient's chest to practice CPR before OSCE exam. Despite it was an unhealthy meal. Chocolate doughnuts from nearby shops became the daily meals between group study. However long the day was, how deeply sleepy some of our group members were, we never gave up. Until today I believe that was the reason why we succeeded because together we became stronger.

Then there was the time period of Diploma in Midwifery followed after completing Diploma in Nursing. The beauty of holding a newborn is a miracle and to learn this is one of the greatest knowledge one can achieve in life. Such fun time

enjoyed by all of us, where the history of Midwifery was learnt, by performing a stage drama.

The unforgettable externship while the entire batch wanted to keep the most reputed and well-mannered title for various reasons. Still, we had our fun moments after the field visits by climbing secretly to tamarind trees. Nevertheless, the learning time we spent during our internship in laamu atoll surrounded by community programs and beautiful scenery indeed adds on to enhance our knowledge.

The discipline of nursing is noble and each one of us needs to find a way to develop our self in the career. Therefore, after completing a service of 15 years in the clinical Nursing side of a Hospital, I have taken a step ahead in my career to work in as a Nurse Educator in School of Nursing in Maldives National University. A great academy and studying platform. Learning doesn't merely end with a graduation, studying will not be over with a certificate. To hold a PhD, is a goal of mine but that's not the end of a profession. It would again be a new beginning in the path of knowledge transfer. I want to bring a light of innovations and integrate information technology in nursing, conduct researches and to teach others. I feel each one of us must contribute to grow the nursing discipline by passing the knowledge and building it. We remember the hard days and fun moments passed on during our studies. Never was a time that I felt like I want to give up, this is because the moment I close my eyes and think ahead about my profession I felt it was worthwhile to go through this. No matter how dark it is, the sun would rise until the last day. The profession itself is an art and if we don't master the art of living a life of gratitude towards own self, that person will never learn to endure the hardship faced during the study period. This is how a person would learn and one must never stop studying. Therefore, YES! Every day I'm studying and my journey continues...