

# ROLE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

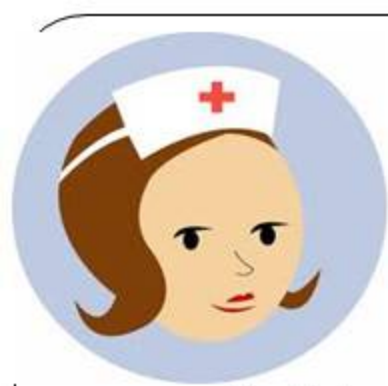


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## INTRODUCTION:

A field of Nursing that is concerned with the health needs of the community as a whole. Public health nurse supports the provision of direct care through a process of evaluation and assessment of the needs of the individuals of the context of their population group ,wherein, she works with families in the home, in schools, at work places, in government agencies and at major health facilities.



## **HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**

The development of public health in India started much later as compare to developed countries of the West ,but public health in India was in practice much before its development in western countries. The Indian history revealed its public health practice as early as 5000 BC, this period was classified as Vedic period (5000 BC - 500 BC ) and Post Vedic Period ( 500 BC-700 AD).

## DEFINITION



### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING:**

It is the practice of promoting and protecting the health of population using knowledge from nursing , social and public health science.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE:**

Registered nurse who provides prevention and health promotion services to pregnant women , mother , infants and families in homes.



**ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**NURSE**

# **1. CARE TAKER:**

The public health nurse provides care to entire family, group of people. She provides comprehensive care i.e., care along the entire range of health and disease continuum.



## **2. SENSITIVE OBSERVER**



**Public health nurse has a better chance to make observations and to react, to take actions with respect to determinants of health of individuals and family.**



### 3. EDUCATOR

Public health nurse plays a major role in teaching and training in areas such as clinics, home, school, work place where the major emphasis is on health promotion and disease prevention.



## **4. ADVOCATE**



- The public health nurse stands between the individual /family and various specialized services for the effective advocacy and with the help of certain qualities such as willingness to take risk, assertiveness, communicability, resourcefulness proves herself as a effective advocate.



## **5. CONCERNED ADVISER:**

The public health nurse act as an advisor.

She shows concerns to their problems and help them to solve their problems.

## 6. CHANGE AGENT:



The public health act as a change agent i.e., she serves as a potentiater or a catalyst . Wherein she translates and apply the knowledge of health and social science to individuals and population groups through specific interventions, programs and advocacy and hence making others more effective by increasing their capabilities.

## 7. MANAGER



Public health nurses are expected to function as manager of family health care, school health care and any specific program or project. As a manager she plans , organizes, coordinates, supervises, guides, directs , reports and evaluates.

## 8. PLANNER



Planning is foremost function of public health nurse. Planner role will depend upon her role as a manager.

## 9. ORGANIZER



- Organizing is the second function of management. The public health nurse after she plans any care/ services/ program, she has to organize the structure for people to perform the task to achieve the set objectives.

## 10. DIRECTOR **OR** CO-ORDINATOR



Public health nurse as a manager not only has to plan or organize but has to make sure that the work is done as planned or organised. She must help them to resolve their conflicts and to function together in harmony.

## 11. CONTROLLER **AND** EVALUATOR

Once any care/ service/ programme is planned and implemented, it becomes essential for nurse manager to monitor the plan to make sure whether it is proceeding in its direction or there are some difficulties encountered to reach the intended objectives.





## 12. LEADERSHIP ROLE



Public health nurse functions as a leader when she performs the role of nurse manager. She leads the group by giving them directions, ensuring bi-way communication, providing supervision and guidance by co-ordinating their activities.

## **13. RESEARCHER:**

The public health nurse does get involved in formal basic as well as applied research studies done in community.





## SUMMARY

- Public health nurse performs various roles depending upon her designation, setting where she works, agencies' policies, other personnel working in the agency, the standard of public health nursing practice, her own perception, role expectations by others.
- The roles which are conceptualized include care provider, sensitive observer, educator, advocate, concerned advisor, change agent, manager, planner, organizer, director, coordinator, controller and



## CONCLUSION

- Public health nursing is a synthesis of nursing practice and public health practice applied in promoting and preserving the health of population .It is a unique blend of services that when properly developed and implemented can have a tremendous impact on human health.

# REFERENCES:

- K.K Gulani, Community Health Nursing (Principles and practices), 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Kumar publishing House, New Delhi, p 47-51, 61-65.
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**THANKING YOU**

