

WHY INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY IS IMPORTANT

Nurses form the bed rock of the Health team. They are amongst the most respected of all profession as they are professionals of high standard and strong sense of public service for over 150 years. Nursing as a profession is a call of service to humanity, an epitome of humility and service, rendering hope to Everyone and bridging the gap between the sick and well, young and old, not paying respect to materialism, tribalism, or racism. According to Virginia Henderson; "The unique function of a nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to a peaceful death), that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will, or knowledge". Virginia Henderson is known as "the first lady of nursing" and has been called "arguably the most famous nurse of the 20th century".

The **International Nurses' Day** has been celebrated by the International Council of Nurses since 1965. Nurses' Day was first proclaimed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, though he did not approve it. January 1974, 12th May was chosen to celebrate the **International Nurses' Day** which is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, a woman widely referred to as "The Mother of Modern Nursing and also The Lady with the Lamp". The International Council of Nursing being a body leading nursing internationally is a federation made up of about 130 National Nurses Association, founded in 1899.

The **International Nurses' Day** is a day whose importance cannot be over emphasized, as it is a day which brings about Unity and Harmony among different Nurses from different races of Mankind. The commemoration service, a special service done in West Minster Abbey in London, during which a symbolic Lamp is taken from the Nurses' Chapel in the Abbey and handed from one Nurse to the other and then to the Dean who places it on the High Altar, signifies the passing of knowledge from one to the other and also emphasizes the need for all Nurses to quest for more knowledge to keep up with contemporary Nursing Practice and also signifies the level of respect which Nurses have for one another.

In the same vein, since it brings about the conglomeration of Nurses from different part of the world, serve as a medium for strengthening good Nursing relationship worldwide, through exchange of ideas which must have been gotten through research and backed scientifically to improve Nursing care/services rendered to the masses.

Also, the **International Nurses' Day** is very important in the development of Nursing and to keep nursing up to the standard of contemporary requirements, as it serves as a medium where Nurses from all over the world deliberate on issues affecting or preventing the achievement of the **International Classification of Nursing Practice** goals which includes;

- Serving as a major force to articulate Nurses' contribution to health and health care globally.
- Promoting harmonization with other widely used classifications on the work of standardization groups in health and Nursing.

As well as the need for improvement of Nursing academically and also in the aspect of research and further acquisition of useful knowledge for the purpose of promoting and protecting the profession. Embedded among the activities of International Nurses' Day are enlightenment campaigns and activities, speech presentation and career talks on Nursing, which help to sell the good image of the profession to the masses especially the youths as well as enlightening them on matters of their daily living.

WRITTEN BY: EMETO RAPHAEL EMEKA
F.C.T SCHOOL OF NURSING, GWAGWALADA ABUJA.
E-mail: fctsonabuja@yahoo.com
Phone: +2348185687348, +2348129206964