

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NURSING EDUCATION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION OF INDIA

Nupur Agarwal
MBA- Hospital and Health
Management
2013-1015

INTRODUCTION

- The term Nursing Research is defined as the systematic, objective process of analyzing phenomena of importance to nursing.
- This research focuses on Nursing Education in North Eastern Region (NER) of India. NER consists of seven states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.
- Focus has been drawn to these states as these states have almost negligent infrastructure resources for nursing education , facing educational backwardness.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the current level of nursing education in the North Eastern Region of India?
- 2) What are the problems and challenges that are faced in imparting nursing education in the North Eastern Region of India?

OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- To analyze the current scenario of Nursing Education in the North Eastern Region of India.
- To identify and analyze the major problems and challenges related to Nursing Education in the North Eastern States of India.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

- Exploratory in nature.

Study Population

- Female in the age group 16-20 years in North Eastern States of India.

Data Collection Approach

- The present study is based on secondary data.
 - Census 2011 for North Eastern States
 - Nursing Council Reports
 - Other related documents on nursing education

Data Analysis Approach

- Data analysis is done with the help of Ms Excel.
- Results are presented in the form of Tables and Graphs through frequencies and percentages

RATIONALE BEHIND CHOOSING 16-20 AGE GROUP

- The period between ages 16 and 20 is characterized by major role transitions in almost every domain of life.
- Preparing for and initiating adult occupational roles (e.g., by finishing high school, pursuing postsecondary education, and/or seeking formal paid employment)
- Achieving the age of majority with its associated rights and privileges as well as increased accountability, such as financial responsibility.

Source: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh321/41-52.htm>

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Rural and Urban Bifurcation of Female Population In North Eastern States.

- Total number of females (16-20 years) in North Eastern States is calculated by place of residence.
- This was done in order to find out the total female population in rural and urban areas of these states.
- This rural and urban bifurcation of female population in North Eastern States is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Total number of females (16-20 years) in NER by place of residence.

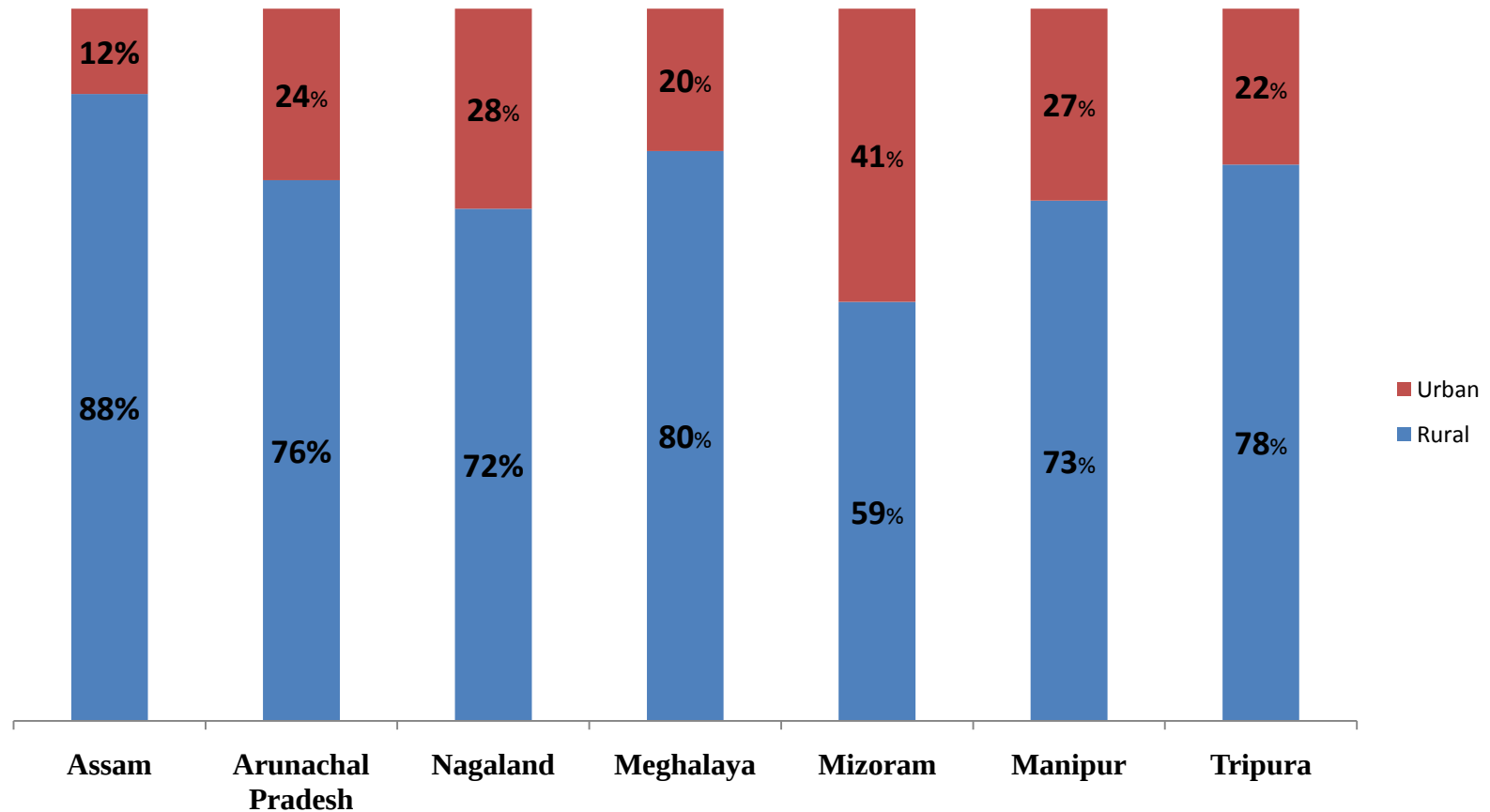
Name of the states	Total Female Population	Total Female Population in age group 16-20 years	Female Population in urban areas	Female Population in rural areas
Assam	1.52 crores	16,28,000	1,92,060	14,36,021
Arunachal Pradesh	7,00,000	87,109	21,197	65,912
Nagaland	10,00,000	1,17,427	33,339	84,088
Meghalaya	1,79,102	2,00,000	35,640	1,43,462
Mizoram	5,50,000	55,369	26,796	37,869
Manipur	14,00,000	1,50,088	40,319	1,09,769
Tripura	18,00,000	1,73,518	37,346	1,36,172

Source: <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-series/C-13.html>

Percentage share of Female Population aged 13-17 years in NER by place of residence

In this section, percentage share of female population aged 16-20 years is calculated by place of residence. This is done with the help of a graph.

Graph 1: Percentage share of female population (16-20 years) in NER by place of residence



Source: <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/C-series/C-13.html>

Current scenario of Nursing Education in North Eastern States of India

In this section, total number of nursing courses with total number of nursing institutes and the number of seats present is shown. State wise number of nursing institutes offering various nursing education courses and number of seats are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of Nursing Institute with seats for different courses offered in NER

Name of the States	Courses offered							
	A.N.M.		G.N.M.		B.Sc.		M.Sc.	
	Number of Institute	Total No. of Seats	Number of Institute	Total No. of Seats	Number of Institute	Total No. of Seats	Number of Institute	Total No. of Seats
Assam	13	335	26	820	6	260	3	51
Arunachal Pradesh	5	120	3	80	1	40	-	-
Nagaland	1	40	3	110	1	40	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	3	80	2	90	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	1	30	-	-	-	-
Manipur	6	145	9	260	2	90	-	-
Tripura	2	70	2	90	2	90	2	22

Source: <http://www.indiannursingcouncil.org>

STANDARD NUMBER OF SEATS FOR NURSING COURSES AS PER INC NORMS

- A.N.M. – 60 seats
- G.N.M. – 60 seats
- B.Sc. - 40 seats
- M.Sc.- 20 seats

Availability of seats for nursing education

An attempt was made to find out total number of females (16-20 years) willing to take nursing education and the total number of nursing institutes with total number of seats present for nursing in North Eastern States of India.

Table 3: Gap Analysis

List of the states	Total Number of Nursing Institutes	Total Number of Seats	Standard Number of seats	Gap
Arunachal Pradesh	4	240	520	280
Assam	30	1466	2640	1174
Nagaland	3	190	280	90
Meghalaya	3	170	260	90
Manipur	17	495	980	485
Mizoram	1	30	60	30
Tripura	3	272	360	88

Source: <http://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/pdf/guidelines-pdf>

KEY FINDINGS

- a) There is a shortage of Nursing Institutes present in the North Eastern Region of India as compared to the number of courses being offered.
- b) Total number of seats present for nursing education are not sufficient as compared to standard number of seats as per INC norms. This creates gap.
- c) Major part of the population come from rural areas. This causes a great hindrance in providing them with proper Nursing Education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is clear from the above mentioned facts that there is an abysmal gap between what exists and what actually should be there in relation to the number of Nursing Institutes and total number of seats present.
- The first thing to be done is to provide students with opportunities by increasing the number of seats to an optimum level so that there is no shortage of seats in these states.

It is important to find out options to overcome the gap. In specific two options can be considered as detailed below:

Option 1: It shall be proposed that a network of Hospitals across India would reserve a certain number of seats for students from the North East; to begin with from Manipur. These seats could be reserved for the ANM / GNM / BSc / MSc course, as deemed appropriate.

Option 2: It shall be proposed that the existing four year BSc Nursing programme is re-structured such that the first two years focus on theory (and practical in Labs; soft skills) and the next two years focus on clinical practice (as a Nursing Assistant at an empanelled hospital, outside the North East Region).

PRE-REQUISITES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

In the above mentioned options, it shall be ensured that the requirements as per the Nursing Council's requirements are met. However, it is to be noted that for this option, approvals will be required from the Manipur State Nursing Council, the destination state Nursing Council, the Indian Nursing Council and the degree granting University. In order to overcome these problems, following steps shall be taken:

- Institutional Branding in these states shall be done. Institutes from all over India shall be advertised and branded in the North Eastern States of India. This would increase the scope and eventually the level of Nursing Education.
- A requirement in the INC rules that the “distance between the college and the hospital should not be more than 50 kms (for hilly regions)” shall need to be relaxed for the students from the NE.

THANK YOU