



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# NURSING AS A PROFESSION OF BROAD RECOGNITION IN SOCIAL AND HUMANISTIC ASPECTS IN MANABÍ, ECUADOR

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### ABSTRACT

Nursing was born as a profession in the 1800s, under the influence of the British educational model, because of the rapid social and technological changes that took place at that time. Such a profession began to be manipulated almost immediately by other social groups, making it susceptible to be controlled by doctors and hospital administrators. Florence Nightingale is recognized as a pioneer. The people who work in nursing, for the most part are women, influenced by the social definitions of what is a woman and what should be. One of the main obstacles to developing a professional image and autonomy of women has been the willingness to accept a secondary place, to have less power and to be under the authority of men. The assumption that the female nurse is a second-class job represents a barrier to recruiting, retaining staff and improving the profession's image. The public image of women begins to gain recognition in recent years. It is not until the end of the last century and until the first decade of 2000 that in Ecuador the awakening of a social recognition of the nurses, extended to other countries. It is appreciated that the social image of nursing in Costa Rica is distorted and far from the current mission of Costa Rican nursing, represented in the mission of the College of Nurses and Nurses of Costa Rica, which tells us that nursing is oriented to respond to health needs and problems associated with population in different scenarios and is characterized by humanism, critical judgment, ethical and scientific, innovation, creativity and proactivity. (College of Nurses and Nurses of Costa Rica, 2013) But have we stopped to think about the origin of this social image that is not precise?

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## INTRODUCTION

Nursing was born as a profession in the 1800s, under the influence of the British educational model, because of the rapid social and technological changes that took place at that time. Such a profession began to be manipulated almost immediately by other social groups, making it susceptible to be controlled by doctors and hospital administrators. Florence Nightingale is recognized as a pioneer. The people who work in nursing, for the most part are women, influenced by the social definitions of what is a woman and what should be. One of the main obstacles to developing a professional image and autonomy of women has been the willingness to accept a secondary place, to have less power and to be under the authority of men. The assumption that the female nurse is a second-class job represents a barrier to recruiting, retaining staff and improving the profession's image. (Solano López and Ana Laura, 2012) The public image of women begins to gain recognition in

recent years. It is not until the end of the last century and until the first decade of 2000 that in Ecuador the awakening of a social recognition of the nurses, extended to other countries. It is appreciated that the social image of nursing in Costa Rica is distorted and far from the current mission of Costa Rican nursing, represented in the mission of the College of Nurses and Nurses of Costa Rica, which tells us that nursing is oriented to respond to health needs and problems associated with population in different scenarios and is characterized by humanism, critical judgment, ethical and scientific, innovation, creativity and proactivity. (College of Nurses and Nurses of Costa Rica, 2013) But have we stopped to think about the origin of this social image that is not precise? (Calvo Calvo, 2005) At the beginning of the present decade, when we began this line of work on the public image of nurses, we argued that nurses had advanced enormously in recent years but were still not satisfied with society's knowledge of our profession, our social image and for the consequent social and professional recognition that was dispensed to us. We also affirmed that the problem basically originated from the fact that society did not yet know our true identity, especially our contributions to the

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health of people and the community, and the image that had been created about nurses was not adjusted to reality at least, because that image that the public had elaborated on us in their minds did not coincide with our true identity. (Errasti – Ibarondo *et al.*, 2012) If we do not overcome the socio-historical prejudices handed down from generation to generation at the level of society as a whole, although to a lesser extent today, the goal of gaining the recognition and prestige that is desired, as a human right and in particular of women, can not be achieved. In principle, everyone has an idea of what nursing is and what its role in society is. However, from the usual interpretations of the population, it can be deduced that it is a profession that is deeply unknown, with certain stereotypes still having nothing to do with what it is today, and with the projection it has for the future. The contribution of the nurses to the solution of the problems of health is undeniable, as well as the work in defense of the life and health of the children, the families and in general of the human being, criterion which shows relevance and timeliness of the study. The critical and purposeful analysis on the participation of these professionals tends to revalue the knowledge of these as a source of political - social influence, of identity and love for work, placing them in a favorable situation of recognition and social importance. Similarly, nursing professionals contribute to improving creativity and high quality service, which is evidenced in a proposal for more humane nursing care, for the benefit of the population, under a humanistic and transformative philosophy that values the identity, the self-esteem and the social recognition of the professional of nursing, through suggestions to increase in the academic pensum of Nursing school.

### General objective

To value the social recognition that the exercise of the nursing profession has, in particular from the status reached by the graduates of the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí during the period 2004 - 2014.

### Scientific Questions

1. What are the theoretical criteria that support the study on the social recognition of Nursing as a profession of broad social and service provision to the population?
2. What is the behavior of the indicators that support the social recognition of the nurses by the population of Manabí?
3. How do the professional development indicators of nursing graduates of the ULEAM in the period 2004 - 2014 behave?
4. What is the criterion of users, patients, and relatives about the professional quality of nursing graduates in the period studied?

### Sample

The graduates of Nursing School of Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí (ULEAM) of the city of Manta, Manabí, Republic of Ecuador, were taken in the period 2004 - 2014, represented in a total of 162 subjects, which represents 59.34% of the total. Four heads of the nursing departments, one dean, one director of Nursing School of the ULEAM and one from the Universidad Técnica de Manabí, a nurse with occupation

and recognition at national level and a delegate of the Ministry of Health Public.

### Methodology

The factual study is carried out during the months of February to August 2014. Interviews were conducted with patients who attended outpatient care and in patient setting including the relatives of the patients in the hospital "Rodríguez Zambrano" in the city of Manta, Manabí. A survey was applied to users, patients and families, with the aim of compiling criteria referring to the recognition and assessment of nursing professionals. It also applies interviewing work guides, for focus groups of 10 people located in teaching, service, guild and others who are not exercising.

### The research work is carried out from the following perspectives

Qualitative - quantitative research: We interpreted results and statistical data that reflect the situation of the subject of study. Processing and analysis: Several statisticians were applied for data processing, using SPSS statistical program.

### Main results of the study

#### Main motivations of the graduates to start nursing school

According to the study and the data provided by the graduates through the survey, 51.23% of the total sample, raises that chose the career of Nursing by vocation, a value that is not high, if taken into consideration, that from this date a whole system of training and education of university students is developed, and recognizing the role that motivation plays as a driving force for the performance of the subject, it is evident that a greater effort is required in relation to the vocational training activities of young people who aspire to the career, so that from the very beginning they can show greater effort and achievement of academic and pre - professional performance.

#### Distribution of the population by age group of the graduates

According to the results obtained in the study, it is observed that in the period from 2004 to 2014, there is a predominance of female graduates represented by 97.53% of the total, with a male population of only 2.47% which clearly indicates that regardless of whether the difference is in favor of female representatives, occupational occupation is not absolute, a question that constitutes a citizen right, therefore the idea is to encourage boys and girls to join the nursing career. On the other hand, the prevailing age group is 40-44 years old, with 58 graduates (one male), who represent 35.81% of the total number of graduates in the period studied. Then comes the age group between 30 and 24 years of age, with a total of 33 graduates representing 20.37% of the total. One of the criteria shows the sustainability of the contributions and experiences that remain to be fulfilled to the nursing professionals studied during the active life, since the number of graduates with more than 45 and even more than 50 is very low, with only 21 of the 164 graduates. As professional development should increase in the coming years.

### Distribution of the population according to the academic degree that the graduates have

According to the study, it is evidenced that up to 2014, the professional training behavior is insufficient, since it is shown that 88.89% of the population obtains its academic title of graduated in nursing and until there they've marked the levels of professional development, due to the lack of figures indicating an interest or possibilities of adequate continuous training in the area of nursing, since a total of 144 graduates, representing 88.89% of the total sample, mark the academic qualification in the province of Manabí and in particular in the city of Manta. This is an alert for the reflection of the authorities of the provincial public health institutions and universities, so that strategies of continuous improvement that contribute to the advancement in the professional quality of the graduates, and indeed, to the quality of health care for the population in Manabi. On the other hand, 1.23% are nurses and a significantly lower percentage of 0.62% corresponds to the level of specialist, which leads one to think that the professional once graduated from the degree, is satisfied with his title of third level.

### Distribution of the population according to the position held by the graduates

Of the results obtained in the survey it is highlighted that the highest percentage of professionals work as members of a health team with 65.43%, as well as the percentage of nursing services leader, represented by 84.22%. On the other hand, administrative positions, coordinators and academics were observed with 0.62%, indicating that the representation of nursing professionals in administrative positions is insufficient. These data are related to previous statistics shown by the Ministry of Public Health in Ecuador. (Table No. 1)

**Table 1. Distribution of the population according to the position held by graduates of the faculty of nursing of Manta period 2004-2014**

Professional position	Total	%
Management coordinator	3	1.85
Leader of nursing services	37	22.84
Program coordinators	9	5.56
Members of the health team	106	65.43
Academic coordinator	2	1.23
Scientific research coordinator	3	1.85
Director of nursing school	1	0.62
Dean of nursing school	1	0.62
Total	162	100

**Table 2. Criteria of users, patients and relatives linked to the social recognition of nurses**

Answers	Frequency	%
Excellent	21	22.10
Very good	48	50.52
Good	16	16.84
Regular	12	12.63
Bad	3	0.31
Total	95	100

### Distribution of nursing graduates of the ULEAM from 2004-2014 in educational activities

The results of the study show a wide active participation of ULEAM nursing graduates in educational activities, where 34.14% participate in Interinstitutional Committee and 28.57% in university teaching activity. On the other hand, 2.86% of all

graduates carry out educational activities in schools and municipalities. It is necessary to clarify that the interinstitutional education is part of the work in curative and preventive attention, as well as to supervise and advise the student who performs internships for services or communities, as is the case of the rotating intern year.

### Criteria of users, patients and relatives linked to the social recognition of nurses

As one of the indicators of greater connotation in the study, it can be observed that when the survey is applied to users, patients and their relatives, it can be observed that the contribution and valuation of the population attended by nurses and nurses is very good, according to 50.52% of the total of respondents, likewise to a lesser extent, the recognition of professionals by the population is described as excellent, with such data, it can be said that regardless of the shortcomings in other criteria, such as overcoming and management positions that reach nursing professionals, it is fair to recognize the human and sensitive character of those who care, protect and educate the population that attends the hospitals and health centers in Manabi. Regardless of this, the negative criteria that may always exist in the population surrounding the nursing professional should not be ignored. (Table No. 2)

### Conclusion

- When evaluating the criteria of the graduates in reference to the main motivations about the career they studied, it was evident that the process of vocational training developed with the young people who aspire to the career is insufficient, as strategies of the entities hospital and health services in conjunction with the university, in order to promote the interest and vocation for the study of the degree in nursing.
- The highest percentage of nursing professionals graduated in the sample studied, correspond is female, however this is not absolute, since the vocational orientation of young men must be stimulated to the study of the career, since constitutes a right and a pressing social need.
- There is still insufficient number of professionals who enter to complete their training, as well as those who have access to a diploma, specialty or master's and doctorate, because it is urgent, the need to establish a system of continuous training that guarantees the elevation of the scientific - professional quality of nurses in the province of Manabí, Republic of Ecuador.
- Participation in educational activities is carried out by the Inter-Institutional Committee, university teaching and a lower percentage by schools and municipalities, as well as supervising and advising the student who performs internships for services or communities such as the interns.
- It is evident in the study that the nurses enjoy a high social recognition, due to the important contributions and humanistic character they show during the fulfillment of the exercise of their profession.

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