

# History

## of nursing in india



Nursing in India is the practice of care for medical patients in that nation. Its history indicates that the principles and practices of nursing are ancient. These ancient nursing practices are so clear, intelligent and scientific, that many of them might fit into any of the modern textbook. Prior to the 20th century, Indian nurses were usually young men, and only in special cases, women were taken for conducting childbirth. The progress of nursing in India was obstructed by the low status of women, the caste system, illiteracy and political unrest.

**Florence Nightingale** was the first woman to have great influence over nursing in India and had a close knowledge of Indian conditions, especially army. She was interested in the nursing service for the civilian population, though her first interest was the welfare of the army in India. In 1865, Nightingale drew up some detailed "Suggestions on a system of nursing for hospitals in India". Graduates were sent out from the Nightingale School of Nurses at St. Thomas Hospital, England to start similar schools in India. St Stephens Hospital at Delhi was the first one to begin training the Indian women as nurses in 1867.

In 1871, the first School of Nursing was started in Government General Hospital, Madras with a 6 month Diploma Midwives program with four students.

Four female Superintendents and four trained nurses from England were posted to Madras. Between 1890 and 1900, many schools, under either missions or government, were started in various parts of India. In the yearly twentieth century, National Nursing Associations were started.

In 1926, Madras State formed the first registration council to provide basic standards in education and training. The first four year Bachelor Degree program was established in 1946 at the college of nursing in Delhi and Vellore. The Indian Nursing Council was passed by ordinance on December 31, 1947. The council was constituted in 1949. The first master's degree course, a two-year postgraduate program was begun in 1960 at the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing, Delhi. In 1963, the School of Nursing in Trivandrum, instituted the first two year post certificate Bachelor Degree program.

