



SURVEY OF NURSING RESOURCES AND NEEDS
O LEVANTAMENTO DE RECURSOS E NECESSIDADES DE ENFERMAGEM
EL LEVANTAMIENTO DE RECURSOS Y NECESIDADES DE ENFERMERÍA

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to analyze the process of implementing the research for the survey of nursing resources and needs in Brazil, which took place between 1956 and 1958. **Method:** this was a social-historical research based on documentary analysis. The work << *Survey of nursing resources and needs in Brazil* >> edited by the ABEn in 1980 was used as the preferred source. The analysis and interpretation of information were based through the search of links between information in documents and historiographical production over the studied theme. **Results:** the survey developed during the period from 1956 to 1958 answered the needs and demands about the numerical and qualitative situation of nursing staff and services in the country. **Conclusion:** the Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil portrayed the Brazilian nursing activity until 1956 and stitched together in its report 46 recommendations aimed at institutions that have structured the field of nursing until those days. **Descriptors:** Nursing Research; History of Nursing; Nursing.

RESUMO

Objetivo: analisar o processo de execução da pesquisa Levantamento de Recursos e Necessidades de Enfermagem no Brasil, ocorrida no período de 1956 a 1958. **Método:** investigação de natureza histórico-social, cujo desenvolvimento apoiou-se na análise documental. Como fonte preferencial utilizou-se a obra << *Levantamento de Recursos e Necessidades de Enfermagem no Brasil* >>, editada pela ABEn no ano de 1980. A análise e interpretação das informações foram realizadas pela busca de nexos entre as informações nos documentos e a produção historiográfica do tema em questão. **Resultados:** desenvolvido no período de 1956 a 1958, o Levantamento atendeu às necessidades e demandas acerca da situação numérica e qualitativa do pessoal e dos serviços de enfermagem no país. **Conclusão:** o Levantamento de Recursos e Necessidades de Enfermagem no Brasil retratou a Enfermagem brasileira até o ano de 1956, e alinhou, em seu relatório, 46 recomendações, destinadas às instituições que estruturaram o campo da enfermagem até aqueles dias. **Descritores:** Pesquisa em Enfermagem; História da Enfermagem; Enfermagem.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: analizar el proceso de ejecución de la investigación Levantamiento de Recursos y Necesidades de enfermería en Brasil, realizada entre 1956 y 1958. **Metodología:** investigación histórico-social, cuyo desarrollo se centró en el análisis documental. Preferencialmente se utilizó como fuente la obra << *Levantamiento de Recursos y Necesidades de Enfermería en Brasil* >>, publicada por la ABEn en 1980. El análisis y la interpretación de las informaciones fueron realizados a través de la búsqueda de conexiones entre las informaciones y los documentos y la producción historiográfica del tema abordado. **Resultados:** desarrollado entre 1956 y 1958, el Levantamiento atendió las necesidades y demandas respecto a la situación numérica y cualitativa del personal y de los servicios de enfermería en el país. **Conclusión:** el Levantamiento de Recursos y Necesidades de Enfermería en Brasil describió la Enfermería brasileña hasta el año 1956 y delineó en su relatorio 46 recomendaciones, direccionadas a las instituciones que estructuraron el campo de enfermería hasta aquellos días. **Descriptores:** Investigación en Enfermería; Historia de la Enfermería; Enfermería.

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INTRODUCTION

To revisit the research "Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil", which took place during the period from 1956 to 1958, is necessary for the understanding of our past and development and planning for this profession in addition to being a current theme due to the occurrence of new research with these characteristics named "Profile of Nursing in Brazil" carried out by FIOCRUZ.

The Brazilian Association of Nursing (ABEn) has always been charged to provide complete information about the situation of Nursing in Brazil. Several demands, national and international, have occurred until the Association could execute a study on the theme.

Some attempts have been made, such as the study named "Census Survey" developed by Izaura Barbosa Lima in 1950. Another initiative was a survey to estimate the numerical needs of nursing staff, directed by Haydée G. Dourado, in 1952. Both, however, faced difficulties in execution because of limitations that restricted the activities of the Association. Thus, these studies presented fragilities in their results and did not satisfy the nursing requirements at the time.

Therefore, the Association always charged to provide this information, until then, had not achieved a complete study that could meet the needs of the profession and of institutions that had interest in such data. The reason was well-known: lack of resources and appropriate structure to develop a work of such magnitude.

The demands were also clear. There was a latent need to know the real situation of nursing through a study that would scrutinize the reality of the sector. Only then, would it be possible to properly plan the future of Brazilian nursing. Thus, the fight and search for resources began together with the construction of networks with various institutions, departments, agents, and social fields. The purpose of this mobilization was to perform a research with the accurate portrayal of the nursing practiced in the country.

The "Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil" - a highlighted research on Brazilian nursing with national coverage and executed with all the scientific and methodological rigor by the ABEn, with technical and financial support of international and national institutions, constitutes the object of the present study to deepen the knowledge of the aspects involved.

In this study, we chose to define the period from 1956 to 1958 as the temporal delimitation; these years marked the beginning and end of the execution of the research named "Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil", which will be here identified only as "Survey" or LRNEB to improve readability. Such temporal delimitation was necessary to better understand the LRNEB conditions of production.

To operationalize the study, the following **objective** was defined: to analyze the process of execution of the research "Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil", which took place during the period from 1956 to 1958.

In addition to being just a discipline, the history of nursing has been a fundamental tool of research for the elucidation of facts and underlying phenomena in the development of nursing. In this study, through one of the most important publications about Brazilian nursing, we assumed the challenge of complementing the nursing historiography about the research in question, in addition to point out that the overwhelming expansion of nursing education in Brazil in the last 10 ten years, established by the National Institute of Educational Studies and Research of the Ministry of Education and Culture, imposes new research about the situation of Nursing in Brazil on the entities representing the profession with the same or greater dimension than that of the LRNEB in the 1950's decade.

Conversely, the representations of Brazilian nursing can look forward to the strengthening of doctors in nursing who provide relevant contributions to the construction of knowledge in the current healthcare¹⁻² because the role of the educational system as a strategic part of the socioeconomic and cultural development of the Brazilian society is increasingly clear.³ The spokespersons of the profession, who coordinated the Survey, did not have intellectual resources at the time of the LRNEB completion.

MÉTHOD

Article prepared from the dissertation << Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil: book research (1956-1980) >>, presented to the Graduate School of Nursing, Master's degree application, from the Center for BioSciences and Health at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro State - UNIRIO. Rio de Janeiro-RJ, Brazil. 2011

This is a study of social-historical nature based on documentary analysis.⁴⁻⁵ The written records were considered as documents that

could be used as source of information. Through these documents, it was possible to identify principles and rules driving relations that were settled among the different groups.⁶ However, the documents were also seen as something that could be analyzed, interpreted, and understood for the production of new knowledge. Thus, the proposal for document analysis in historical research is that a text is always the bearer of a speech, and if considered as such, it cannot be seen as something transparent.⁷

The work entitled "Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil", edited by ABEn in the year 1980, was used as the preferred source in this study. A copy of this work, obtained in the ABEn library in Brasília, was used during the execution of this study. Other documents were used to compose the analysis of conditions of study execution that resulted in that publication. These sources were reports, proceedings, and publications gathered in the ABEn-RJ library. The following collections were also used: Laboratory of Scientific Approaches in the History of Nursing - Lacenf from the EEAP - UNIRIO; EEAN Library - UFRJ; and personal files from researchers.

The analysis and interpretation of information were made through the search of links between information obtained in the documents and the historiographical production of the theme.⁸

After gathering, criticizing, and dissecting the set of available documents, the historical operations consisted in establishing threads between the various components of the studied subject and build a speech attributing coherence and meaning.⁹

Because this was a documental research, the study did not need to be submitted to the Ethics Committee; however the researchers followed the ethical principles of the 196/96 resolution of the National Health Council.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

♦ Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil

The description of the LRNEB process of execution during the period from 1956 to 1958 involved the characterization of the organization of works, objectives, methods, and techniques used, and assessment of roles of the various entities that joined together to put this first nursing research into practice at the national level.

This survey originated in the class's aspiration stated as a resolution in the VII National Congress of Nursing, held in São Paulo, in August 1954. The Survey flourished

from various demands and years of fighting on behalf of attempts in carrying out a study of this kind.¹⁰

The ABEn President, Maria Rosa S. Pinheiro (1st turn - 8/21/1954 to 10/20/1956), stated the following when reporting to the General Assembly of the Association about the activities undertaken by the Office in the period of 1954-1955:

The recommendations of the VII National Congress of Nursing that concerned us have been obeyed. We wish, however, to make a special mention to the hardest of all: the study on resources and needs of nursing in Brazil. Because this is a long-running project, difficult, and expensive we wouldn't be able to do it alone. Since August 1954, we have knocked several doors requesting aid. The first were the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and CAPES, to which we sent a report exposing our goals. Knowledgeable of our efforts, the Rockefeller Foundation was interested in the subject and volunteered to fund the project. The preliminary understandings have been made and the study will soon start. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau will send a nurse to work with us. We hope that the Ministries of Education and Health, CAPES, and SESP also cooperate. This is the biggest enterprise in which the Brazilian Nursing Association has so far has been involved. ^{11: 280}

The ABEn president started looking for resources to carry out the Survey just a month after the closure of the VII Congress. The World Health Organization (WHO), Rockefeller Foundation, Ministries of Education and Culture (MEC), and Health (MS), CAPES, and the Special Public Health Service (SESP) were asked to help. It is worth mentioning that CAPES, in 1952, directed a consultation on the same subject to ABEn to program the action of this institution in the improvement of nursing education. WHO, through its regional Office for the Americas (Pan American Sanitary Bureau) and the Rockefeller Foundation, mortgaged that support, offering the latter, in 1955, to supply the necessary financial resources, till then, so difficult to obtain.¹⁰

Instead of denying the execution of the study based on difficulties to face, Maria Rosa S. Pinheiro sought to return requests for help/resources to the demanding ones, thus creating an environment of commitment of all institutions with nursing. Therefore, this research became a political issue of national and international interest for health, education, and nursing.

In July of 1955, the ABEn President and Vice-President, Maria Rosa S. Pinheiro and Haydée G. Dourado, respectively, met with

leaders of the organizations mentioned and the initial steps were settle including the establishment of the maximum resolution council formed by representatives of these organizations. Subsequently, this Council would have one more member, a representative of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).¹⁰

The understandings that resulted from this meeting led to the confirmation that the project could be accomplished and that the ABEn should take responsibility for the study. This entity should also resort to the Rockefeller Foundation to obtain the necessary financial resources, in addition to consult the WHO, through the Ministry of Health, about the possibility of obtaining technical assistance from that institution. At that same meeting, the establishment of the Board of Directors of the Survey was decided as being the body of deliberation, which would be formed by a minimum of seven members: the representatives from the institutions present at the meeting, from the Ministries of Health, Education, and Culture, and CAPES. Later, representatives of IBGE were invited raising from seven to eight the represented institutions.^{10,12}

Two provisions related to staff were taken at the time of the process. The indication of a nurse with specialized expertise in social sciences to conduct the Survey; this nurse was appointed by the Board of Directors of Courses of the National Department of Health. This professional should do an internship of three months for observation of nursing surveys in the United States. The second provision was to request the technical assistance of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, through a nurse consultant with experience in studies of this nature to collaborate with the working team.¹⁰

Haydée G. Dourado was nominated to coordinate the work and act as Director of the Survey, ceded by the Board of Directors of Courses of the National Department of Health from the Ministry of Health. In order to better prepare for the work and, thanks to a scholarship offered by the Rockefeller Foundation, Haydée was trained from October to December of 1955 in the Nursing Resources Division of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare of the United States.¹²

In mid-July of 1955, the Rockefeller Foundation¹³ welcomed, preliminarily, in the following terms, the request formulated by the ABEn President:

This Foundation has always had a genuine interest in nursing in general. Our participation in this field come a long way,

either through direct collaboration with nursing education institutions, whether through training or enhancement of nurses. We hope, however, in the future, to determine our actions for a more precise knowledge of the situation of nursing in this country, and so we are pleased to see that the ABEn is determined to perform the study in question.^{10:06}

Before the beginning of the work, ABEn acquired one more technician for the executive group, a nurse with extensive experience in public health - Zilda Carvalho Hughes, who, from the beginning, took immediate responsibility for the technical work. Subsequently, in February of 1957, this position was vacant because of her absence in the country; however, the position was filled by another nurse, Maria de Lourdes Verderese, also with great professional experience.¹⁰

This group formed the LRNEB Executive Board established in April of 1956 with the following members: President, Maria Rosa S. Pinheiro; Director, Haydée G. Dourado; Vice-director, Zilda Carvalho Hughes, until 1956, and Maria de Lourdes Verderese, from 1957 on, both as immediate supervisors of the technical work.¹²

In addition to participating on the Board of Directors of the Survey and to welcoming the executive group in its own headquarters, the Rockefeller Foundation provided the financial assistance in two donations: the first, in 1956, of ten thousand dollars, and the second, in 1957, of thirty thousand dollars, making a total of forty thousand dollars.¹⁰

♦ Organization of the work

The central body in charge of the execution of the work was named "Center for the Survey of Nursing Resources and Needs in Brazil". This center was comprised of two associated boards, one in charge of coordination of technical services, and the other of outreach activities composed of one field supervisor, three field researchers, and secretarial and promotion personnel. This group was joined by the WHO advisor and a technician from IBGE.¹⁰

The presidency of this group was the ABEn president who only participated in the elaboration of norms without taking an active part in the implementation of work.¹⁰

A technical committee composed of a statistician, sampling technician, sociologists, hospital administrators, sanitary doctors, hospital and public health nurses, and nursing educators was formed to assist the group in the Survey Center.¹⁰

The Board of Directors, with 11 members and a Board of Contributors with 79 members,

participated in the normative activities; the first giving approval, and the second with suggestions and perspectives of its members.¹⁰

The early months of 1956 were dedicated to tasks of planning and organizing the Center including the gradual admission of personnel deemed necessary and able to conduct a socio-professional research.¹²

In April of 1956, the ABEn President, Maria Rosa S. Pinheiro, the survey director, Haydée G. Dourado, and Zilda Carvalho Hughes officially began the study with the integration of the nursing group to the works and determination of the survey's objectives, which was to determine the resources and needs of nursing in Brazil.^{10,12}

Thus, the study, conducted under the responsibility of the ABEn, relied on the technical assistance mainly from WHO and IBGE, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. The work received the collaboration of a large number of other public and private institutions, civil and religious, and was executed by the Center, the agency to which the ABEn delegated the investigation work. The latter operated with an executive office linked to two councils already mentioned: the Board of Directors and the Board of Contributors.¹²

The Center was installed in a room ceded by the Rockefeller Foundation, where it operated until October 31 of 1958, when it became one of the rooms of the ABEn's headquarters in Rio de Janeiro.¹²

♦ Objectives, methods, and techniques

The work published by ABEn¹⁰ and other sources that discuss the subject clearly illustrate the unfolding of the unprecedented Survey drawn in the country, concerning activities related to nursing. The central objective of the survey was to gather data that allowed the ABEn to plan improvements in nursing services rendered to the public in the country. The lack of facts necessary to the understanding of some phenomena, observed during the development of nursing, and the convenience of a joint assessment of aspects in the teaching and practice of the profession, which hold relations of interdependence, served as immediate reasons.¹⁰

Despite the ABEn's statute of not mentioning the planning for improvement of nursing services, among its specific purposes, provided to the public of the country - which formed the basis for the construction of the central Survey's objective - the completion of that study was to meet other objectives of the Association. Among them, the Association's publication was highlighted as "to study all

subjects of interest to the profession, collaborating with the authorities in solving related problems".^{14: 63}

The related objectives can be summarized as:

"1) To determine the human potential prepared to perform in nursing, its distribution among various fields and additional preparation, as well as the possibility of reversion to practice by those who are in inactivity; 2) To know the current organization and functioning of hospital and public health nursing services, the contingent and nursing staff of different categories, their preparation and working conditions in addition to determining the main current needs in these services; 3) To know the training centers for nurses and nursing assistants, as for their material structure and organization, technical and financial resources, and potential registration candidates; 4) To confront the progress of nursing with the conditions of the country such as demographic, health, and literacy indexes, technological and economic resources".^{10:07}

The specific objectives of the survey were also defined in each area of work explaining the aspects to be investigated, techniques to be adopted and expected limitations.¹⁰

However, it was also necessary to obtain, in the country, especially from the medical class from large areas of public administration, and of the class of nurses and related professionals, not only a public opinion favorable to the survey, but also information about how to awaken the interest and goodwill of potential collaborators. The dissemination activities that were constant from the beginning until the end of the work deserved particular attention through the personal publicity, advertising posters, and flyers, and through newspapers and television images.¹⁰

After the collection of new data and the gathering of existing data, the elaboration of instruments for the collection of the necessary additional data initiated in the form of printed questionnaires to be filled. Five surveys were established by the Survey Center, two of them in the selected sample and three addressed to the totality of cases. Thus, hospital and public health nursing services were studied through sampling. The following groups were studied based on surveys applied to all cases: active and inactive nurses; nursing schools; and schools and courses for nursing assistants. In each of the five parts of the LRNEB report, where the findings of the study are presented, reference to the techniques used was made.¹⁰

The general strategy of the survey was approved in October of 1956, after being studied by various experts in the areas of hospital care, public health, and nursing education, among others.¹²

A revision of the plan to limit the scope of the work was performed at the beginning of 1957 and data collection began in May.¹²

Nursing schools were visited, at least once, by a researcher from the Center to fill out questionnaires. Sister Helena Couto, representative of the Conference of Religious of Brazil in the Survey, assumed the responsibility of researching nursing schools belonging to religious congregations. Nursing Assistant schools received questionnaires sent by mail.¹²

The research was initiated throughout the country in February of 1957 through the ABEn sections, questionnaires about active and inactive nurses based on results found in the investigation about the number of graduates from nursing schools.¹²

The studies on the areas of Hospital and Public Health Nursing considered as the most complex were initiated in August of 1957. In the first semester of that year, the needed surveys were thoroughly planned, questionnaires were prepared, and samples were defined. Subsequently, four field researcher nurses, under the immediate responsibility of Olga Verderese, started the data collection in these two areas, with a forecast to finish in December of the same year, which only happened in January of the following year.¹²

The following excerpt is highlighted from the interview granted by Lourdes Torres to the Special Commission to Review the LRNEB Final Report:

Among the many difficulties we faced, one was referring to the distances. Traveling through Brazil in 1957 was not a joke. We, fortunately, used the air transportation that existed at the time, the REAL, which was almost everywhere in Brazil; where there was a field, a DC 3 would land [...]. A few times we surveyed the data together, i.e., the three nurses together; other times we were alone. I, for example, did the Midwest region alone. The difficulty was just arriving in places that had been assigned to be sampled. I traveled by DC 3, bus, trolley, jeep, train; I did not traveled by boat, but had to walk [...]. All that experience gained in only two years, approximately, provided me with a baggage of knowledge corresponding to ten years of normal professional activity, which, of course, evidently gave me great advantage in the professional career [...].^{1 2: 327}

As the data collection was completed for each of the surveys, the analysis and interpretation was followed by the Technical Section. The team statistician collaborated in the preparation of charts and graphs. Experts from various fields confirmed the interpretation of findings. One of the associated directors, head of the technical section, drafted the final report in its original form, which was submitted to the ABEn Board for review and broad examination to ensure a good interpretation of results.¹⁰

FINAL REMARKS

The ABEn had various requests through its history, of national and international character, concerning the numerical and qualitative situation of staff and nursing services in the country. The demands were the most diverse until the Association was able to organize and carry out a study in this regard.

The Survey was the research that answered those needs and demands. Developed during the period from 1956 to 1958, the LRNEB was carried out under the responsibility of the ABEn, with technical advice especially from WHO (Pan American Sanitary Bureau), Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC), Ministry of Health, Coordination for the Improvement of Advanced Education Personnel (CAPES), Public Health Special Service (SESP), and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The work was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and counted with the collaboration of a large number of other public and private institutions, civil and religious.

Considered as the first nursing research at the national level, the LRNEB portrayed the Brazilian nursing until 1956 and stitched together in its report, 46 recommendations aimed at the following institutions: Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Health, universities and legislators, Nursing Services in health facilities and hospitals, Conference of Religious of Brazil, institutions that held nursing schools, nursing and nursing assistant schools, and the ABEn.

To take the LRNEB's work as a source of study brought a special motivation. Despite being considered a milestone in the history of Brazilian nursing, this research still cited in the speech of several researchers, is virtually unknown to most professionals and did not receive recognition from those who work in the sector.

This can be changed in view of the occurrence in present days of new studies on Brazilian nursing after years of silence. The

study named "Profile of Nursing in Brazil", with objectives of analyzing the current situation of nursing in our country to understand its dynamic in the recent socio-economic and political context, is being conducted by FIOCRUZ with various partnerships such as the LRNEB and the "Practice of Brazilian Nursing in Health Institutions of Brazil: 1982/1883", performed by COFEn.

This initiative contributes to a greater appreciation of the profession in the sense that seeks to update information about it, favoring new planning and organization of policies, in addition to point out trends and perspectives. Furthermore, it contributes to the professional memory as a way to enhance its identity that remains in constant process of construction.

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