



# Journal of Nursing

Revista de Enfermagem

UFPE On Line

ISSN: 1981-8963

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSING: 85 YEARS OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, PARTICIPATION AND STRUGGLES

#### ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE ENFERMAGEM: 85 ANOS DE RESPONSABILIDADE SOCIAL, PARTICIPAÇÃO E LUTA

#### ASOCIACIÓN BRASILEÑA DE ENFERMERÍA: 85 AÑOS DE RESPONSABILIDAD SOCIAL, PARTICIPACIÓN Y LUCHA

Diana Magna Fonseca da Cruz<sup>1</sup>, Fernanda Pereira Marinho<sup>2</sup>, Marta Silvânere Pereira<sup>3</sup>, Mayanne Santana de Araújo<sup>4</sup>, Patrícia Mariz de Medeiros<sup>5</sup>, Viviane Euzébia Pereira Santos<sup>6</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** to analyze the documents published by the Brazilian Association of Nursing that study about the entity and 85 years of social responsibility, participation and struggles. **Method:** documental study encompassing newspapers available electronically on ABEn site, following the protocol of pre-established research. We analyzed 26 publications, according to the inclusion criteria, exclusion and strategies for critical evaluation of the studies. **Results:** 370 stories were published, in the reports two thematic lines of operation ABEn were highlighted, which were important in the social construction of nursing: education and politics. **Conclusion:** it is expected to contribute to the dissemination and preservation of the memory through the struggles and achievements of entity, therefore, it has the scope to strengthen the actions and social and political participation, as well as encourage the engagement of academics, nurses and society in their struggles. **Descriptors:** Social Responsibility; Social Participation; Nursing.

#### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** analisar os documentos publicados pela Associação Brasileira de Enfermagem que versassem sobre a entidade e os 85 anos de responsabilidade social, participação e lutas. **Método:** estudo documental englobando jornais disponíveis eletronicamente no site da ABEn, seguindo protocolo de pesquisa pré-estabelecido. Analisou-se 26 publicações, de acordo com os critérios de inclusão, exclusão e estratégias para avaliação crítica dos estudos. **Resultados:** foram publicadas 370 notícias, destacou-se, nos informes, duas linhas temáticas de atuação da ABEn, as quais se mostram importantes na construção social da enfermagem: a educação e a política. **Conclusão:** espera-se contribuir com a divulgação e preservação da memória por meio das lutas e conquistas alcançadas pela entidade, consequentemente, tem-se o escopo de fortalecer as ações e participações sociais e políticas, bem como incentivar o engajamento dos acadêmicos, enfermeiros e sociedade em suas lutas. **Descritores:** Responsabilidade Social; Participação Social; Enfermagem.

#### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** analizar los documentos publicados por la Asociación Brasileña de Enfermería que estudiase sobre la entidad y los 85 años de responsabilidad social, participación y luchas. **Método:** estudio documental englobando periódicos disponibles electrónicamente en el site de la ABEn, siguiendo protocolo de investigación pre-establecido. Se analizaron 26 publicaciones, de acuerdo con los criterios de inclusión, exclusión y estrategias para evaluación crítica de los estudios. **Resultados:** fueron publicadas 370 noticias, se destacaron, en los informes, dos líneas temáticas de actuación de la ABEn, las cuales se muestran importantes en la construcción social de la enfermería: la educación y la política. **Conclusión:** se espera contribuir con la divulgación y preservación de la memoria por medio de las luchas y conquistas alcanzadas por la entidad, consecuentemente, se tiene el objetivo de fortalecer las acciones y participación sociales y políticas, así como incentivar el compromiso de los académicos, enfermeros y sociedad en sus luchas. **Descriptores:** Responsabilidad Social; Participación Social; Enfermería.

<sup>1</sup>Nurse, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [dianamagna@hotmail.com](mailto:dianamagna@hotmail.com); <sup>2</sup>Student, Graduate Nursing, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [nandamarinho\\_15@hotmail.com](mailto:nandamarinho_15@hotmail.com); <sup>3</sup>Student, Graduate Nursing, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [marta\\_silvanere@hotmail.com](mailto:marta_silvanere@hotmail.com); <sup>4</sup>Nurse, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [mayanne\\_meyne@hotmail.com](mailto:mayanne_meyne@hotmail.com); <sup>5</sup>Nurse, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [pattymmariz@hotmail.com](mailto:pattymmariz@hotmail.com); <sup>6</sup>Nurse, PhD in Nursing, Department of Nursing / Post Graduate Nursing, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte / PPGENF / UFRN. Natal (RN), Brazil. E-mail: [vivianeepsantos@gmail.com](mailto:vivianeepsantos@gmail.com)

## INTRODUCTION

Professional associations are those in which people gather in order to implement predominantly nonprofit cultural and welfare activities. It is a legal means directed towards the achievement of a common social goal and meet the interests of its members, the need for its legal existence, creating a statute that contemplates their activities.<sup>1</sup> In this scenario, it is essential to effective participation of its members in building their ethical behavior, allowing the strengthening of the profession.<sup>2</sup>

The creation of the Brazilian Nursing Association (ABEn) emerged from the need to foster an institution that brought together the newly formed Anna Nery School's nurses, even in 1925. Only in 1926, however, the entity is created under the name Association of Registered Nurses passing its name to Association, in 1954, during the VII National Congress of Nursing.<sup>3</sup>

The status of ABEn defines as an entity of cultural, scientific and political character with legal personality under private law, which brings together the different components of nursing subjects: "[...] *obstetrician nurse, technical nurses, nursing assistants and students of graduate and professional education qualification of technical nursing associated, individually and freely, for non-economic purposes.*"<sup>4:1</sup>

Therefore ABEn presents as a professional representation of nurses in the fight for their social, political, ethical and legal rights, as well as in defense of a more just and equal health for all.

Considering the importance of ABEn for the Brazilian nursing and the need to encourage participation category in building a strong and active representation elucidates the following question study << What is the social responsibility, participation and struggles that ABEn has developed during its 85 years of existence? >>

## OBJETIVE

- To analyze documents published by the entity that study on the subject, encompassing newspapers available electronically on ABEn site.

## METHOD

Documentary study about the social responsibility, participation and struggles that ABEn has developed during its 85 years of existence. The documentary research is characterized by the analysis of materials not yet received a detailed assessment or may be restated in accordance with the objectives of

the research.<sup>5</sup> This type of investigation selects, organizes, analyzes and interprets the raw data, so extract its direction and gives it scientific value. The documents can be first-hand sources, which have not undergone any analytical treatment, and official documents, newspaper reports, letters, contracts, diaries, films, photographs, recordings; or second hand sources, which are those that have been subjected to some analysis, such as research reports, company reports, statistical tables, among others.<sup>5</sup>

Such research started through the development of a specific protocol, which consists of a planning strategy to respond to the research question and define the structure of the research.<sup>6</sup> The documentary research protocol included the following items: objective, research question, search strategies (database descriptors controlled and uncontrolled), study selection (criteria for inclusion and exclusion) strategy for data collection, strategy for critical evaluation of the studies and data synthesis.

Data collection occurred in July 2012, in pairs, and it was held at the National ABEn site, namely: [www.abennacional.org.br](http://www.abennacional.org.br), providing the entity documents electronically with the use of newspapers in the present study.

Inclusion criteria were selected as: newspapers available electronically on ABEn site that study on social responsibility, participation and struggles during its 85 years of existence. For selection of stories to answer the established criteria, the papers were made available electronically accessed individually by analyzing all its contents in order to select the relevant research data.

After selection, the news were analyzed also in pairs, according to pre-established protocol, aiming to answer the study question. Thus, the final synthesis of the results was drafting tables to systematize research and presentation of final data, and graphs, aiming to facilitate the visualization of the results.

## RESULTS

The documentary analysis of newspapers ABEn totaled sample of 26 newspapers (100%), which main aspects were related to social responsibility, participation and membership in the struggles of nursing scenarios.

In this quantitative, 370 news were published, significant numbers that reveals that the primary role of ABEn disseminating updates pertaining to nursing. The characterization of selected documents are lying in Figure 1.

| Edition       | Year | ABEn´s Presindent         | News | Predominant issue       |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Year 44/Nº2   | 2002 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 14   | Education               |
| Year 45/Nº1   | 2002 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 20   | Political Participation |
| Year 45/Nº2   | 2003 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 16   | Political Participation |
| Year 45/Nº3   | 2003 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 14   | Education               |
| Year 45/Nº4   | 2003 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 18   | Political Participation |
| Year 46/Nº1   | 2003 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 15   | Education               |
| Year 46/Nº2   | 2004 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 11   | Education               |
| Year 46/Nº3   | 2004 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 13   | Political Participation |
| Year 47/Nº1   | 2005 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 16   | Education               |
| Year 47/Nº2   | 2005 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 12   | Political Participation |
| Year 47/Nº3   | 2005 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 14   | Political Participation |
| Year 48/Nº1-2 | 2006 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 14   | Political Participation |
| Year 48/Nº3   | 2006 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 12   | Political Participation |
| Year 48/Nº4   | 2006 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 14   | Education               |
| Year 49/Nº1   | 2007 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 17   | Political Participation |
| Year 49/Nº2   | 2007 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 15   | Political Participation |
| Year 49/Nº3-4 | 2007 | Francisca Valda da Silva  | 26   | Political Participation |
| Year 50/Nº4   | 2009 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 11   | Political Participation |
| Year 51/Nº1   |      |                           |      |                         |
| Year 50/Nº1   | 2008 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 17   | Political Participation |
| Year 50/Nº2   | 2008 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 14   | Education               |
| Year 51/Nº2   | 2009 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 15   | Political Participation |
| Year 51/Nº4   | 2009 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 10   | Political Participation |
| Year 52/Nº1   | 2010 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 14   | Education               |
| Year 52/Nº3   | 2009 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 10   | Political Participation |
| Year 52/Nº3   | 2010 | Maria Goretti David Lopes | 7    | Political Participation |
| Year 53/Nº2   | 2011 | Ivone evangelista Cabral  | 11   | Political Participation |

Figure 1. Characterization of the selected document research about 85 years of social responsibility, participation and struggles ABEn 2012.

According to the studies analyzed, there was a broad approach to the subject political participation, totaling eighteen newspapers (69.2 %), remaining eight papers that focused predominantly thematic education (30.7 %), demonstrating the growing concern of workers and nursing students in the search for improvements in working conditions and health.

According to the date, the time dimension ranged from 2002 to 2011 and there was greater posting of newspapers in ABEn site in 2003 and 2009, corresponding to four newspapers each (15.4%), followed by years 2005-2007, with three papers each (11.5%) and the years 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010, with two newspapers in each (7.7%) .

In 2011 there was only posting a newspaper (3.8 %). Until this date collection of studies, no newspaper was available in ABEn site in 2012. It was identified further that as regards the issue entitled "Year 52/No.3" , two different newspapers were found, but with the same title.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of the selected news allowed qualitatively to understand the experience of ABEn, with regard to social responsibility, participation and struggles throughout its years of existence. In other words, the documentary research elucidated documents which social scenarios in which the institution is acting and how it operates.

The analyzed reports elucidated two thematic lines of ABEn operation, which show

important and interdependent in the social construction of nursing: education and political participation. These thematic areas will be addressed separately, with the aim of facilitating the visualization of tissue elements in each pillar. It is noteworthy however, that such issues should not be included in a piecemeal, essential and fundamental components of a common theme: a social responsibility, participation and the struggles of the association under study. It is pertinent however, to be reflected initially on the relationship of these important themes in contemporary times.

The literature highlights that, whatever the professional practice, when it is characterized by disregard for the rights and duties of non-compliance; the environment that distinguishes it is the irresponsibility. Therefore, to overcome such barriers cannot be solely in the discourses and moralists proposals, but on the odd promotion and consolidation of a climate of ethical rigor being set up with necessary and urgent social and political transformations. These in turn can enable increasingly the building of a practice-oriented education responsibility, freedom from injustice and discrimination.<sup>7</sup> Relying on this idea of the educational process as a transformative and liberating practice, there is the proposed use of the Association, in nursing education as the main building for the social dimension of health, seen as a universal right instrument. Furthermore, the entity seeking the training and qualifications of the individual to act as co-responsible in

the implementation of education policy and health care.<sup>8</sup>

It is viewed that political participation and promoting critical educational actions when seized in a unifying sense, enable overcome the grave problems facing the country and other peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, which Brazil, especially at this historic time, has certain responsibility to find and share solutions focused on social interests.<sup>8</sup>

#### ◆ Social construction of nursing: reflections on education

The approaches to the lectured education in the texts of the analyzed newspapers allowed the realization that they revolve around a main purpose of the performance of ABEn: the training of human resources for health to the achievement of comprehensive care. This implies rethinking the ways how to structure the process of training of health professionals in the area today. In this sense, ABEn participated during his career, policies that resulted in actual changes in the training of health workers/nursing.<sup>9</sup>

The trajectory of the construction of political incentive to curricular changes in health courses (PRO- HEALTH) had the support of the organization studied, together with the Ministry of Health and other partners, who worked on the creation and implementation of programs to achieve process the involvement of SUS in the arrangement of the development of human resources for health, fulfilling the directive of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Brazil.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, ABEn actually participated in a second stage of the PRO-HEALTH, from the 53rd Brazilian Congress of Nursing in Curitiba - PR (2001) and the IV Brazilian Congress of United Network, in Londrina, PR (2001), when construction began on a strategic agenda involving partnerships committed to the process of creating the Incentive Program for Curricular Changes Courses in Nursing (PROENF).<sup>10</sup> In addition to operating in the pursuit of quality of training of nursing professionals, the association also brings in its history extremely important initiatives to promote continuing education of professionals.

It is noteworthy the initiative of Continuing Education in Nursing (IEPE), which is the creation of a network shared by ABEn and the Pan American Health Organization, through representation in Brazil as part of the Technical Cooperation Project in area of Human Resource Development, in order to support the training activities of nursing personnel in Brazil, including in its operation,

the creation of a website as the *homepage* ABEn segment.<sup>11</sup>

The analyzed reports also demonstrated another intrinsic to the social struggle of ABEn, due to the good quality of nurse's technical-scientific, ethics and political education: their professional development. This is guided in the view of nursing as a science that firm in knowledge construction, which in the logic of the current development is increasingly dynamic and challenging, will only succeed with the commitment of well-trained professionals, and encouraged to work in this building. In this context, the training must include nursing professionals able to respond to changing demands, resulting from the significant and profound changes wrought in this society in constant change and respond to new challenges that present themselves.<sup>12</sup> At this juncture, ABEn had built their participation, particularly through an ongoing commitment to the development of education and history of the construction of nursing knowledge and its dissemination among health professionals, as well as its application in nursing practice/health.

This aspect can be seen in documentary research through the organization in creating and maintaining the main body of the thesis area and its participation in the joint of the College of Graduate Engineers, Program Management during the 1986/1989 initiatives. This is a privileged space for technical and political development and capacity expansion formulation of the actors involved with the programs.<sup>13</sup> The commitment to the scientific development of the profession is demonstrated since 1947, in the first Brazilian Congress of Nursing (CBEn), when ABEn already recommended the importance of creating courses at postgraduate level.<sup>13</sup>

In 1961, the Law of Guidelines and Bases of Brazilian Education, Article 69, also referred to the postgraduate courses with a particular emphasis, showing a difference with these specialization and improvement. Considering that providing these courses teachers needed to develop research to increase production in nursing knowledge, the XVII Commission Themes CBEn/ABEn, in 1964, established as the central theme "Nursing Research", creating the possibility of publicizing and creating opportunities for the dissemination and exchange of experiences and research papers beside the category.<sup>13</sup>

Enhancing the recognition that scientific research is essential to the body of knowledge and development of the profession as well as participation in the creation of post-graduate, ABEn also proposed the creation of the Center

for Nursing Research (CEPEEn), a fact of great transcendence in nursing research process aimed, among other factors, to encourage the training of teachers and researchers and legitimize the publication of results from research conducted in nursing at the national level.<sup>14</sup>

It is still added the role of the Association, in articulating and supporting representations of nursing across the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) while legitimate authority to represent the class, devising initiatives to promote and scientific development as representation that defends the interests of the advancement of the profession and as a promoter of events which among other things, act as forums for true democratization and socialization of the interests of nursing.<sup>14</sup> Also, it is important to underline the democratization of knowledge promoted by the association, since this has a political guideline to promote the integration of all Brazilian regions in building a national policy for scientific and technological development which enhances the potential of each region and fosters effective coordination of actions by different public and private, local and regional actors as well as the dissemination and appropriation/incorporation of technical and scientific knowledge in nursing practice.<sup>13</sup>

It is noteworthy that the ability to articulate institutional and political actors give the conditions to increase the training of new researchers given the need for national coverage aiming to overcome the regional imbalances.<sup>13</sup> It is thus relevant contribution of ABEn in its historical trajectory, the appreciation of the educational processes of nursing as paths possibility advances the profession basing on sound scientific bases and defending a process improvement training, continuous and permanent education of all components of the subject nursing.

#### ♦ Social construction of nursing: reflections on the political participation

To be responsible for the development of a practical means, on one hand, the fulfillment of duties, on the other, the exercise of rights: the right to be treated with dignity by the organization for which is working, to be respected, to have a decent remuneration and finally recognized and respected all the rights that are guaranteed by law to guarantee the human and social life based on ethical and legal principles.<sup>7</sup>

From this assertion, it is seen that the responsible professional practice encompasses not only the technical skills to do their work, but also with respect to ensuring the employee has rights or professional needs. It is seen that the full exercise of their professional practice depends not only on the individual, because the rights that mainly speaks of fulfilling the role of other bodies, public and private depend. Thus, the pursuit of these rights across these instances, through political participation, is at the same time the duty and right of the citizen of any professional class.<sup>15</sup>

It was evident, from this perspective, that there are many challenges of nursing in the search for better conditions of work. In the context of public health, for example, the draft Classification of Nursing Practice in Public Health in Brazil (CIPESEC), developed from 1996 to 2000, a partnership of ABEn with the International Council of Nurses (ICN), with financial support of Kellogg Foundation, revealed among other issues that professionals remain in need of continuing education efficient systems, that the working conditions are inadequate and precarious and remuneration for work of nursing is low.<sup>15</sup>

In this context of political struggle, ABEn in 2003, during its management, defined as goals: to broaden alliances to defend the consolidation of nursing as a social practice; to strengthen the articulation of nursing with the users of the health system in the pursuit of quality care; to encourage participation category in social movements, under the guarantee of representation in national, state and local health councils and other institutions; to participate and articulate ABEn with society struggles of interest in health; and to participate in the struggle for constitutional guarantee and the consolidation of SUS.<sup>16</sup>

Among these targets due to recognized problems with ethics in Brazilian political and administrative systems, ABEn elucidates important role in participation/practice professional nursing with the deliberative and supervisory bodies of the health sector.<sup>16</sup> Thus, integrating the search solidification policy goals described on September 16, 2004, as part of the National Emergency Care, was officially established the National Steering Committee for Emergency Care, which ABEn is a member. The initiative of the composition of this body of discussions is the Department of Health Care (SAS), through its Department of Specialized Care.<sup>17</sup>

The intention is that this is a forum for participation of the Ministry of Health,



devoted to discussions and the preparation of proposals and recommendations on the policy of the organization and operation of the Comprehensive Emergency Care System in the country, working as an advisory body of the federal health care manager. This forum also is intended to be ABEn proponent of strategies that while it is induced regulation of the practice of health professionals in the area, the Brazilian population can receive better health care, since it is an area with the highest mortality rate between external health risks of the Brazilian people.<sup>17</sup>

It is imperative to note moreover, the current struggle of nursing for 30 hours journey, whose conquest ABEn to be a law that defends the Brazilian state due to nursing, considering the nature of their work and their management in the current model of organization health work, which: improve the working condition of the category; relieve workloads stressful to workers; would enable nursing staff to seek new areas of upgrade, improvement, increasing the quality of care; and defend the dignity of nursing workers.<sup>18</sup>

ABEn newspapers also emphasized something that should be fighting every Brazilian citizen and in which nursing has contributed in a fundamental way: strengthening the SUS. In this context, ABEn manifests in favor of the election of candidates who support the SUS, arguing that nursing needs increasingly to organize politically, launching and supporting candidates committed to the National Health System, with the values of democracy, citizenship and freedom.<sup>18</sup>

In this discussion, the institution elucidates reflection on education policies enhancing the training of professionals capable of working and motivated to value the Unified Health System(SUS).<sup>18</sup> In summary, it is highlighted the defense of the educational and political aspects as elements interdependent, which integrate the struggle and social responsibility of the association studied in defense of improving the profession, committed to the current challenges in search of the nursing role in the healthcare scenario.

## CONCLUSION

Reflections exposed corroborated that ABEn pervades the struggles of nursing in many aspects, especially those pertaining to education and political aimed at improving public health.

It was showed the struggle for the transformation of unparalleled quality of education, which seeks the improvement not

only of those who are still in the academies, but also of those who have gone through it, always with the goal of better assistance to the user, especially those who enjoy the Unified Health System.

In political participation, ABEn always present in discussions and reflections of the class, looking unceasingly improving working conditions, and as a major and long struggles reduction of working hours, which is aimed at increasing the employability, vocational motivation, which aims to increase as a result of patient safety, thereby raising the preservation of life. With this, we hope to contribute to the dissemination and preservation of memory through the struggles and achievements of representative organization of nursing professionals: ABEn. Naturally, there is scope to strengthen the actions and social and political participation, as well as encourage the engagement of academics, nurses, and society in their struggles.

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Submission: 2013/01/02

Accepted: 2014/04/05

Publishing: 2014/06/01

#### Corresponding Address

Diana Magna Fonseca da Cruz  
Rua Rio Pataxós, 56  
Bairro Emaús  
CEP 59148-706 — Parnamirim (RN), Brazil