



Original Contribution

MEDICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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ABSTRACT

The Objective of the present study is: to establish what are the adjustment and the expectations of the students, graduating at the Medical College, about actualization of their education according to the new requirements of the European Union.

Methods: the questionnaire method is applied by a direct group anonymous questionnaire of the third year's students in the specialities "Nurse" and "Midwife" of the Medical College Stara Zagora and Haskovo.

Results: positive adjustment and motivation are established for actualization of education and it's approximating to the European standards. The studied accept the impending reforms in the medical college education as a necessity in the process of the European integration

Key Words: adjustments, expectancies, actualization, integration, necessity

Continuously changing conditions in the contemporary society and the resulting reforms necessitate prompt and adequate solution of the problems in the concerned spheres. Particularly dynamic are the changes in the public health services and education. The setting up of European zone for higher education till 2010 is a basic aim of the Bolonia Declaration adopted on 19.06.1999. [1]

In this connection the medical college education is up against new challenges in the process of the European integration.

To the regulated by Europe professions belong also the professions "Nurse" and "Midwife". According to the changes and supplements to Directives 77/452/EEC; 77/453/EEC for Nurses and Directives 80/154/EEC; 80/155/EEC for Midwives the theoretical and clinical education must be fixed as proportion in the following way:" the duration of the theoretical education at least to 1/3 and the clinical one at least to the half of the minimum duration of education." [2,3]

For the different European countries the duration of the entire education is fixed within the framework of 3 and 3 ½ years. The total curriculum of studies is orientated within the limits of 4000-4600 hours as is showed in the

report of the Consultative committee of Nurse's education. [4]

At this stage the curricula in our country for the mentioned specialties, after their unification with the European ones in 1997/98 school year allude to total curriculum of 3435 hours for Nurses and 3660 hours for Midwives. [5]

And so comes to the fore the necessity of timely actualization of the curricula and their keeping with the new requirements in the Directives of the EU. The certificated nurses and midwives in the present conditions meet difficulties about their realization in the European countries just because of the insufficiency of hours. They are given the opportunities most often to work as hospital attendants, baby sitters or assistant-nurses. The problems met by our medical specialists abroad are related to the complete recognition of tier diplomas which must reflect the required curriculum of 4600 hours. On that condition only they can exercise their profession abroad.

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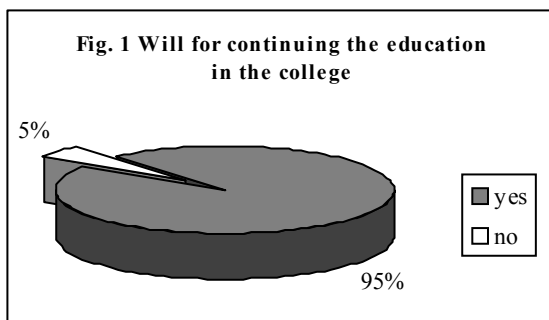
Methods: the questionnaire method is applied by a direct group anonymous questionnaire of

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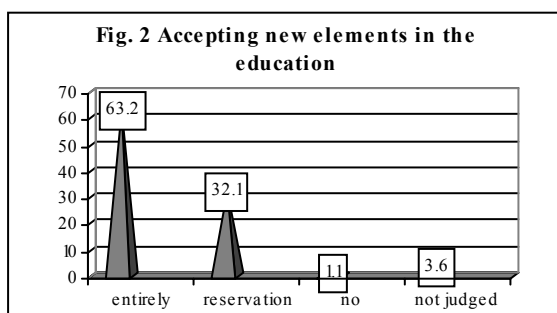
the third year's students in the specialists "Nurse" and "Midwife" of the Medical Colleges – Stara Zagora and Haskovo. /84 person are included, 60 of which nurses and 24 midwives/.

Results: the questionnaire contains 7 questions supposing open as closed answers. In reference to the first question reflecting the student, adjustment and will for continuing their education, according the new requirements of the new requirements of the EU, a considerable percentage answered positively /95.2 %/.

An insignificant part of the studied are disagreeing /4,8%/. This result confirms categorically the will of the studied to continue their education in the colleges with the new requirements. These who have answered negatively to this question, argue most often financial problems [fig.1]

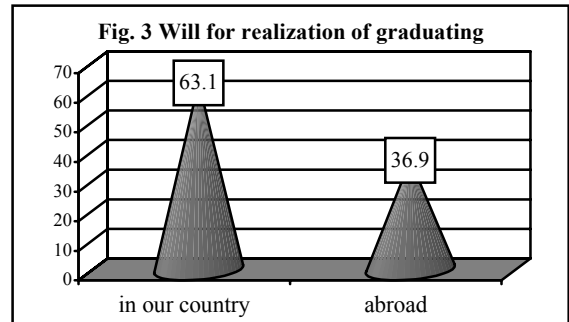


The second question gives an opportunity to the studied to acquaint in general with the essence of the innovations which will accompany the new curricula. More than 2/3 of studied have expressed their positive attitude to the new elements in the education, accepting them entirely /63,2%/. About 1/3 of the studied /32,8%/. accept with some reservation the elements in the education, and only 1% of studied don't accept them. This gives us reason to consider that students will be motivated for studying the proposed contents. [fig.2]

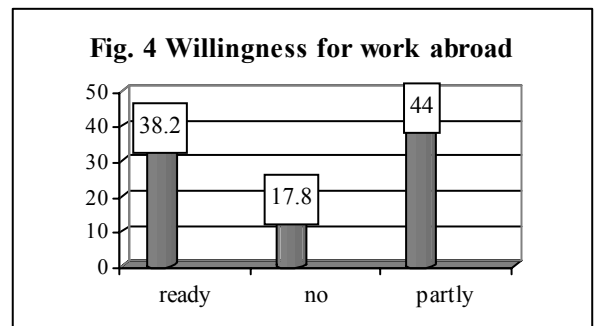


The third question is relevant to the perspectives for the studied. Impressionable is the fact that more 2/3 /63,1%/. of the studied consider to realize themselves in country, and

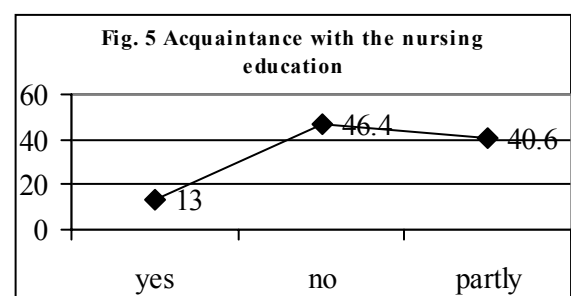
the rest one third-abroad /36,9%/. The basic causes for their staying in Bulgaria result from their will to work in their country because of their families and friends. These who intend to realize themselves abroad are guided only by the higher labour payment. [fig.3]



It is of great importance also the willingness for work abroad. That's why the fourth question is relevant just to it Half of those who wish to realize themselves abroad, feel ready for it /17,8%/. This is of interest to note that half of all studied /44%/. are party ready for work abroad, and the rest. /38,2%/. don't feel ready for realization, abroad, since the basic cause for it the inadequate mastering of a foreign language. [fig.4]

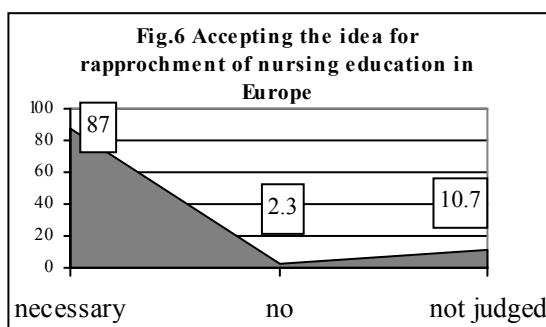


Regarding their acquaintance with the nursing education in European countries the greater part of the studied have answered negatively to this question /46,4%/. Almost the same percentage are acquainted partly /40,6%/, and comparatively small part of the studied know the nursing education in European countries /13%/. [fig.5]



These results could show us another underlying cause also for the presence of willingness for work abroad. Since they haven't known enough the system of nursing education, our medical specialists don't feel themselves ready for work abroad. That's why it's necessary to make a rapprochement of nursing education in all European countries including ours also, keeping the specific characteristics of each one. And that will give opportunity to create one general European educational zone till 2010, as it set in the Bologna Declaration.

The indicated necessity is confirmed by the studied in answers of following question. A considerable percentage /87%/ of students accept the idea for rapprochement of nursing education in European countries as necessity. An insignificant part consider that isn't necessary and the rest can not judge. /10,7%/ [fig. 6]



The last question in the questionnaire gives an opportunity to the students to formulate some recommendations about education actualization. About 1/3 of the studied gave recommendations for increasing the hours for practice as well as will for more complete information about nursing education abroad. Basing us on the results of the carried out study we can outline the following most important conclusion:

1. The graduating Nurses and Midwives at Medical Colleges - Stara Zagora and Haskovo are motivated to continue their education in the colleges according the new requirements of the European directives, the new elements in the education being accepted entirely by the greater part of the studied students.
2. Presence of insufficient studied information about the problems of nursing education in the European countries and at the same time

accepting the idea for rapprochement of nursing education as necessity.

3. Predetermining is the will of the graduating for realization in our country because of insufficient readiness for work abroad.

Recommendations:

Foreseeing the indicated results of carried out study, we can outline following recommendations:

1. Actualize in due time the education of nurses and midwives according to the new requirements of the EU, creating the necessary for it conditions in Medical College – Stara Zagora and Haskovo, with a to satisfy the forthcoming requirements.
2. Inform better the students about the systems of nursing education European countries as well as about the forthcoming innovations in nursing education in our country.

Conclusion:

In the process of European integration the change in the medical college education come to the for. It is necessary to follow European recommendations about nursing education, keeping the characteristics of our educational system. It will create conditions for greater mobility of medical specialists in relation to their education, as well as in relation to their realization in the up-to-date economic situation.

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