Nursing Education and Partnerships in the Brazilian Unified Health System

Ensino de Enfermagem e Parcerias no Sistema Único de Saúde

Maria Jose Moraes Antunes

Palavras-chave: Sistema Único de Saúde; Educação em Saúde; Parcerias.

Keywords: Unified Health System; Health Education; Partnership.

INTRODUCTION

In the treatment and mistreatment of Mother Earth, throughout mankind’s everyday development, new paths to follow have been constantly built. These have always emerged whenever the paths in use ceased to meet our needs or were hard to access for groups of people who used them at the same time and for different reasons, travelling in the same direction.

In virtue of obligations, regulations or personal preferences, to comply with rules, overcome difficulties encountered and arrive at one’s destination with more safety or speed, the will to prevail led the leaders or the bravest of those groups to seek and create new tracks, bridges, viaducts and other adaptations to ensure arrival at the chosen destination for collective movement. Of course, these official inventors or creators of new paths depended on the consent of the landlords whose land would be crossed and on the acceptance of their partners on foot to consolidate their proposal with the ideal route.

As time passed, these new paths might turn into shortcuts, alleys, roads or major avenues; or simply disappear out of disuse, with the first rainfall in spring. Other old paths were abandoned; vanishing in the solitude of disuse and time, only to be later recovered, readapted and reutilised, as life comes full circle.

How long the new paths would last depended on the care and attention they received from their creators or users who, joined by a common vision, multilateral cooperation and continuous maintenance, kept the roads in simultaneous operation so that everyone’s needs were met and the activities of all the partners involved could be performed successfully.

This little anecdote can be correlated to the complex construction of the internal tracks of the Brazilian Unified Health System built by the service managers and teachers in the area, that ensure the movement in the same space and time of people caring for those who need care and students learning “live” on patients with multiple and urgent needs who pass through the system.

Each with their own specific needs, but, for different motives, walking the same path…

The regulatory process of formal education in health care has attributed the teaching professionals in the area with the responsibilities of defining the paths for internships, and of establishing interinstitutional agreements and relations that support relevant and opportune learning experiences for students in the health care field.

Within these interinstitutional relations in the field of Basic Health Care, conflicts begin to arise as soon as internship planning begins.

1 Doctor in Nursing, Coordinator of Nursing Course at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais, Betim, MG - 2005 - 2008.
In almost every case, the service manager, pressed by ever-increasing demand, decides on which space and actions are to be permitted to the student. The duration of the internship, on the other hand, depends on the pedagogical policy in force and the school calendar.

This is a harmful situation for all those following the path, especially due to the ruptured relational processes of experiences among students and the people they care for, generating incomplete and inconclusive learning.

This report of experiences presents a four-year joint effort involving the collective attempt by those following the path to overcome this and other conflicts in the institutional relations between health services, nursing schools and the general public. The aim is to describe some of the new tracks achieved in the complex world of the public health service, which hosts a convergence, fusion and conflict of interests, desires and numerous, sublime stories. The view expressed is of just one follower of the path and is, therefore, subject to bias.

**PREDECESSORS OF THE PRÓ-SAÚDE I PUC MINAS NURSING COURSE IN BETIM**

Pró-Saúde I is the fruit of partnership between the Ministries of Health and Education and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), that proposes to fund and support through public tender the project development at medical, nursing and dental schools, integrated to the SUS public health service in order to meet the real needs of the Brazilian public in terms of human resource qualification, knowledge production and service provision.

In response to the Public Call SGTES/MS # 1/2005 and after liaising with the health services and SUS social control authorities, the coordination team for the Nursing Course at PUC Minas (Catholic University of Minas Gerais) – Betim Campus, developed their project in November 2005.

The proposal was organised into three parts: the first included the general principles of the Pedagogical Political Project (PPP) of the Nursing Course at Betim, its design, objectives, conceptual framework, graduate profile, reference qualifications and skills of the course, followed by summaries of the previous assessment processes of the course, demonstrating how the PPP adhered to the principles of the Unified Health System (SUS) and the shared references in relation to the axes, vectors and internship program proposed by Pró-Saúde. The second part presented a brief diagnosis of the needs, identified through a sample survey, for continuous education required for the implementation of Basic Health Care in the municipality and region of Betim, extracted from the report produced by the Permanent Health Education Office for the micro-region of Betim in 2004. Finally, in the third and final part, the Pró-Saúde I development proposals, developed in five subprojects, classified by axes and vectors, as per requested in the inter-ministerial proposal, or considered high priority for carrying out the proposals identified by Pró-Saúde. Each part aimed to meet specific demands of the partners that were following the same road. Therefore, when the five subprojects were developed, criteria were established for each one to govern the “expected results and evaluation.”

In December 2005, the Official Government Gazette published the list of the projects and schools selected to develop the Pró-Saúde program in Brazil, including the Nursing Course of PUC Minas in Betim.

In 2006, before receiving any financial resources, the selection of old paths and creation of new tracks that could support the learning experiences proposed in the project were already being executed at several different links in the chain.

Relations were established between academics, teachers, course coordination, health care managers at the units, health care secretaries and consortium of the region in order to implement the objectives of each one of the five subprojects. A specific item on the agenda was requested for the presentation of Pró-Saúde I to the members of the Municipal Health Council for their appreciation and approval.

Still in 2006 the school received a visit by the Ministry of Health advisory commission, responsible for monitoring the project, with the partners of the journey defined in several meetings and correspondences. Each subproject was developed by a network of responsible parties, formed by one member of the course teaching staff, one nurse in service and one academic monitor.

Together with the municipal health councillors and representatives of the public health consortium of the region, they all composed the framework of the Local Management and Monitoring Commission, responsible for the project development.
In February 2007, the Letter of Agreement was signed by the PAHO and the Minas Gerais Society of Culture, the managing body of PUC Minas, with the reference number AM/BRA/HRN-403 – PG/0607 999 BRA/06/02935 4 GDS. BR LOA /0600121.001. However, the notice of liberation of financial credit only reached the coordination team in May 2007, whereupon the development of the five subprojects could be optimised and executed in practice.

As they are based in the same institution, the PUC Minas nursing course in Betim, and serve the same clients, the teachers and students of the course, health professionals and the regional SUS, each subproject shares interfaces with the others, but also contains its own specific characteristics, which shall be described next. The activities conducted are described for each Pró-Saúde I subproject of the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim, from the creation of the proposal up to 2008, a period in which the author was responsible for the project, in terms of the objectives, activities developed and results achieved.

**SUBPROJECT – LESSONS IN SUS NURSING**

The focus of this subproject was to develop proposals for intervention in the SUS Basic network – supervised nursing internship in the SUS network, in the municipalities belonging to the Intermunicipal Health Consortium of Médio Paraopeba (CISMEP), with Betim as the base, having voluntarily accepted to receive the project.

The six objectives were: 1) To enable graduating students of the nursing course to relate the theoretical and practical knowledge taught in the detailed fields of the Course Syllabus for the seventh, eighth and ninth semesters to the reality of Basic Health Care in the Unified Health System, SUS, in partnership with the nurses in activity in the field where they develop their internships, in epidemiological, technical, humanistic and social aspects. 2) To integrate service-learning, contributing to knowledge exchange and enabling continuous self-assessment of the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim and the SUS/micro-regional Nursing Services in order to adjust them to the changes resulting from scientific progress and the incorporation of new technologies and epidemiological realities. 3) To use scientific methodology, with focus on social research, to detect, understand, resolve problems and propose actions that require nursing intervention. 4) To offer nurses in activity reconciliation with the methodological instruments of understanding, analysis and intervention in the nursing work process. 5) The production of scientific work for publication in the half-yearly periodical “Lessons in SUS Nursing”. 6) To create a physical space and support framework for the constitution of a CISMEP Health and Nursing Permanent Research Office.

In practice, the actions of the Lessons in SUS Nursing subproject gave visibility to and expanded the curricular activities already developed by graduating students from the nursing course at the local SUS Basic Health Care Units, in partnership with the nurses in activity from the fields where the internships were held.

With the allocation of the necessary infrastructure and purchase of books, specific study and reflection areas were created near the work place of the SUS professionals. Three decentralised study and research centres were created for collective use: one in a regional public hospital, another at the head office of the Betim municipal secretary and the last at the Casa de Saúde Santa Isabel, the former leper colony, and today a benchmark rehabilitation unit.

Subsequently, a book was published entitled “Lessons in SUS Nursing: the Research Experience in the Nursing Course at PUC Minas in Betim”, presenting the best end of course dissertations developed by the students with the nurses from the SUS network in the year 2005/2006.

Also the Introductory Course in Work and Research Methodology in Nursing was tested for review of the theoretical, conceptual and methodological references of health and nursing work, in terms of suitability and equality, following the norms and methodology for research on human beings. The target public consisted of 20 nurses from the municipal health care network of Betim and 10 students from the 4th semester of the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim. The activities were developed in face-to-face meetings and extracurricular activities.

As a result, two research projects were developed by the nurses of the Betim municipal health network and three by the student nurses.

Based on the experience of the pilot project, workshops for the Systematization of SUS Health Research and Nursing Care were held in 2007.
These courses involved training workshops with nurses and health professionals from the SUS network, from the micro-region of Betim, students and teachers from the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim. All participants received learning material to support their studies, and texts were produced to guide the workshops and related activities.

These activities were developed in the period from August to October 2007, for 14 groups (with 37 participants per group), and a total of 518 participants, over 45 hours. The modules, each lasting 8 hours, had the following contents:

- **Module 1:** Introduction to the SUS: Nursing Work Process, in Betim. Research in the SUS: Lines of thought and investigation. Virtual resources. Priorities and problems of investigation in the SUS and in Nursing.
- **Module 2:** SUS: Levels of health care, basic care, family health and nursing care: advances and challenges.
- **Module 4:** Planning investigation in the SUS – Research Project – Methodological Paths. Semiotics and Physical Examination Techniques. Physical Examination.
- **Module 5:** Systematization of Care and Nursing (SAE): Electronic registration of nursing – CIPESC (International Classification of Nursing Practices in Collective Health). Strategies for the POSSE. Planning investigation in the SUS. Choice of paths, definition of research groups and tutoring.

The workshops were attended by 329 people, including students in the final semesters of the nursing course and professionals in activity, nursing assistants and technicians, physicians, dentists, psychologists and social workers. However, the sixth module, forecast in the workshop project of the Systematization of Nursing Care and Research in Health in the SUS Course, involving distance tutoring for projects in the network on the investigative lines of Management, Care and Education, was not carried out. This was partly caused by the funding entity’s delay in conducting the tender requested by the project’s technical coordination to hire a company to perform this work, as well as the creation of software to record the nursing practices across the various levels of care in the regional SUS, which was only selected in June 2008, by which time the project was almost over.

In the absence of IT support, orientation for the projects was conducted through face-to-face meetings, but hindered by the lack of available time of the professionals in service to develop their research projects, as well as the difficulties in matching the availability of the supervising teachers and professionals of the network, as well as the lack of space at the institutions for on-site orientation meetings.

To overcome these difficulties, face-to-face meetings and seminars were conducted, like the integrated nursing weeks, during the month of May 2008.

Worthy of mention is the success of the 4th Integrated Nursing Week of Betim, the main theme of which was: “Health and Citizenship: relations of Caring and Power”, held at the SESI Betim auditorium from 12 to 16 May 2008.

With network-wide planning, coordination by the Pró-Saúde Management Committee and the support of other educational institutions in the region, including other Nursing courses, the 40-hour schedule of activities was concentrated over a five-day period, with the participation of nurses from throughout the region, averaging 600 per day.

As well as lectures by nationally renowned guest speakers, reports were presented of joint, creative work processes developed in the local SUS based on the implementation of Pró-Saúde I.

However, the decentralized seminars foreseen in the project were not carried out, as had been proposed, outside the university campus. This was due to multiple factors, including: a lack of nurse interlocutors, nursing technical references in the municipalities of the CISMEP region or with governability to submit proposals for the development of nursing. What could be observed is that these municipalities still lack work management and health education policies that can support continued education projects with the university, even with no financial burden for the municipal SUS. This perception was confirmed in the first semester of 2008, the year of...
municipal elections, where the possibility of any events outside the municipal agendas was unfeasible. Furthermore, the difficulties remained in transporting the teachers and students with time available to travel to the municipalities, some of which are some two hours away, such as Piedade das Gerais. There are no regular public bus routes from Betim to these municipalities. To reach them one has to travel to Belo Horizonte or else wait at bus stops on the side of the BR 381 “Fernão Dias” highway in the hope of catching one of the passenger vehicles that follow no regular timetable.

In other words, for a 4-hour activity in the municipality, it took another 4 hours to get there and back, reducing the amount of time available for academic work. This problem could have been resolved if the purchase of a minibus had been authorised to serve the Pró-Saúde I integration activities. Despite this difficulty, five integrated teaching-service seminars were held regarding the development of the SUS, organised by health management students, all in the first semester of 2007 on Saturday mornings at the PUC Minas auditorium in Betim to allow for the presence of SUS health professionals from the region, with the topics: Social Rights and Non-Governmental Organisations: paths of citizenship; SUS, Management, Health Councils and Regulatory Boards of the System; SUS and the Organisation of Education in Health Care as a Path to Self-Care, Autonomy and Citizenship; SUS: Management of the Care Model of Public Health Surveillance, Private-Public Sector Relations, Comprehensiveness and Health Promotion: Successful Experiences; SUS and Nursing Work Management: Technologies, Limits and Challenges.

Lectures were given by representatives of NGOs such as a homeless organisation, community health service, public institutions that develop health programs for teenagers, as well as representatives from the Military Police, the Secretaries of Education and Social Welfare and health councillors. The seminars were concluded with reports of successful experiences in the SUS, related to health promotion and public-private sector relations, presented by health care agents and nurses from the SUS network.

In 2007 the research group Heuristic Processes and Health and Nursing Care (PHASE) was registered on the CNPq, based on the foundations of the Pedagogical Project and the Pró-Saúde Project of the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim. The conceptual framework for the group was defined as: The comprehension of man in his entirety and in the dimension of the complexity of life; understanding of the new concept of health and the health-disease process; principles of the SUS as guidelines for the new model of health service production, based on epidemiological profile; the comprehension of the role of the nurse in the national and local context of health, of service production and of reformulation of the care model with commitment and autonomy; the practice of health care research.

In 2008, the PHASE research group developed three seminars:
1st Research Seminar of the PHASE Research Group: Challenges and Possibilities for Research in Nursing – A Report of the Experience of Student Nurses from PUC Minas in Betim, held on 1 April 2008, with 273 participants.
3rd Research Seminar of the PHASE Research Group held during the 6th Nursing Week of PUC Minas in Betim. The last one included a roundtable review of the Pró–Saúde I program, composed of five nurses from Basic Health Care units of the Betim SUS network, which were course internship fields, who reported the enhanced organisation of nursing work in their work places. However, they identified a series of difficulties in consolidating research into effective nursing practice in the everyday routine of SUS services, such as: lack of habitual research action, breakdowns in communication with the central level of the local SUS, with the basic network and with student nurses, and the absence of fast recording instruments, such as electronic patient records.

Furthermore, in 2008 this subproject generated the execution of 60 intervention projects coordinated and executed by student nurses, managers of the Basic Health Care Units (UBSs), nurses in service and course teachers. Using criteria based on technical and social ap-
Plicability, compliance to deadlines and methodological rigour, twelve of these projects were selected and published in the book entitled “Lessons in SUS Nursing: the extended activity of Pró-Saúde I in the Betim Nursing Course”, ISBN 85-87579-19-5, with 1,000 copies printed and distributed free of charge throughout the whole SUS network.

One important proposal, feasible regardless of any lack of financial resources, emerged from the numerous interinstitutional integration meetings between teachers and coordinators of SUS Basic Health Care projects and of the FHEMIG, Casa de Saúde Santa Isabel. This involved the project to create the Professional Masters Course in Family Health. The conceptual framework, objectives and syllabuses were designed in partnership and the project now awaits a political decision for it to materialise.

In conclusion, the development of the “Lessons in SUS Nursing” subproject provided an unparalleled experience to those following the path, enabling them to surpass the academic boundaries and build new learning opportunities and knowledge, woven in the fragile spaces of everyday life, where citizenship in health care is built and rebuilt each passing day...

**SUBPROJECT – PLANNING, ORGANIZATION AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF SERVICES (POSSE) AND NURSING CARE IN THE SUS BETIM NETWORK**

This subproject, designed by the nurses of the Regional Public Hospital of Betim and drafted with input by teachers of the field, had the following ambitious objectives: 1) To implant the Nursing Care Systematization (SAE) for SUS Services in Betim, for improved nursing care quality and opportunities. 2) To help the IES and health care services develop, contributing to the systematization of health care with focus on basic care, the family health strategy and comprehensive health care. 3) To congregate the regional nursing schools (higher and secondary levels) with the SUS Betim services in the areas of Basic, Secondary and Tertiary Care to discuss networked and continuous SAE. 4) To learn about and promote exchange between the levels of nursing care for the Betim SUS network and to develop, implant, implement and validate clinical procedures for nursing care in the SUS network, ensuring uniform care to SUS Betim patients throughout the network and methodological knowledge ensured by the IES. 5) To ensure efficacy of the treatment plan of the service user, integrating several levels of health care. 6) To understand the specifics of each level of nursing care and provide access to continuous classroom and distance learning processes for the nursing professionals of the Betim SUS.

In 2006, twelve thematic meetings were held with working nurses and the coordinators to fulfil mutually agreed strategies. Initially, the main difficulties encountered were related to the irregular presence of teachers, students and nurses from the basic health care units, given the difficulties of finding mutually available time for meetings due to clashes in the work timetable of each segment.

Improvements were identified in the review of some components, such as a regained interest in studying or updating one’s own knowledge, enhanced relations among professionals of the same network who were not previously acquainted, demystification of the university as a place of difficult access as regards knowledge and discussion of eventual problems, democratization of the project providing opportunity for the members of the group to voice their ideas and suggestions and optimization of the meetings held at the times scheduled by the group and with prior scheduling and planning of the next meeting.

In 2007, attendance of the fortnightly project meetings was consolidated, with the permanent attendance of 30 representative nurses of the health services, connected to the central coordination of the health secretary, basic health care units, maternity wards, accident and emergency services and hospital, allowing for a substantial exchange of experiences.

The group work gave rise to new paths. These included raising awareness about what SAE was and at whom it was aimed, promotion on notice boards, posters, as well as an article in the newspaper “Saúde em Movimento”. The project was also promoted through cardboard triangle mobiles about the SAE and POSSE, hung from the ceilings in the health care units. The meetings involved updates about specific technical skills required by the group by means of classes and/or study of texts that would lead to a consensus about the project aims.

In 2008, the proposal was agreed to review and reconcile the data collection instruments for Women’s,
Children’s and Teenagers’ Health, constructed by SUS nurses, based on Wanda Horta’s Theory, as well as to define the strategies to implement SAE in the SUS services. Workshops were held to prepare the group of facilitators to train public municipal nurses of Betim to implement SAE in the health care units, while the network nurses completed the nursing care procedures for the whole network. This project was a rich experience for all those involved. Its tangibility was interrupted when the municipal managers were changed.

**SUBPROJECT – EDUCATION IN HEALTH LABORATORY (LES)**

The Education in Health Laboratory: conducting Interdisciplinary Curricular Projects of the PUC Minas undergraduate course in nursing in Betim was a result of an idea by the teaching staff to coordinate, by means of interdisciplinary curricular projects, teaching, extension and research into education for real time health promotion and disease prevention, in other words, to involve the health care services in the revision, updating and execution of the principles of the Pedagogical Political Project of the Course, with emphasis on Education in Health.

Its objectives were: 1) To contribute to the development of curricular projects of the nursing course, which are founded on the Pedagogical Political Project of the Course. 2) To encourage the qualification of students to resolve problems in the reality of the health sphere, in the community of the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte, in particular, in Betim. 3) To create innovative learning opportunities for student nurses to train them in skills and abilities to manage and apply health information, with the presence of working professionals, equipping student nurses with the theoretical instruments in the sense of education for health and to develop educational material aimed at health matters in Betim.

This was aimed at the whole educational community of PUC Minas, including the health care services related to the SUS and attempting to meet the educational demands identified through conversations with professionals who work and compose the health services.

The first meetings with the nurses in activity brought to light recurrent problems in the health services and defined the themes for the LES:

- The multiple realities of the health services: lack of planning in Management of the service.
- Retrieving the Citizenship of the service users.
- Need to address the family health process and not just family diseases as they occur.
- Need for work in the area of Mental Health and Psychiatry: Help groups for unhappy mothers, benzodizepine dependents and alcoholics.
- Need to give form to Betim’s Anti-Sedentary Lifestyle Program in relation to the process of educating people to maintain a healthy body.
- Work with teenagers: education for health in the health care centres, schools and child protection shelters, rescue of self-esteem, Drugs – Aids and teenage pregnancy – and other sexually transmitted diseases (incidence of contamination via HPV)
- Development of a community risk map: who are the risk users of the health services.
- Children’s Health: aspects of basic care: nutritional matters.
- Health during old age: at all levels and especially community respect in relation to the elderly.
- Nursing and other professionals of the service: interpersonal and group aspects, possible alliances.
- Rethinking of reception in the health care services.
- Implantation of Epidemiological Assessment of users of alcohol and other drugs.

These aspects, updated throughout the discussions held with SUS health care professionals at the Seminars developed under the POSSE and Lessons in SUS Nursing subprojects, allowed the establishment of some lines of thinking to develop the integrated activities of the nursing course, generating the following themes:

1. Health and Society: investigation and intervention in the reality of local health, in relation to the organization of a Basic Health Care Unit.
2. Child and Teenage Health: aspects related to the processes of social and historical development of infancy and adolescence and their complications.
3. Health during old age: aspects related to ageing at social, biological, cultural and psychological levels as regards nursing care.
4. Mental Health: study of the various fields of sickness and mental suffering of SUS users.
Some of the themes suggested by the nurses were systematized through case studies and their solutions sought in the form of interdisciplinary work from the first to the eighth semester, with groups of six students being set the challenge to resolve them at increasing levels of complexity.

At the end of each semester the groups presented the result of the work they had developed in a large assembly attended by managers, nurses and health councillors, who contributed with suggestions and evaluation of the results.

This path, despite its simplicity, proved to be innovative in its capacity to join interdisciplinary and integrated activities with the nursing curriculum, enabling new experiences like learning how to converse with the services that organize SUS work and health work in general.

This contact with the reality of local health led to the experience of constructing the health communication/information that was developed through the creation of panels in Environmental Health and Ecology and the design of the Body in Anthropology.

As a result, the interdisciplinary works of the nursing course pursued the construction of educational games about health promotion, such as, for example, games about drug use and abuse, circle dances in Collective Health I and games aimed at protecting life, in Collective Health II, as well as clinical studies and internships in Mental Health Care and Psychiatry. Meanwhile, to consolidate the nursing care learning, in addition to the Clinical Studies and Nursing Practices I and II, productions related to women's health, adult health and health during old age were obtained.

An interface with the other subprojects was also established in order to set up the interdisciplinary process in the course. This subproject also produced a book, entitled “Educatlng for Health: experiences of the Education in Health Laboratory of the PUC Minas Nursing Course in Betim – Pró-Saúde”, reporting the experiences of health education-work integration.

SUBPROJECT HOPE

The aim of this project was to develop actions to promote health and quality of life for those who suffer physical and emotional sequelae of leprosy and for their families, residents at the Santa Isabel Colony, in Citrolândia, Betim, Minas Gerais.

Its objectives were: 1) To enable undergraduate student nurses to complement their vocational education through interacting their learning with the reality of Basic Health Care in the SUS, expressed in the everyday provision of basic services, considering the epidemiological, technical (including IT), political and social aspects. 2) To allow the students, on a permanent basis and under teacher/assistant supervision, to exercise techniques and processes relevant to their professional qualification and development of skills. 3) To meet/minimize health care needs and problems, contributing toward social mobilization and improved quality of life of the population confined to the Santa Isabel Colony, in the district of Citrolândia.

Several factors hindered the execution of this project, including: the delay in liberation of the physical space promised by the FHEMIG, manager of the Santa Isabel Sanatorium, focal point of the intended activities and the termination of the agreement between PUC Minas and SES MG for developing the Teaching Service Integration Program (PISE) in place at the time of development of the Pró-Saúde proposal. Despite the fact that PUC Minas was classified in the public tender held by the State Government for renewal of the partnership, the public institution refrained from renewing the contract.

Nevertheless, some of the objectives of the project were developed at the Betim Girls’ Home (LAMEB), and at the Municipal Child and Juvenile Delinquents’ Shelter of Betim.

In these two neighbouring institutions located in the district of Niterói, students from different semesters had the chance to learn about services for children and youths in situations of social risk and with health problems, developing the skills, knowledge and attitudes to work in the organizational process of equal and high quality nursing care in these social services, which, although not yet integrated into the SUS network, are based on the quality of care to improve the self-esteem and lives of the children and youngsters.
In the second semester of 2008, the partnership with LAMEB and the Guardianship Board was tightened, while at the same time physical area was liberated for the establishment of the Pró-Saúde Nursing and Health Research Centre together with the CSSI Study and Research Centre (NEP). Following the refurbishment, the equipment was delivered and the Nursing and Health Research Centre of the Santa Isabel Colony was opened, with resumption of the effort toward the objectives proposed in the Hope project, which became active on two different fronts.

The incorporation of the former Santa Isabel Colony as a development field for the project was restricted, when compared to the initial proposal. That is, of the 42 student nurses that the project had maintained at the Colony in 2006, only one continued to perform non-required curricular activities, contributing to the FAPEMIG research-action project “Validation of a Care Recording Instrument for the Home Care/Home Hospitalization Model at the Casa de Saúde Santa Isabel (CSSI).”

The end result of this research project was the creation and validation of the “Continuous Care Notebook”, for recording the prescriptions and evolution of cases by health professionals. This light and concise instrument facilitated communication among the cross-functional team members, the carer and patient and adequate information flow, leading to improved recovery of patients under home care at the CSSI, with focus on complete care. In 2009, political changes following the local elections led to the closure of the LAMEB.

**SUBPROJECT – LIVING HEALTH IN THE MÉDIO VALE DO PARAÓPEBA**

This project, entirely carried out by student nurses, aimed to provide new students of the work experience course with the opportunity to experience the realities of health care in the small municipalities in the region of Médio Vale do Paraopeba, in Minas Gerais, which is the hub of the PUC Minas nursing course in Betim. Its objectives were: 1) To implement required and optional work experience opportunities in the municipalities that form the Intermunicipal Health Consortium of Médio Paraopeba (CESMEEP), in Minas Gerais State. 2) To stimulate integration between the private and public sectors of social welfare, health and education in order to strengthen the institutions and students, promote the qualification of professionals in the consolidation of the SUS and at the same time enable the qualification of various social actors who interact with this health system within Social Control, Care and Management.

This groundbreaking project created a new form of learning and teaching on the Betim nursing course. Designed by students and coordinated by the teaching staff, it provided the students with the opportunity to experience situations of autonomy and commitment with the involvement of their academic lives.

It was constructed over the course of two years through the constant movement of concentration and dispersion, whereby new student nurses would go to the rural community, talk with the organized society and the general public and bring back to the school the main problems and challenges to overcome, related to quality of life. In roundtable discussions they decided what to study in order to gain greater understanding and seek experiences that would help them change the reality. They organized return trips to the small municipalities during the vacations where, with the participation of the local population, they executed the proposed activities, which were then reviewed.

This subproject brought in itself the burning excitement that transforms things and people, defining new paths and constructing new truths.

**FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The experiences and results of the Pró-Saúde I program of the Nursing Course in Betim, from 2006 to 2008, were innovative in their learning methods and in their recreation of policies to integrate the social service network, including health care providers.

Their development expanded partnerships and stimulated common acknowledgement of the difficulties to be faced by the various segments involved in order answer to the needs of the local population, through public health services of the SUS and other public services that ensure citizenship. In other words, the program constructed comprehensive and interdisciplinary experiences in human resource training, in the production of knowledge and the provision of services, which is the main purpose of Pró-Saúde.
The subprojects highlighted special people, who worked with joy and high spirits in the exchange of ideas and experiences, building empowering results, new paths and instances of citizenship.

Because citizenship is just that: far from being concrete, it is fleeting and fluid, and therefore rare when it’s dependant on human will and vanity.

Each subproject brought its own accomplishments, non-accomplishments and reaccomplishments, mixed with the marks of hope and appropriation of good-meaning power. They all had defined goals and were each institutionalized as a permanent pedagogical activity in a constructive process, subject to new coordinators, managers and students in the future. There was no end and no return. Always a constant restart, in other places and new tracks...

For the author of this work, it was a rare professional moment, and a privilege to have been a part of its planning and construction. In conclusion, an excerpt from a text by Rosenau\(^1\), the American sanitary, who wrote in the last century, which expresses the idea that the path, also in the SUS, is made by following it and the followers are infinite and negligible; which cannot be said for their soul-felt desires for a healthier and fairer world.

I foresee a time in which society will produce enough to meet all individual and collective health needs; in which each member of the community will contribute to that to the extent of their capacity and to the best of their ability, as a duty, never a gift. I foresee a time in which there will be no unnecessary suffering, or premature death; in which the population’s welfare will be not only a legally ensured right, but also the main concern; in which the feeling of solidarity will replace that of egotism. All these things will be attained by the directing of human intelligence. I think of them, not with the hope of my own individual benefit, but with the happiness of being able to help others, after us, enjoy them fully. I believe that, when youngsters have vision, the dreams of the old people become reality. (p. 447, our translation)

REFERENCES


CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Maria Jose Moraes Antunes
Av. dos Bandeirantes, 1031 apto 301
Comiteco - Belo Horizonte
CEP. 30315-032 MG
E-mail: mjma.bh@gmail.com.br