

Evidence-based nursing popular

Accomplishments of modern medicine, other health-care disciplines attributable to research: Taib

By Churchill Edward

KUCHING: Evidence-based nursing is the way forward to accomplishing quality and client-centred care, said Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

The best evidence from the research available should be used to inform intervention and decision and policy making so as to provide the highest quality of care to clients, he said.

The accomplishments of modern medicine, nursing and other health-care disciplines were attributable to research and evidence-based practice, Taib said in a text-of-speech delivered by Housing Minister Dato Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg at the launch of the First Biennial International Evidence-Based Nursing Conference 2008, at Crowne Plaza Riverside here yesterday.

Taib said the two-day conference, themed 'Advancing Nursing Practice Through Evidence' was apt and timely and that evidence-based nursing was a relatively new phenomenon in Malaysia.

According to Taib, evidence had become one of the most fashionable words in today's health care industry and education.

"The discourse encompasses a variety of permutations that include evidence-based medicine, evidence-based nursing, evidence-based public health, evidenced-based decision-making, evidence-based policy-making and evidence-based guidelines to name a few," he said.

"Knowledge that is scientifically derived and validated is the cornerstone of evidence-based health practice because it forms the basis of all decision-makings, policy-makings and interventions in the health care settings," he said.

According to him the Malaysian government, particularly the Ministry of Health, was fully committed to promoting and advocating the use of this approach in health care system to improve health, foster development and reduce the disparities between the rich and poor.

He said evidence-based practice was an approach that allowed nurses to provide the highest quality of care to meet the multi-faceted needs of today's complex patients.

When providers could identify, critique and implement the best evidence using collaborative approach, improved patient outcomes were likely to be the result of their efforts, he said.



NURSING CONFERENCE: Johari (third right) palm printing the glass bowl to mark the launch of the First Biennial International Evidence-Based Nursing Conference 2008. From left are Dr Ling, Dr Chang, McCutcheon, Khairuddin, Bujang Noor and Taha. — Photo by Johnathan Bullet

Local nurse scientists, academicians and practitioners should also collaborate with their counterparts overseas to conduct more nursing research in Malaysia, particularly in Sarawak, he said.

"I am aware that there are numerous nursing researches undertaken to explore the experiences of people with health and illnesses.

However, a majority of these researches are conducted overseas and mainly in the Western cultures.

"Nurses practicing in a culture other than their own need the best evidence available to practise so as to ensure that the care they deliver to their clients is a not only effective and of high quality but also culturally congruent to them.

"With the globalisation of nursing, nurses are no longer restricted to practise in their home country," he said.

As such many of them were practising in foreign countries where the culture of people and the health care systems were highly complex and challenging, he added.

"Hence, I would like to urge the local and overseas nurse scientists, academicians and practitioners gathered here to use the conference as a platform for establishing research networking and collaboration so as to enhance the knowledge and evidence for practising nursing, especially Trans-cultural nursing," he said.

The conference was co-organised by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and University of South Australia.

"I understand that this conference is going to be held biennially and the venue will alternate between Kuching and Adelaide.

"I believe this will further strengthen the bilateral relation and cooperation between Malaysia and Australia," he said.

Unimas board director Tan Sri Datuk Amar Bujang Mohd Noor, its vice-chancellor Prof Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid, its medicine and health science faculty dean Prof Datu Mohammad Taha Arif, state Health Department representative Dr Ling Kwok Sung as well as organising chairpersons Associate Prof Dr Chang Kam Hock and Prof Helen H I McCutcheon were among those present at the launch.

In his welcoming speech, Dr Chang said the idea of conducting the biennial conference in Sarawak was first mooted by the scarcity of platforms globally, particularly in Malaysia, for the purpose of promoting and enhancing evidence-based practice among nurses and other health care professionals.

"Evidence-based nursing is in fact emerging not only in countries that are developed but also those that are developing because of increased consumerism, health care cost and client expectations," he said.

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