ORIGINALES

Nursing participation in Public Policies, why is it important? Integrative review of the literature

Participación de enfermería en Políticas Públicas, ¿Por qué es importante?: Revisión integrativa de la literatura

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ABSTRACT:
Objective: To analyze the scientific evidence available in the literature regarding the role of the political participation of the nursing profession.
Method: Integrative literary review in six stages, in MEDLINE / PUBMED, ISI WEB OF SCIENCE, EBSCOHOST WEB, LILACS, and SCIELO databases 2010 - 2020 in English, Portuguese and Spanish languages, adjusted to PRISMA requirements. The data were summarized by thematic analysis.
Results: From 75 texts, 23 were analyzed. 35% of the publications were made between 2010 to 2012, 48% are from the United States, 65% were obtained from PUBMED, and 26% are case studies. Two categories of work are obtained: Political participation of the nursing profession and Virtue and competences; Strategies and challenges to participate in PPs. Similarities are shown between both categories.
Conclusion: Nursing has socio-political activism promoted by nurses in different contexts. To the extent that nursing professionals become aware of political involvement as an expression of socio-political knowledge, their participation favors the public policy process. It is an opportunity for change given their strategic position as referents of care of people in health systems.

Keywords: Nursing; Health Policy; Policy Making.

RESUMEN:
Objetivo: Analizar la evidencia científica disponible en la literatura en torno al rol de participación política del profesional enfermero.
Método: Revisión integrativa literaria en seis etapas, en bases de datos MEDLINE/PUBMED, ISI WEB OF SCIENCE, EBSCOHOST WEB, LILACS y SCIELO publicados entre 2010 - 2020 en idiomas inglés, portugués y español, ajustada a los requerimientos PRISMA. Los datos fueron resumidos mediante análisis temático.

Resultados: A partir de 75 textos, 23 fueron analizados. Un 35% de las publicaciones se realizó entre 2010 al 2012, el 48% son de Estados Unidos, un 65% se obtuvieron de PUBMED y el 26% son estudios de caso. Se obtienen dos categorías de trabajo: Participación política del profesional enfermero y Virtudes y competencias. Estrategias y desafíos para participar en PPs. Se muestran similitudes entre ambas categorías.

Conclusión: Enfermería posee activismo sociopolítico impulsado por enfermeras en diferentes contextos. En la medida en que los profesionales de enfermería se hacen conscientes del rol de participación política como una expresión del patrón de conocimiento sociopolítico, su participación favorece el proceso de políticas públicas, y es una oportunidad para el cambio dada su posición estratégica como referentes del cuidado de las personas en los sistemas de salud.

Palabras clave: Enfermería; Política de Salud; Formulación de Políticas.

INTRODUCTION

Public policies (PP) are the concrete and tangible expression of political actions. Nursing considers them as the choices of society through their rulers; their objective is to represent public affairs and the forms of granting the resources to achieve it. For this, ordinary people, professionals, or groups' political participation allows continuous improvement to the PP formulation process[1].

The Adelaide declaration of 2010 (World Health Organization - WHO) opens the discussion. It proposes health in all policies, which highlights the work of the health sector and its importance in the development of PP. Also, as a strategy to achieve social, economic, and environmental development that favors the health and well-being of people. In this, professionals in the health sector, particularly nursing, have a fundamental role, given the skills acquired in their professional training, which undoubtedly contribute to formulating PP[2,3].

In this context, the WHO since 2002 periodically published the "Strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery"[2], where, according to the historical context, it makes explicit the need for the participation of Nursing professionals in the definition of health PP, to make them more efficient and effective in achieving global health goals. The Situation of Nursing in the world 2020 report[4] mentions the need to invest in nursing education, employment, and leadership, providing a vision and a plan for policies. Paradoxically, the International Year of Nursing and Midwifery Professionals 2020 coincided with the coronavirus pandemic[5].

Nursing professionals represent 56% of the total health workforce in the world and develop both specific actions for caring for people and complementary activities to other health areas[5]; being evident the possession of diverse competencies to support the processes of formulation of PP in Nursing[1–3,5]. Thus, supported by the pattern of socio-political knowledge of Nursing, they seek to respond to problems that arise in terms of access, quality of health care, and universal health coverage[2,3,5].

The role of Nursing associated historically with caring for the health of individuals and communities, marked transversely by the political activism pioneered by Florence Nightingale in the 19th century. The act of caring is based on constructed human values. The political dimension, proper to the profession's action, always takes place in

a historically determined context. In this way, Nursing has a fundamental role as an integral part of the collective work[1].

Within the front-line workers, Nursing provides care addressing current social health challenges, such as emerging diseases, aging, sick and uninsured populations, increasing costs in plans and insurance, a shortage of providers, and the disconnection with political health and health reforms[6]. In this way, participation in the formulation of PP offers Nursing an opportunity to influence various socio-sanitary programs, which profoundly impact the provision of health and high-quality care practices in times of great current socio-sanitary crossroads[5].

Thus, it would be favorable and advantageous for more nurses to be proactive developers of PP and implement them[6]. Nursing would have leadership and protagonist in the complex PP process by assuming an active role, strengthening the profession, and joint health.

Although Nursing began the path to achieve participation in the process and formulation of PP, it is a priority to develop a body of knowledge that strengthens the role of political participation as an expression of the pattern of socio-political understanding of the profession. Build forms of thought long-term strategy for the profession and motivate Nursing professionals to develop the political role that corresponds to them, as a strategy to expand social participation and contribute to humanized health and a more sustainable society.

In this context, the development of this research is necessary, which aims to analyze the scientific evidence available in the literature regarding the role of political participation in the nursing profession. To synthesize the evidence that supports the contribution of Nursing to the public policy process and build new knowledge in this matter that can help future investigative procedures.

METHODOLOGY

This study corresponds to a six-step integrative review of the literature. This type of reviews makes it possible to summarize a large amount of information regarding the subject under discussion, using various studies[7].

Following the methodological path: 1) identifying the problem 2) determination of search strategy and determination of inclusion and exclusion criteria 3) definition of the information to be extracted from the selected studies/categorization of studies. 4) evaluate the studies included in the integrative review 5) interpretation of study results 6) presentation of the review/knowledge synthesis[7].

The integrative review was guided by the question: What should be the Political Role that the nursing professional performs in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of PP between 2010 and 2020?
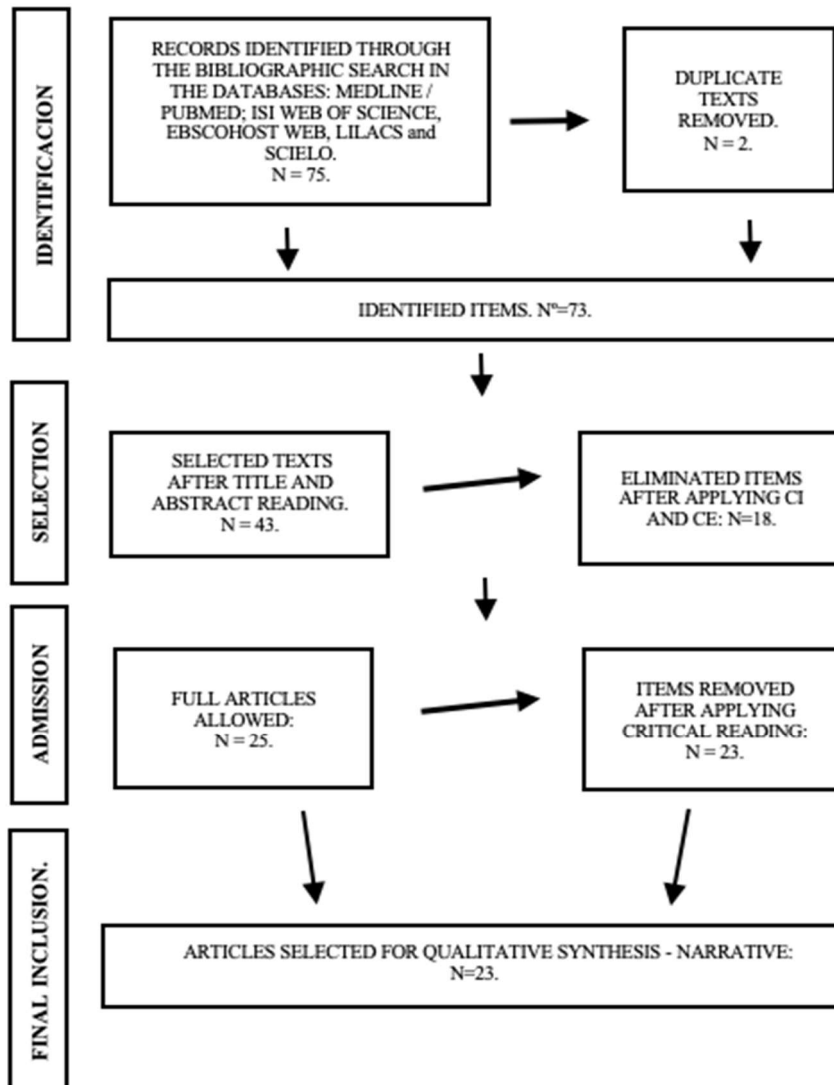
Regarding the eligibility criteria:

- Inclusion criteria (CI): scientific journal; full text online; the relationship between Nursing and politics or public policies or formulation of public policies; political analysis articles - critics, literature reviews, process evaluation studies, qualitative studies, and case studies.

- - Exclusion criteria (CE): incomplete articles; Articles in a language other than Spanish, English, Portuguese; no relations between nursing with politics, articles with other health professionals studied.

The search for studies following search strategy was used: NURSING and HEALTH POLICY and POLICY FORMULATION, in English, Portuguese and Spanish, between 2010 and 2020. The databases were used: MEDLINE / PUBMED; ISI WEB OF SCIENCE, EBSCOHOST WEB, LILACS, and SCIELO. Search period: March - April 2020.

For data selection, modified PRISMA (Figure 1) was used to delimit the final texts and present them [8]. Step 1: articles published from 2010 to 2020. Step 2: the title and abstract of the articles were read in detail, items of interest were selected according to CI and CE. Step 3: the texts were read in full, grouping the texts into two thematic areas 1) political participation of the nursing professional in PP, characteristics, and virtues; 2) strategies and Challenges regarding participation in PP. Finally, a Thematic analysis of Minayo[9] was carried out, categorizing the findings with a qualitative synthesis and a narrative of the results.

Figure 1: PRISMA flow chart summarizing the study selection process

Source: self-made.

RESULTS

Characterization of the studies

Of 75 documents found, 43 met the search criteria. Finally, 23 completed criteria (Figure 1) are presented in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

The descriptive analysis highlights 35% of the publications were made in the period from 2010 to 2012; 48% were carried out in the United States; 65% were obtained from PUBMED, and 26% are case studies. (Table 2) both categories highlight the interest of the research community in presenting the background of the value of Nursing in the different PP processes and the strategies necessary to apprehend this new knowledge to face the unique challenges that underlie current socio-sanitary dynamics. (Table 3)

Table 1: Analysis matrix of selected articles.

N	ARTICLE	YEAR OF PUBLICATION AND COUNTRY	DATA BASE	TYPE OF STUDY	STUDY OBJECTIVE
1	The contribution of nurses to health policy and advocacy requires leaders to provide training and mentorship. Authors. Sue Turale and Wipada Kunaviktikul[10].	2019, Tailandia	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Reflective essay.	Analyze the contribution of nurses to health policies
2	Using Ethical Frameworks in Times of Transition and Uncertainty. Authors. Eileen M. and Sullivan-Marx[11].	2017. USA	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Reflective essay.	Reflect on the ethical and moral framework used in planning and implementing PP and the political points of view for nursing practice and organizational leadership.
3	Creating academic structures to promote nursing's role in global health policy. Authors. S Gimbel, P Kohler, P Mitchell and A Emami[12].	2017, USA.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Integrative review of the literature.	Analyze academic structures to expand the participation of nursing in the development of global health policies.
4	The Role of the Nurse Scientist as a Knowledge Broker. Authors. Marcella Remer Thompson and Donna Schwartz Barcott[13].	2019. USA	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Systematic review of the literature.	Analyze the role of the scientific nurse as an intermediary agent of knowledge (Knowledge Broker).
5	Why we need multilevel health workforce governance: Case studies from nursing and medicine in Germany. Authors. Ellen Kuhlmann and Christa Larsen[14].	2015, Suecia.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Analyze a multilevel and integrative governance approach in hospital management, whose innovative driving force is nursing and healthcare personnel.

6	Evolving trends in nurse regulation: what are the policy impacts for nursing's social mandate? Authors. Susan Duncan, Sally Thorne, and Patricia Rodney[15].	2015, Canadá.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Critical political analysis.	Analyze the impact that knowledge of the implications of legislative and organizational regulatory changes generate in the evolution of nursing regulation as an element that influences urgent health issues and public health policies to achieve equity in health worldwide.
7	The contribution of nursing to high-value inpatient care Author. Ellen T Kurtzman[16].	2010, USA	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Structured search of the peer-reviewed empirical literature.	Analyze the contribution of nursing to the quality and cost of health care and political participation from the influence on public policies and social benefit.
8	Wisdom within: unlocking the potential of big data for nursing regulators. Authors. L Blumer, C Giblin, G Lemermeyer and J A Kwan[17].	2017, Canadá	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Analyze the implications of using big data by nursing as a fundamental part of decision-making processes and develop relevant, stable, and credible policy.
9	Professional advocacy: linking Virginia's story to public policy-making theory, learning from the past, and applying it to our future. Author. Melody K Eaton[18].	2012, USA.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Analyze the link that nursing has with past experiences, with the development of specific strategies to effectively influence policymakers regarding their value and their contribution to changes in policy.

10	Nurses and public policy. Author. Debra S Nault[19].	2012, USA.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Analyze the impact of political discussion strategies in the development of relevant policies for nursing work.
11	Postpartum depression: a chronicle of health policy development. Author. Saralee Glasser MA[20].	2010. Israel.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Describe the impact that Nursing work as a cohesive group can achieve by using all personal and collective resources in projects that impact society.
12	Changes in political astuteness following nurse legislative day. Authors. Janet Primomo and Elin A Björling[21].	2013, USA.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Cohort	Analyze the concept of political cunning as a vital aspect of the nursing profession that influences participation in the political process.
13	Oregon's Senate Bill 560: practical policy lessons for nurse advocates. Author. Maria Gilson Sistrom[22].	2010, USA.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Qualitative content analysis of documents and semi-structured interviews.	Analyze the concept of *nurse lobbyists* as a crucial element for a successful change in health policies.
14	Moving policies upstream to mitigate the social determinants of early childbearing Author. Lee Smith Battle[23].	2012, USA	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Qualitative content analysis of documents.	Determine how bottom-up, nurse-led public policies can reduce the vast and growing inequalities in education, income, and health among citizens.
15	Development of community nursing in Zhejiang Province, China: a report of the driving measures. Authors. W Fu, J Bao and J Meng[24].	2010, China.	MEDLINE/PUB MED	Case study.	Describe the preventive work of community nursing with multiple approaches to intend essential changes in satisfying the changing needs of

					society from the territories.
16	Promoting Population Health Nurse Advocacy, Policy Making, and Use of Media. Author: Myers, Carole R[1].	2020, USA.	ISI WEB OF SCIENCE	Analysis of qualitative content of documents.	Describe the importance of advancing in an intense definition of nursing roles related to promotion and their participation in formulating public policies to promote the health of the population, through media communication, as a strategy to disseminate definitions of problems of individuals, families, and communities.
17	Using narratives to impact health policy-making: a systematic review Autor(es): Fadlallah, Racha; El-Jardali, Fadi; Nomier, Mohamed; Hemadi, Nour; Arif, Khurram; Langlois, Etienne V and Akl, Elie A[25].	2019, Líbano.	ISI WEB OF SCIENCE	Systematic review of the literature.	Analyze the uses of narrative interventions as a nursing communication strategy positively influencing the health policy formulation process.
18	Nurse Knowledge and Engagement in Health Policy Making: Findings From a Pilot Study Authors: Lewinski, Allison and Simmons, Leigh Ann[26].	2018. USA.	ISI WEB OF SCIENCE	Descriptive cross-sectional study with a convenience sampling plan to survey practicing nurses.	Describe the importance of supporting nurses in the knowledge of current political dynamics or the promotion of health policies to influence the defense of health policies and improve the health outcomes of patients and communities.

19	Exploration of priority actions for strengthening the role of nurses in achieving universal health coverage. Authors: Maaitah, Rowaida Al and AbuAlRub, Raeda Fawzi[27].	2017, Jordania.	LILACS	Exploratory qualitative design, using a semi-structured survey.	Exploration of priority actions to strengthen the role of nurses in achieving universal health coverage.
20	Pattern of socio-political knowledge in nursing: conceptual reflections. Authors: Osorio Castaño, Jhon Henry[3].	2016, Colombia.	LILACS	Qualitative content analysis of documents.	Analyze the pattern of socio-political knowledge with the enhancer of nursing practice and research.
21	The nurses' work process of Primary Health Care and the National Politics of Medicinal Plants/Phytoterapies. Authors: Souza, A. D. Z; Heinen, H. M; Amestoy, S. C; Mendieta, M. C; Piriz, M. A And Heck, R. M[28].	2016, Brasil.	LILACS	Qualitative, descriptive study. Data collected through a self-administered questionnaire.	Analyze the exchange of experiences between nursing professionals and the community as a strategy to expand and strengthen interprofessional relationships that enrich work in the community.
22	Permanent health education: constructions of nurses from family health strategy. Authors: Ribeiro dos Santos, Adilson and Lemos Coutinho, Márcio[29].	2014, Brasil	LILACS	Descriptive, exploratory study with a qualitative approach.	Analyze permanent health education as an essential factor for developing health workers in general and nursing workers.
23	Brazilian nursing and the democratization of health: notes on the National Policy of Popular Education	2012, Brasil.	LILACS	Reflective essay.	Analyze the debate and dialogue to intend more profound social changes led by

	in Health. Authors: David, Helena Maria Scherlowski Leal; Bonetti, Osvaldo Peralta; and Silva, Maria Rocineide Ferreira da[30].				nursing.
0	0	0	EBSCOHOST WEB	0	0
0	0	0	SCIELO.	0	0

Source: self-made.

Table 2. Qualitative - descriptive synthesis of the texts.

Characteristics	Categories	Quantity
Year of publication.	2010 – 2012	8
	2013 – 2015	4
	2016 – 2018	7
	2019 – 2020	4
Study design.	Case study	6
	Qualitative analysis of documents.	4
	Qualitative study.	3
	Reflective essay	3
	Systematic review	2
	Integrative review of the literature.	1
	Critical analysis	1
	Structured literature search	1
	Cohort	1
	Cross-sectional	1
Country of origin	U.S.	11
	Brazil.	3
	Canada.	2
	China	1
	Colombia	1
	Sweden, Thailand, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan.	5
Database	MEDLINE/PUBMED	15
	ISI WEB OF SCIENCE	3

	EBSCOhost WEB	0
	LILACS	5
	SCIELO	0

Source: self-made.

Table 3: Thematic axes emerged from the analysis

Categories	Associated articles.
1. Political participation of the nursing professional. Virtues and skills.	1. Creating academic structures to promote nursing's role in global health policy.
	2. The Role of the Nurse Scientist as a Knowledge Broker.
	3. Evolving trends in nurse regulation: what are the policy impacts for nursing's social mandate?
	4. The contribution of nursing to high-value inpatient care.
	5. Wisdom within: unlocking the potential of big data for nursing regulators.
	6. Nurses and public policy.
	7. Postpartum depression: a chronicle of health policy development.
	8. Changes in political astuteness following nurse legislative day.
	9. Development of community nursing in Zhejiang Province, China: a report of the driving measures.
	10. Promoting Population Health Nurse Advocacy, Policy Making, and Use of Media.
	11. Nurse Knowledge and Engagement in Health Policy Making: Findings From a Pilot Study.
	12. Exploration of priority actions for strengthening the role of nurses in achieving universal health coverage.
	13. Pattern of socio-political knowledge in nursing: conceptual reflections.
	14. The nurses' work process of Primary Health Care and the National Politics of Medicinal Plants/Phytoterapies.
	15. Brazilian nursing and the democratization of health: notes on the National Policy of Popular Education in Health
2. Strategies and challenges to participate in PP.	1. Creating academic structures to promote nursing's role in global health policy.
	2. The contribution of nurses to health policy and advocacy requires leaders to provide training and mentorship.
	3. Using Ethical Frameworks in Times of Transition and Uncertainty.
	4. Why we need multilevel health workforce governance: Case studies from nursing and medicine in Germany.
	5. Evolving trends in nurse regulation: what are the policy impacts for nursing's social mandate? Authors: Susan Duncan, Sally Thorne and Patricia Rodney.
	6. Wisdom within: unlocking the potential of big data for nursing regulators.
	7. Professional advocacy: linking Virginia's story to public policy-making theory, learning from the past and applying it to our future.
	8. Changes in political astuteness following nurse legislative day.

	9. Oregon's Senate Bill 560: practical policy lessons for nurse advocates.
	10. Moving policies upstream to mitigate the social determinants of early childbearing.
	11. Promoting Population Health Nurse Advocacy, Policy Making, and Use of Media.
	12. Using narratives to impact health policy-making: a systematic review.
	13. Nurse Knowledge and Engagement in Health Policy Making: Findings From a Pilot Study.
	14. Exploration of priority actions for strengthening the role of nurses in achieving universal health coverage.
	15. Pattern of socio-political knowledge in nursing: conceptual reflections.
	16. Permanen health education: constructions of nurses from family health strategy.

Source: self-made.

DISCUSSION

When analyzing the scientific production on political participation and Nursing, the interest of the research community in presenting the background of the value of Nursing in the different PP processes stands out. Similarly, the strategies necessary to apprehend knowledge that allow us to face the new challenges that underlie current socio-sanitary dynamics are also highlighted. In this way, the conquest of spaces for political participation and the consolidation of the socio-political knowledge pattern from a continuous learning process and professional practice will favor the change and substantive improvements of the current socio-sanitary dynamics[3].

Professional virtues and competencies to enhance the political participation of the nursing professional

Due to its historical and social importance, nursing's generalized insertion in the spaces for the production of individual and collective attention and the pattern of socio-political knowledge is it's own. It constitutes a social practice that can advance to compose forces capable of mobilizing broader social change[3].

This profession characterizes by a high social benefit and its high contribution to healthcare quality and cost, outlining itself as safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable[16,19]. Nurses who possess a high educational standard can "read the world" [23] and have specialized experience in essential topics of broad interest. Nurses are trusted by the public and recognized as major players in healthcare[1].

As a care-based disciplinary profession, nurses are in a unique position to advocate for patients and their families[19], identify public health problems[20], and find solutions from the work they do[19].

They can intensely develop *political savvy* as a vital aspect of the Nursing profession related to political participation. It includes understanding the legislative and public policy process, knowledge, and political skills necessary to advocate for people and communities, knowing who the policymakers are and how to communicate with them. Therefore, awareness of this role is the first step to improve the capacity of nurses to support government policies and have active participation in the political process[21].

Involve Nursing in developing global health policies is vital to ensure the scaling up of effective health programs and sound global health[12]. For this reason, participating in political matters given their understanding of the implications of normative, legislative, and organizational changes in the health environment[19] and territories[24]. It would require three strategies to influence the political process further: developing an in-depth knowledge of political subsystems, the construction of networks based on a democratic spirit, and participation in the policy area for extended periods [15].

Nurses can participate throughout the policy formulation cycle, promoting policies based on scientific evidence obtained from big data[17] and empirical evidence obtained from clinical experience[26]. It has given the understanding of more significant human aspects and impacts of proposed and existing policies at all health levels[1].

In this sense, it is necessary to work expansively on an approach beyond professional aspirations and advocate more for their work's political relevance than individual benefits[19]. The authors highlight the dialogue exercise[16,19] and the visibility of their work[27] through the use of social networks and communications[1]. Could improve the ability of nurses to advocate in the political-legislative sphere for its populations of interest and, in turn, achieve the objective of improving the health outcomes of the communities[26].

Strategies and challenges to participate in politics and the development of PP

The authors position Nursing as one of the key professions in fulfilling the Global Health goals, thus playing a significant role in achieving universal access to health and the sustainable development of communities[26,27].

To effectively exert influence on PP, the authors reinforce the idea that nursing contributes to society's benefit by considering the context as an opportunity for visibility and expression, change and transformation[3].

Based on the socio-political pattern, Nursing will find a way to advance and guarantee the profession[3]. However, it requires a regulatory framework that supports professional and union functions[15]. Also, continuing education for exposing concepts of policy formulation[12,15,18,21,26,27,29]; raising awareness of political issues and developing political savvy, a sense of self-efficacy regarding participation in the political process[12,15,29]; development of leadership and decision-making skills[11,14,27]; communication, collaboration, and consensus[59]that challenges the ideological assumptions that drive superior policies, advocate for comprehensive reforms and reduce the vast and growing inequalities in education, income, and health between citizens and communities[23].

In times of significant changes in the management of PP, in which Nursing faces different political points of view, it is necessary to use empirical knowledge as a fundamental guide in combination with ethical and moral judgment to support the planning and implementation of public policies[23]. In this sense, according to the authors, it is necessary to coordinate actions or coalitions between nursing congregations, groups, and interprofessional work[12] to establish an interdisciplinary regime with institutions, unions, and/or politicians who share the same concerns and have close objectives for the development of uniform and unified solutions in the face of windows of opportunity[17,18]. At the same time, work to construct scientific evidence that allows strengthening the professional work[3]. Other authors also emphasize the use of technologies and the mass media to give testimony, actively communicate the perspective of Nursing and participate in social dialogue in the face of public events[1].

Likewise, professional training in public policies is essential to contribute to collective work[1]. Other studies expose the training of lobbyist nurses[22], communicators[1], knowledge intermediaries that connect science and society through the construction of networks, facilitating opportunities between producers and users of knowledge[27]. And also as storytellers to support the public policy formulation process, taking into consideration various practical and innovative approaches to bridge the gap between research and policy formulation[25].

However, its impact on society challenges leadership development barriers and participation in political processes[27]. Lack of support (bureaucratic walls), resources, and time for nurses to develop the role in their workplaces stand out. Some passivity, lack of coalitions, and ignorance in political matters are also revealed[29].
Therefore, to the extent that Nursing professionals become aware of the knowledge of the context and the opportunities offered by politics as a mediator of changes, this pattern of experience will become an enhancer of nursing practice and research[3].

FINAL THOUGHTS

In "the year of Nursing," it is a priority to highlight the role carried out by these professionals towards the achievement of health, well-being, and the achievement of sustainable development objectives. The development of this review allowed us to analyze the evidence available in the literature on the nursing profession's political participation. To synthesize the evidence that supports the contribution of Nursing to the public policy process to build new knowledge in this matter and, at the same time, promote future research processes.

In this context, it is understood that Nursing, as defenders of quality, safety, and access to care, have a direct link with the defense of people, their families, and communities with a unique professional, ethical sense. However, for them to take their place at the decision-making table and become deeply involved in the formulation of government policies and health reforms, they must develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding public policy. In this sense, the significant historical burden that Nursing, its comprehensive representation in the health workforce. The high social esteem it has, and its extensive knowledge of current socio-sanitary dynamics give it great capacities to support and provide greater solidity. Consistency

in public health policies and respond more efficiently to future health needs of the population.

Nursing constitutes a social practice that can advance to compose forces capable of mobilizing broader social changes. Undoubtedly, as Nursing sets its professional course by taking advantage of these windows of opportunity, it will have a constructive influence on human health and health equity worldwide.

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