Outcomes of the Training and Policy Unit: A Capacity-Building Initiative in Afghanistan

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Introduction

Healthcare system in Afghanistan is adversely affected due to war and conflicts; that requires re-building, including the development of human resources. The Ghazanfar Institute of Health Sciences (GIHS), Kabul and its eight provincial satellites have mandate to train general nurses, midwives and allied health personnel in Afghanistan. Since 2002, Aga Khan University has been providing technical support to GIHS in nursing and midwifery education; in January 2012, established a Training and Policy Unit (TPU) as pilot for the General Nursing Diploma Programme.

Purpose

Purpose of TPU was to develop meaningful capacity building and Faculty development programmes for periodically reviewing and revising nursing education policies, standards and curriculum and develop nursing teachers to raise standard of nursing education in the country.

Methodology

AKU developed a proposal with MoPH, GIHS, to establish TPU with support from French agency, AFD. A purposive building was constructed and processes were developed and implemented at national level in consultation with stakeholders.

Results

The curriculum, standards and policies were revised, approved, disseminated and implemented at national level; 14 faculty members from GIHS and regional IHSs were trained as master trainers, who then trained the entire teacher (114) in their respective IHSs in pilot phase; monitoring and evaluation visits were conducted that revealed substantial progress in implementation of curriculum; subject specific modules and Learning Resource Packages are being development on the revised curriculum. Considering the outcomes, the project secured additional five years funding and expanded its role to national level for nursing and midwifery education. To build upon the major accomplishments of the TPU, 18 additional teachers are under training as trainers for nursing programmes at national level.

Conclusion

The TPU is an important addition to the nursing education system in Afghanistan; and a positive step towards sustainability of the capacity development.

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