

NURSING TOUR: INDIA, NOVEMBER 2016

Introduction

The Nursing tour was held from 15 to 18 November in Chennai and Kochi, India. The main aim of this tour was to provide insight about Nursing education in South India, create platforms for partnerships and collaborations with local institutions and to promote courses in Nursing and Midwifery offered by UK institutions.

Why we choose the cities of Chennai and Kochi:

There are six levels of nursing education in India today. These are:

1. Multi-Purpose Health Worker Female training (ANM or MPHWF)
2. Female Health Supervisor training (HV or MPHS-F)
3. General nursing and midwifery (GNM)
4. BSc. Nursing
5. MSc. Nursing
6. MPhil and PhD

The first school of nursing was set-up in Chennai in 1871. There has been tremendous development of Nursing Educational Institutions with 5 to 16% growth in government sector and 84 to 94% of admission capacity produced by private schools and colleges of nursing emerged in recent times.

16 states in India have institutions that offer Nursing courses with maximum institutions being based out of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are 13 universities in the state of Tamil Nadu with various colleges offering Nursing courses and 17 colleges in the city of Kochi alone in Kerala offering Nursing courses. Since the concentration of Nursing education is the highest in these cities/states, through this tour, participating UK institutions will get a complete perspective of the student market and potential collaborations.

Facts about the growth of nursing institutions in India are as below:

- ANM institutions increased from 307 to 1,642 with Admission capacity enhanced from 6,860 to 46,719
- GNM institutions increased from 753 to 2,670 with Admission capacity enhanced from 29,008 to 109,224
- B.Sc.(N) institutions increased from 266 to 1,578 with Admission capacity enhanced from 11,953 to 80,245
- P.B.B.Sc(N) institutions increased from 38 to 617 with Admission capacity enhanced from 893 to 20,378

- M.Sc.(N) institutions increased from 38 to 535 with Admission capacity enhanced from 483 to 10,026

About the programme

The programme was structured to facilitate faculty discussions in order to identify interest areas within nursing which may contribute towards future partnerships.

Following faculty discussions, guest lectures in the form of master classes were organised at each of these institutions. These master classes were delivered to the pre-final and final year nursing students. The purpose of delivering master classes is to inform prospective students about the array of post-graduate courses offered by each participating UK institution.

There was participation from 4 UK Institutions, details are shared as below:

Nos.	University name	Academic name
1	University of Staffordshire	Sarah Woolley
2	University of Bournemouth	Dr. Malcolm Mclver
3	University of Plymouth	Catherine McDougall
4	Anglia Ruskin University	Hephzibah Samuel

The master class topics were:

Topic
Nurse prescribing
Care of Vulnerable adults
Developing advanced practice in Nursing
Current Issues and Trends in Nursing education and practice

Key highlights at each local institution:


Day one:

AM: [Sri Ramachandra University](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

Sri Ramachandra University provides four courses – Diploma, Basic B.Sc. Nursing, Basic B.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing, and M.Sc. Nursing. Total number of students at UG is 400 and 100 students are admitted per batch. There are a total of 120 nurses currently studying at the university. At M.Sc. level there are 30 students enrolled and there are a total of 86 faculty members. Additionally the university's labs are equipped with simulation equipment.

The local institution's clinic has 1737 beds and the hospital has 2200 beds and they have strong presence of Students Nursing Association. Sri Ramachandra University has MOU's with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Northumbria University and institutions in Australia and USA.



The Sri Ramachandra University expressed interest in faculty exchange programmes, presenting papers, and travel grants. Research collaboration is also of interest to SRU.

They would like to exchange equipment, students and faculty programmes and books. Sri Ramachandra University is interested in collaboration opportunities with UK universities and jointly apply for funds for those staff visiting UK. They agreed that they would share the format of their previous MOU's as they are interested in extending collaboration to other units as well and not restricting to only nursing. Hence MOU will be generic and could be used for other departments as well.

Lastly the Sri Ramachandra University shared their concerns on employability in India for nurses with reference to lower income and opportunities. The Sri Ramachandra University requested all UK universities to provide opportunities for jobs/ placement programmes or compensation of tuition fees for the students of SRU to study at their respective institutions.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Sri Ramachandra University and a total of **170 students** attended the lectures.

PM: [SRM University](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

The meeting at SRM University was attended by 28 faculty members, the pro VC, Dean Medicine, Dean Nursing and Head of International officer.

The SRM hospital has 1200 beds with an 80% occupancy rate. The university offers Diploma, B.Sc. Post Basic, and M.Sc. programmes. Additionally the university also helps with sponsorship, scholarship and counselling for staff who want to pursue their higher education. They published 81 publications/ research papers this year compared to 35 papers last year.

The university expressed interest in certification courses which would be useful for their staff members. It was agreed that the Dean of medical and Dean of nursing will get in touch with the delegates on priority areas. SRM also expressed interest in seeking support for courses for their teachers in areas of Pediatric care and advanced nursing.

The UK institutions enquired if SRM could send their staff on sabbatical for 3 months to explore short term courses.

SRM has exchange programmes with Melbourne University, Australia and partnership with Keele University in area of physiotherapy.


There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at SRM University and a total of **200 students** attended the lectures.

Day Two:

AM: [Apollo College of Nursing Chennai](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

The institution has branches in 64 locations with 10000 beds and it receives 140,000 people per day. Their hospital started in 1983 with only 150 beds and 120 employees. Currently they are spread across 64 locations employing more than 20000 employees and more than 10,000 beds.



Apollo has multi-specialty hospitals in various cities. In Chennai alone they have 50 clinics and many overseas clinics including in Dubai.

Apollo knowledge started its first nursing college in 1997 in Chennai. Currently they have eight colleges of nursing and three schools of nursing in India. Almost 1000 graduates are produced from these institutions. For employment purposes their requirement is 4000 nurses and hence this makes them the most sought after employer for nursing. The institution has six departments in nursing and total faculty strength is 68. The library is equipped with over 6000 books and 9000 journals out of which 2700 are for nursing programmes. The institution has student exchange programmes with universities in China and Russia in the department of Public Health. Additionally the institution provides consultancy services to start colleges in Assam and Bhutan.

They also provide advice to prominent institutions such as IGNOU, IIT Chennai, Johnson and Johnson as well as the Ministry of Health.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Apollo College of Nursing and a total of **400 students** attended the lectures.

Day Three:

AM: [Omayal Achi College of Nursing](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

Omayal Achi College of Nursing is a 25 year old research oriented institution. They have collaborated with Queen Mary University, Edinburgh and have a Mental Health motivational clinic.

They have conducted an exchange programme with University of Saskatchewan where 46 medical and 44 nursing students went on an exchange programme for three months. There are no male students in the bachelors programme. It is a residential programme and they currently have 19 scholars for PhD programme.

The college is interested to train their nurses so that they can work independently at the community health centres without the supervision of a doctor. They expressed interest in faculty and research collaboration.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Omayal Achi College of Nursing and a total of **100 students** attended the lectures.

PM: [Samaritan College of Nursing](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

Samaritan college of Nursing, Pazhanganad is a Christian minority institution formed and managed by the Sisters of the Destitute and Samaritan Hospital Pazhanganad is the in-campus parent hospital. It is accredited by the state nursing council (KNC) and Indian Nursing Council (INC).

The college was established in 2002. The present strength of B.Sc. Nursing students is 200. There is a 100% admission on the basis of merit list by the management consortium (AMSFNCK).



In 2002 there were only 4 nursing colleges in Kerala and Samaritan was among them. Samaritan started its M.Sc. course only in 2011. Samaritan College of Nursing has 12 staff members.

They expressed interest in research collaboration. Various faculty members spoke about the different research activity that they are undertaking. The research which was of particular interest to delegates were Research on Yoga on how it helps in managing stress and helps to increase memory. The other research was on Effect of beetel leaf and how it causes cancer. The college enquired about various scholarships available for students to apply in the UK.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Samaritan College of Nursing and a total of **130 students** attended the lectures.

Day four:

AM: [Medical Trust Hospital](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

Medical Trust College of Nursing was established in the year 2002. The Nursing education programme commenced in the year 1977 with the start of School of Nursing which prepared students for three and a half years Diploma course.

The students have the opportunity to get hands on experience in super specialty nursing like Cardiac surgery, Cardiology etc. The nurses passing out from school of Nursing have been absorbed by Medical Trust Hospital. The clinical acumen of these nurses is regarded among the best in the nursing profession.

The college admits 60 students for B.Sc. Nursing, 30 students for P.B. B.Sc. Nursing, 5 students for M.Sc. Nursing and 10 students for Diploma in Critical Care Nursing per year and is accredited to the Indian Nursing Council and affiliated to Kerala University of Health Sciences, Thrissur, M.G. University, Kottayam, Kerala Nurses and Midwives Council and Indian Nursing Council.

The Managing director of the hospital was available during the faculty discussion and informed that the hospital was built in 1973 and has since grown both in terms of infrastructure and also in terms of number of doctors, specialties and patients it caters to.

He expressed that they are interested in exchange programmes and setting labs. They expressed interest in Physiotherapy linkages and PhD courses.

They are interested in virtual programmes. They are open for short term observational facility with UK universities. They would also like to explore summer school options for their students.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Medical Trust Hospital and a total of **200 students** attended the lectures.

PM: [Amrita University](#)

Key highlights of the faculty discussion:

The College of Nursing is structured into five major academic departments such as Child Health Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing, Mental Health Nursing and Obstetrics and Gynaecology Nursing. Research studies focusing on improvement of Nursing Care Delivery and Patient Outcome, Quality Improvement in Nursing and Nursing Education are the focus of research at Amrita College of Nursing.

Amrita University has joint research projects, collaborative programs, and various academic tie-ups with over 80 institutions around the world via the Centre for International Programs and offers several exchange programs, semester study abroad opportunities, and dual degree programs for students with excellent academic credentials. Currently, Amrita University is collaborating with many premiere private institutions, renowned professors, and government agencies on more than 75 research projects.

The principal expressed interest in the research programmes and proposed a joint- programme for UG students and also expressed interest in summer school programmes.

The delegates got an opportunity to meet the Head of international relations at Amrita University who spoke about the living labs project which the university is currently working on. As a part of this project the international students would write papers and provide community services. They discussed public health and gave an example of a project where they built toilets. They expressed that the UK universities could follow similar pattern if they choose to send their students to Amrita University for a short term programme. The international office expressed that they are happy to collaborate with the UK

The university organises health and safety campaign workshops in India and are focusing more on building up skills for their nurses. They expressed interest in clinical research.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Amrita University and a total of **120 students** attended the lectures.

Day five:

[Carmel Nursing College](#)

Carmel College of Nursing, Chunangamvely, Aluva was upgraded from Carmel School of Nursing with an annual intake of 40 students. Carmel College of Nursing is a sister concern of Carmel Hospital which is under Carmel Medical Society Registered under 'Charitable Society Act'. Carmel Hospital is the parent hospital started in the year 1968. It is a Multi-Specialty Hospital with 200 bed capacity.

The objectives of the college are to educate and professionally train girls and provide women empowerment through nursing education.

The college expressed interest in distance learning and workshops for faculty members. They are keen on online tutorials for their students. The institution has also shown interest in student and faculty exchange programmes and joint publications of Research / Paper presentation.

There were four simultaneous lectures delivered at Carmel Nursing College and a total of **140 students** attended the lectures.

Delegate feedback:

- 75% delegates mentioned that the mission met their objectives
- 75% delegates commented that the quality of institutions visited were 'Good'.
- All participating delegates were extremely happy with the support provided by the British Council before and during the tour
- 75% delegates 'agreed' that the tour 'met their expectations' and 100% delegates commented that the tour was a high quality event.

Photographs taken at local institutions in Chennai and Kochi







Details of the other upcoming subject tours are as below:

- Lecture series on Humanities (English Literature, Political Science, Economics and Psychology): <https://siem.britishcouncil.org/event/face-face-lectures-english-literature-political-science-psychology-and-economics-india-16-20>
- Computer Science and IT tour: Planned in February 2017. Dates to be announced soon
- Law Tour: <https://siem.britishcouncil.org/event/law-tour-india-13-17-february-2017>