Socialization to professional nursing

**Sociology**: is the scientific study of society, including patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and culture.

**A society**: is a group of people involved in persistent social interaction, or a large social group sharing the same geographical or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.

**Socialization**: is the process of internalizing the norms and ideologies of society. Socialization encompasses both learning and teaching and is thus "the means by which social and cultural continuity are attained".

* **When does socialization occur?**

1) Begins in the nursing program.

2) Graduating and begins again when entering a professional setting.

3) Changing work settings.

4) When undertaking new roles such as leadership role or returning to school.

* **Goals of socialization:**

1. Development of professionalism.

2. To teach a person how to think like a nurse.

3. To see the world of health carethrough the lens of nursing.

4.To respond to the effects of both educational and clinical experiences by developing professionalism.

* **Professional Socialization:** process of internalization and development or modification of an occupational identity; it begins during the period students are in formal nursing programs and continues as they practice in the real world.

**This process requires that students internalize, or take in,**

1. New knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors.

2. Values, and ethical standards and make these a part of professional identity.

Learning any new role is derived from a mixture of ***formal*** and ***informal*** socialization, Learned the unwritten rules of being a student.During formal socialization, students internalizethe knowledge, skills, and beliefs of nursing in plannededucational experiences and interactions with faculty andother nurses.

**In nursing, formal socialization includes:**

1. Classroom

2. Lectures

3. Assignments

4. Laboratory experiences taught by faculty, **such as:**

*1*. *Planning nursing care,*

*2. Writing a paper on professional ethics,*

*3. Learning steps of a physical examination of a healthy child.*

*4. Starting an intravenous line,*

*5. Practicing communication skills with a psychiatric patient, or spending time with a mentor.*

Formal socialization proceeds in an orderly, building-block fashion, such that new information is based on previous information. For that reason, more advanced nursing students are often encouraged to manage a larger number of patients than they did as novice students, when their skills were fewer and less tested.

**Informal socialization *includes*** lessons that occur incidentally, such as the unplanned observation of a nurse teaching a young mother how to care for her premature infant, participating in a student nurse association, or hearing nurses discuss patient care in the nurses’ lounge.

* **Education and Professional Socialization:**

Nursing faculty are concerned with creating educational experiences that encourage and facilitate the transition from student to professional nurse. How does a student make the transition from a novice struggling to understand what is going on to a person who thinks and feels like a nurse.

* **Socialization to the Work Setting:**

When nurses graduate, professional socialization is not over. In fact, the intensity of their socialization is likely to increase as their exposure to nursing and the culture of nursing increases. Most experts believe that socialization, similar to learning, is a lifelong activity.

The transition from student to professional nurse is another of life’s challenges, and, similar to most challenges,is one that helps people grow. Just about the time that students become well socialized to the culture of the educational setting, they graduate and face socialization to a work setting.