News

At the India AI Summit, the INC Secretary states that India must equip all nurses with digital competencies.



Col (Dr) Sarvjeet Kaur, Secretary of the Indian Nursing Council (INC), presented a strong argument at the India AI Summit for integrating artificial intelligence and digital literacy into nursing education and professional growth in India. Speaking on behalf of more than 2.2 million registered nurses, and maybe 3 million when all registrations are taken into consideration, she described the initiatives her organization is taking to get the nursing workforce ready for a future driven by technology.

A Curriculum Designed for the Digital Age Col. (Dr.) Kaur highlighted a significant change in nursing education: the BSc Nursing curriculum was updated in 2021 to incorporate AI and digital health as essential skills rather than elective extras. She pointed out that "AI and digital health have been integrated into the basic nursing curriculum from a regulatory perspective."

Five simulation laboratories are now required in nursing schools as part of this change. Even as access to conventional clinical training facilities becomes more scarce, the INC has offered comprehensive guidelines on the equipment required, such as mannequins and virtual reality tools, to guarantee that students acquire practical skills. The scope of this reform is significant, with some 250,000 nursing students graduating and registering as nurses and midwives annually.

Increasing Faculty Capability with National Simulation Centers

The INC developed two national reference simulation centers, one in Gorakhpur and another recently launched in South India, after realizing that costly simulation technology is useless without qualified educators. The Gorakhpur center has already taught almost 2,000 faculty members on how to use simulators in clinical and classroom settings.

Col. (Dr.) Kaur stated, "Every nursing student should embrace digital technology to build their competencies." Additionally, the INC has built up computer labs at associated institutions and established fundamental computer education criteria, such as a minimum of one computer for every five pupils.
Reaching the 4 Million Current Users

The millions of nurses currently employed in India's hospitals, community health centers, and rural facilities may present a greater problem than students. Col. (Dr.) Kaur admitted that curriculum modifications are sluggish, usually happening once every ten years, with the BSc nursing revision alone taking three years to finish.

The INC has adopted a focused strategy to close this gap. There is now a substantial incentive for practicing nurses to enroll in a six-month professional digital nursing course that is tied to Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) hours. Importantly, the INC has linked the requirement to renew nursing registration every five years with 150 CNE hours, guaranteeing a consistent flow of participants for digital upskilling initiatives.
Cost is no longer a barrier for nurses who want to finish these courses thanks to free platforms like INC and iGOT. In an effort to increase participation and expand expertise, the INC is also developing a one- to two-year specialized curriculum in collaboration with the Digital Health Academy.

Every District Has a Simulation Center

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Col. (Dr.) Kaur outlined an ambitious plan for the future: simulation centers in every region of the nation so that nurses, whether employed in super-specialty hospitals or rural primary care, have easily accessible, practical opportunities to advance their abilities. These facilities would be incorporated into the CNE framework, guaranteeing that training is an ongoing professional requirement rather than a one-time occurrence.

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