Community Health

Student’s Name:

Professors Name:

Course:

Date:

Community Health

Professional nurses have multifaceted roles ranging from the provision of health care services, being caregivers and acting as a link between the patients and the healthcare system. They also have significant roles in strengthening community health which entails promoting and protecting the populations’ health. Other than the fact that community health is community oriented or population focused, it also involves the prevention of premature deaths, disabilities, and diseases (Butler &Diaz, 2017). Thus, it is a combination of all the essential elements of public health nursing, professional nursing, clinical nursing, and community practice. As a result, the roles and responsibilities of a professional nurse in community health are numerous. However, these roles and responsibilities vary based on the health care delivery system context, but the end goal is to strengthen community health.

While the primary focus for the professional nurses in community health is to protect the health of the populations, some of the roles aim at strengthening the health of the community. With that said, professional nurses often collaborate with the communities to provide appropriate health care needs when required. However, they must possess effective communication and collaborative skills for effective delivery of the community health services (Butler &Diaz, 2017). Another way they strengthen the community health is by assessing the population’s health needs using systematic approaches that enable the professional nurses to identify individuals in the population that require health promotion programs or people who are at risk of disability, illnesses or premature deaths. They also strive to create a safe and empowering environment for care (World Health Organization, 2017). By fulfilling this role, nurses strengthen community health by ensuring that the conditions in which people live in do not affect or jeopardize their health. This role is also in relation to the nurse core value of creating and upholding conducive environments by addressing the factors that are likely to affect people’s health in the community.

Indeed, professional nurses have a significant role to play in ensuring that their actions focus on promoting community health. Thus, every nurse should strive to ensure that the services or assistance they offer to the public aims to improve their health. Thus, as a professional nurse, I have a great responsibility to my community with regards to promoting and enhancing their health. For instance, sensitizing people in the community about health through the provision of health education. This is an excellent way of reducing the adverse health outcomes in the community since they know what services to go for when they are ill. Empowering the community to take actions to improve their well-being is another effective way of promoting health (World Health Organization, 2017). This can be achieved by encouraging people to eat healthy, exercise or even go for regular health checkups. Also, sensitizing them on having a health insurance policy plan would be crucial towards the improvement of community health. These are all proactive measures that not only enhance the health of people in the community but also eliminating risks that may have adverse effects on their health. Therefore, professional nurses have a great responsibility in the overall community health.

References

Butler, S., & Diaz, C. (2017). Nurses as Intermediaries in the Promotion of Community Health: Exploring Their Roles and Challenges. *Building Healthy Neighborhoods Series.*

World Health Organization. (2017). Enhancing the role of community health nursing for universal health coverage. *Human Resources for Health Observer Series No. 18*