Tolerated and Unchallenged: Workplace Oppression among Nurses

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Received date: December 01, 2017; Accepted date: April 24, 2018; Published date: April 27, 2018

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Editorial

The idea that nurses are an oppressed group was first suggested by Roberts in 1983. That the Nursing profession began at a time of patriarchy is something of importance to note. Through the years there has always been a power differential between doctors and nurses. A handful of articles and researches will support the fact that there is indeed a long standing culture of oppression in the nursing profession. Gordon [1], in her book nursing against the odds notes that nurses are viewed essentially as physician subordinates with no real autonomy. It is disturbing to realize that in the health care scenario, some people and some disciplines think that they are more important than others, with this way of thinking; the Dunning-Krueger effect comes to mind. According to this, people display illusory superiority and tend to judge themselves as better than others. Research by Rodwell and Demir in 2012 says that all of us are vulnerable to this decision because we all have pockets of incompetence we do not realize [2]. It isn't a question of ego blinding as to our weaknesses but psychologists have proven that people usually admit their deficits once they can spot them. Ironically, people who have a moderate amount of expertise have pockets of incompetence we do not realize [2]. It isn't a question of knowing how competent we are and how our skills stack up against other people is more than just a self-esteem boost. It helps us, form a stronger self-esteem. But why is there so much self-silencing? Because what's good for one of us is good for each of us, since we all have the right to a safe and supportive work environment and because workplace violence only gains legitimacy when it remains tolerated and unchallenged.

References