

## **REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING CONFERENCE - 2020**

The National Community Health Nursing Conference 2020 was organized by the Community Health Nursing Department of College of Nursing, Christian Medical College in collaboration with Society of Community Health Nurses of India [SOCHNI] on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Scudder Auditorium, Medical College Campus, Vellore on the theme ***“Community Health Nurses : Trendsetters for Universal Health Coverage to combat Non-communicable Diseases”***.

The objectives of the conference were to enable the participants in broadening their understanding of the burden of Non-communicable Diseases [NCDs] worldwide and the National guidelines for screening and management of NCDs, describing the roles and challenges for the prevention and control of NCDs through Universal Health Coverage, acquiring knowledge on health financing system for UHC and gaining insight in the innovative evidence informed practice in the community settings.

The conference was one of the significant events in the history of College of Nursing as a mark of celebration to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of MSc Nursing Programme and Silver Jubilee of Ph.D in Nursing Programme. Also the Dean of College of Nursing Dr. Vathsala Sadan and the Conference Organizing Committee had planned to roll over the ‘Nightingale Challenge – I Support Nursing Now’ in a grand manner marking the 200<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebration of Ms. Florence Nightingale, the Founder of Modern Nursing and commemorating the year 2020 as the year of Nurse and Midwife declared by the World Health Organization.

Inauguration of the conference was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The ceremony was graced by Dr. T. Dileep Kumar, President, Indian Nursing Council as the Chief Guest. He spoke on the importance of empowering the nurses throughout the country and emphasized that the Universal Health Coverage cannot be achieved without the support of nurses and midwives during his address. Inauguration of the Nightingale Challenge was depicted by nursing students who enacted the call of Ms. Florence Nightingale in a unique way. Ms. Velarie Ann Bothamley, Retired Department Sister from Christian Medical College and a graduate (1959 – 1963) from St. Thomas School of Nursing, London [the first School of Nursing started by the founder of Modern Nursing Ms. Florence Nightingale] was honoured for emulating the caring nature of Ms. Florence Nightingale. The campaign slogan “Nightingale Challenge – I Support Nursing Now” was scrolled by the chief guest and held by the dignitaries on the dais including Dr. Ani Grace Kalaimathi, Registrar- The Tamil Nadu Nurses and Midwives’ Council. The audience along with the dignitaries on the dais took the Nightingale Pledge.

The conference was organized under eight subthemes – Universal Health Coverage, Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Health Care Financing, Life Style Modifications, Non Communicable Diseases, Community Based Rehabilitation, Palliative Care and Home/ Family

Health Services covered through two Symposium and four Plenary sessions by eminent speakers on the topics.

The conference was well attended by 395 delegates from 52 institutions belonging to 17 States of India. There were 54 podium presentations done by the participants in three different venues and 21 poster presentations related to the sub-themes.

The conference concluded on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 4.30 pm with a valedictory programme. Dr. Chellarani Vijayakumar, President - SOCHNI was the Chief Guest. Certificates and Prizes were distributed to the winners of podium and poster presentations. Mrs. Shandriela Immanuel, Secretary – SOCHNI gave a brief report with the glimpses of the conference. Two of the delegates gave a positive feedback about the conference.

The conference was educative, interactive and resulted in good network among the participants.