



NURSING RESEARCH AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Isabelle Cristinne Pinto Costa*

Fábio de Souza Terra**

In a constantly changing world, where global challenges such as climate change, social inequality, and environmental degradation are becoming increasingly evident and prevalent, it is imperative to recognize the vital importance of promoting health and well-being in a sustainable way. In this context, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the United Nations (UN) as a global agenda for sustainable development until 2030, emerge as a fundamental framework for sustainably promoting health and well-being. The SDGs, with their 169 comprehensive targets, represent a collective commitment of countries and organizations to achieve a fairer, more equitable, and healthier future for all. In the field of health, the SDGs play a fundamental role, as they recognize health as an essential component of sustainable development⁽¹⁾.

Also within the context of the healthcare sector, it should be emphasized that nurses have been identified as having a key role to play in addressing the SDGs. With a global presence and a robust workforce, nurses are at the forefront of healthcare delivery worldwide. Their ability to reach remote, vulnerable, and minority populations makes them key agents in promoting health and advancing the goals of the SDGs. Through their commitment to health promotion, disease prevention, and patient-centered care, nurses directly contribute to various SDG targets, including those related to maternal and child health, gender equality, the reduction of inequality, and mental health, among others⁽²⁾.

However, a scoping review conducted in 2021 found a scarcity of empirical evidence related to nursing and the SDGs, highlighting that nurses may feel disconnected from the SDGs and struggle to relate the objectives to their clinical role, calling for increased awareness and education about the goals. This profession in general could also increase both research and policy regarding the SDGs, strengthening the nursing position to have a voice and contribute to the achievement of these objectives⁽³⁾.

Therefore, for nursing efforts towards the SDGs to be effective, it is crucial to invest in research. Through innovative and evidence-based investigations, nurses can develop interventions and clinical practices that address the complex challenges faced by the SDGs. Nursing studies can also provide valuable insights into social determinants of health, inequalities in access to healthcare, and strategies to improve patient demands and outcomes. Additionally, nursing research is essential to empower nurses to advocate for evidence-based health policies and lead initiatives of change in their communities.

As the next decade of action to achieve the SDGs approaches, it is essential to recognize the vital role of nursing in this global endeavor. Nurses are at the forefront of promoting health and well-being worldwide, and their commitment to the SDGs is crucial to achieving a healthier and more sustainable future for all. With this advancement, this professional class must continue to invest in nursing research, empowering nurses to lead change and make a difference in their communities and beyond.

This editorial serves as a call to action for the global nursing community. Together, it is possible to make a difference and contribute to a healthier, more equitable, and sustainable world for future generations.

*Registered Nurse. PhD in Nursing. Professor of the Escola de Enfermagem of Universidade Federal de Alfenas (UNIFAL-MG), Brazil. Email: isabelle.costa@unifal-mg.edu.br. ORCID: 0000-0002-2611-8643

**Registered Nurse. PhD in Sciences. Professor of the Escola de Enfermagem of Universidade Federal de Alfenas (UNIFAL-MG), Brazil. Email: fabio.terra@unifal-mg.edu.br. ORCID: 0000-0001-8322-3039

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