



Nursing Profession in Times of War and Humanity: Insights from Siti Rufaidah's Legacy

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ABSTRACT

In armed conflicts, innocent people are often the victims of violence and brutality. War not only destroys infrastructure and the environment, but also destroys human morals and ethics. However, there are several humanitarian principles that must be upheld. These principles are set out in the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, which form the basis of international humanitarian law. However, in reality there are still many countries that violate these principles. Violence and abuse against civilians, prisoners of war, and the injured continue to occur in many conflicts around the world. Nurse is a health profession that has an important role in war. They work on the front lines to provide medical care to victims of conflict, including military troops, prisoners of war, and civilians injured or sick as a result of the conflict. Nurses performed a variety of tasks during war, including treating patients with gun wounds, preparing medical equipment, taking blood samples for diagnosis, and providing psychological assistance to patients traumatized by the conflict. In the history of Islam and world civilization, many wars occurred during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Siti Rufaidah was one of the well-known nurse figures at that time and was often present in providing medical assistance to war victims. One of the proofs of her patentability in the world of nursing is during the Khandaq war. Siti Rufaidah at that time treated Sa'ad bin Muadz who was injured by an arrow until his condition stabilized and improved. The presence of Siti Rufaidah has had a huge impact on the development of the nursing profession in the Islamic world, and even today. She is a role model for Muslim nurses around the world.

Keywords: humanitarian, islamic, nursing, profession, siti rufaidah

Editorial

War always causes suffering for humans. In armed conflicts, innocent people are often the victims of violence and brutality. War not only destroys infrastructure and the environment, but also destroys human morals and ethics (Alispahic, 2021). However, there are several humanitarian principles that must be upheld. These principles are set out in the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, which form the basis of international humanitarian law (Anushiem et al., 2021). One of the important principles in international humanitarian law is the protection of civilians who are not involved in the conflict. Civilians must be protected from arbitrary violence, expulsion and detention. They are also entitled to access to humanitarian assistance and necessary medical services. Another principle is the prohibition of the use of weapons or tactics that may cause unnecessary suffering, including the use of chemical or biological weapons (Teferra, 2016). These principles are basic principles that must be upheld in armed conflict. States involved in conflict must take responsibility for the protection and well-being of people affected by war, including civilians, prisoners of war and the wounded. However, in reality there are still many countries that violate these principles. Violence and abuse against civilians, prisoners of war, and the injured continue to occur in many conflicts around the world (McGoldrick, 2015).

Nurse is a health profession that has an important role in war (Ganz et al., 2019; Lourenço et al., 2017). They work on the front lines to provide medical care to victims of conflict, including military troops, prisoners of war, and civilians injured or sick as a result of the conflict. Nurses performed a variety of tasks during war, including treating patients with gun wounds, preparing medical equipment, taking blood samples for diagnosis, and providing psychological assistance to patients traumatized by the conflict (Goniewicz, 2013). In addition, nurses can also play a role in providing health and safety training to military forces and civil society affected by conflict. This training aims to reduce the risk of injury and raise awareness of health and hygiene.

In conflict situations, nurses often have to work under pressure and in less than ideal conditions. They have to operate under tight time pressure and often have to move in dangerous areas (Shamia et al., 2015). The availability of medicines and medical equipment is also often limited, so nurses must be able to maximize existing resources to provide effective medical care. However, despite working in difficult conditions, nurses still have a moral and ethical responsibility to provide the best care for patients. They must ensure that patients receive adequate medical care and are not abused or abused in any form. Nurses also play a role in promoting humanitarian principles in war. They must ensure that the patients they care for, including prisoners of war and civilians, are treated with dignity and respect in accordance with international humanitarian law (Ashri, 2019).

The important role of nurses in war is recognized by World Health Organizations (WHO). In the Geneva Convention, nurses are recognized as medical personnel who are protected in situations of armed conflict (Bouchet-Saulnier, 2019). They are also recognized as non-military personnel who are entitled to the same protection and safety as military personnel. Unfortunately, in some conflicts, nurses have also been the target of attacks and abuse. This points to the need for special protection for nurses working in conflict zones and strict law enforcement for those who perpetrate violence against medical personnel.

In the history of Islam and world civilization, many wars occurred during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Siti Rufaidah was one of the well-known nurse figures at that time and was often present in providing medical assistance to war victims (Adnan et al., 2021).

One of the proofs of her patentability in the world of nursing is during the Khandaq war. Siti Rufaidah at that time treated Sa'ad bin Muadz who was injured by an arrow until his condition stabilized and improved.

The presence of Siti Rufaidah has had a huge impact on the development of the nursing profession in the Islamic world, and even today. The history of nursing itself has started since ancient times. However, in its early days, the profession was still seen as lowly and underappreciated. In some areas, such as in Europe, it is even considered a profession that is only suitable for poor women. However, this is different from the situation in the Islamic world. Siti Rufaidah is one example of how important nurses are in the daily life of Muslim society. She came from Yathrib (now known as Medina) and lived during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Bodrick et al., 2022).

Siti Rufaidah was originally known as an experienced medical worker. She was used to caring for sick people and providing first aid when needed. Then, she decided to continue his education in the medical field and train with the leading doctors of the time. In some historical records, Siti Rufaidah is considered the first known nurse in Islamic history. She is renowned for his expertise in treating patients and providing proper medical care. She is also known as a minor surgeon and often assists in simple operations (Bodrick et al., 2022).

In addition, Siti Rufaidah is also known as someone who is very concerned about public health. She made frequent visits to the hospitals of the sick and provided the necessary care. She also provides health education to the public on how to maintain health and prevent disease. When she was not at war, she created a health post by setting up a tent in the courtyard of the Nabawi Mosque (Almalki et al., 2011). Siti Rufaidah's influence on the development of the nursing profession is enormous. She is a role model for Muslim nurses around the world. Nurses follow in his footsteps in providing the best medical care for patients and providing useful health education. Siti Rufaidah paved the way for Muslim nurses to be respected and appreciated by society. Siti Rufaidah's success in the nursing profession has shown the importance of technical skills and medical knowledge in the health sector. She demonstrated that a skilled and knowledgeable nurse could provide appropriate medical care.

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Conflict of interest

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Ethical approval

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Authors' contribution

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