**INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL( INC)**

The Indian Nursing Council is an autonomous body under the government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was constituted by the central Government under the section 3(1) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 of parliament. Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) members felt that there should be a body to guide and protect the nurses in their profession. Before the constitution of INC, the nurses registered in one state were not necessarily recognized for registration in other state, which is must today. The constitution of mutual recognition by the State Nurses Registration Councils, called RECIPROCITY, was possible only if uniform standards of nursing education were maintained. Therefore INC was given authority to prescribe curricula for nursing education in all the states. It was at the same time given authority to recognize programs of nursing education or refuse to the schools and colleges of nursing.

FUNCTIONS:

1. To establish and monitor a uniform standard of nursing education for nurses, midwives, auxiliary nurses midwives and health visitors by doing inspections of the institutions.
2. To recognize the qualifications for the purpose of registration and employment in India and abroad.
3. To give approval for registration of Indian and Foreign nurses possessing foreign qualifications.
4. To prescribe the syllabus and regulation for nursing programs.
5. Power to withdraw the recognition of qualification standards, that an institution recognized by a state council for the training of nurses, midwives, ANM or health visitors does not satisfy the requirements of council.
6. To advise the State Nursing Councils, examination board, state government and central government in various important items regarding nursing education in country.
7. Recognizes nurses as a separate branch in health services.
8. Permits title, badges, uniforms for registered nurses.
9. It regulate the course duration.
10. It laid down the qualification for the admission, registration and employment.

ORGANIZATION CHART:

COMMITTEES:

1. **Executive committee:** This committee of the council deliberate on the issues related to maintenance of standards of nursing programs.
2. **The nursing education committee:** This committee is constituted to deliberate on the issues concerned mainly with nursing education policy matters concerning with the nursing education.
3. **Equivalence committee:** To deliberate on the issues of recognition of foreign qualifications. This is essential for the purpose of registration of Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
4. **Finance committee:** This is another important subcommittee of the council which decides upon the matters pertaining to finance of the council in terms of budgets, expenditure, implementation of central government orders with respect to service conditions etc.

INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL ACT, 1947

The Indian Nursing council is an autonomous body under the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was constituted by the Central Government under section 3(1) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 of parliament to establish a uniform standard of training for nurses, midwives, and health visitor.

Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947

Act no. of year: ACT NO. 48 OF 1947

Enactment date: 31st December, 1947

OBJECTIVE

* An act to constitute an Indian Nursing Council,
* To establish a uniform standard of training for nurses, midwives and health visitors.
* It is enacted with 17 sections and each section points out the specific legislative role of council.

SECTION-1: short title, extent and commencement

1. This act may be called the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947
2. It extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
3. It shall come into force at once.

SECTION-2: INTERPRETATION:

1. “The council” means the [council] constituted under this Act.
2. “Prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under section16.” State council” means a council (by whatever name called) constituted under the law of state to regulate the registration of nurses, midwives, or health visitors in the state.
3. “state register” means a register of nurses, midwives or health visitors maintained under the law of a state.

SECTION-3: CONSTITUTION AND COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

1. The Central Government shall as soon as may be constitute a council consisting of the following members, namely:
2. One registered nurse elected by each State Council.
3. Two members elected from heads of institutions recognized by the council.
4. One member elected by the heads of the institutions in which health visitors are trained.
5. One member elected by the Medical Council of India.
6. One member elected by the Central Council of the Indian Medical Association.
7. One member elected by the Council of the Trained Nurses Association of India.
8. One auxiliary nurse-midwife enrolled in a state register, elected by each of the state councils in the four groups of states mentioned below, each group taken in rotation in the following order, namely:
9. Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana
10. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan
11. Karnataka, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal
12. Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Orissa
13. The Director general of health services.
14. The chief principal matron, medical directorate, general headquarters.
15. The chief nursing superintendent, office of the director general of health services.
16. The director of maternity and child welfare, Indian Red Cross Society.
17. The chief administrative medical officer (by whatever name called) of each state other than a union territory.
18. The superintendent of nursing services (by whatever name called), from each of the states in the two groups mentioned below, namely:
19. (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana)
20. (Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan)
21. Four members nominated by the central government, of whom at least two shall be nurses enrolled in a state register and one shall be an experienced educationalist.
22. Three members elected by parliament, two by the house of the people and the other by the council of states from among its members.
23. The president of the council shall be elected by the members of the council for five years, who shall hold office during the pleasure of the central government.
24. No act done by the council shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any defect in the constitution of the council.

INCORPORATION OF THE COUNCIL:

It is constituted under section 3shall be a corporate by the name of Indian Nursing Council having a common seal.

MODE OF ELECTIONS:

1. Elections under sub- sections.
2. Of section 3 by State Councils shall be conducted by rules made by the respective State Governments, and where any dispute arises regarding such election it shall be referred to the State Government concerned whose decision shall be final.
3. Other elections under that sub- section shall be conducted in the prescribed manner, and where any dispute arises regarding any such election it shall be referred to the Central Government whose decision shall be final.

TERM OF OFFICE AND CASUAL VACANCIES:

1. An elected or nominated president, shall hold office for a term of five years.
2. A member may at any time resign his membership by writing under his hand addressed to the president.
3. Any member shall be deemed to have vacated his seat if he is absent without excuse sufficient to the council from three consecutive meetings of the council.
4. A casual vacancy in the council shall be filled by fresh election or nomination.
5. Members of the council shall be eligible for re-election.

OFFICERS,COMMITTEES AND SERVANTS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. The secretary of the council shall, for three years, be a person appointed by the central government
2. The council shall:
3. Elect from among its members a vice president.
4. Constitute from among its members an executive committee and such other committees to carry out the purposes of this act.
5. Subject to the provisions of sub- section (1), appoint a secretary, who may also act as treasure.
6. Appoint or nominate such other officers and servants as the council deems necessary.
7. Require and take security from the secretary or from any other officer or servant.
8. With the previous sanction of the central Government, fix the fees and allowances to be paid to the President, Vice president and other members of the council.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. It shall consists of nine members, of whom seven shall be selected by the council from among its members.
2. The president and vice- president of the council shall remain president and vice- president, respectively, of the committee.
3. The executive committee shall exercise and discharge powers and duties as the council may impose if necessary.

RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The qualifications included part I of the schedule shall be recognized qualifications, and in part II of the schedule shall be recognized higher qualifications.
2. The qualification only when granted after a specified date by the respective state council, shall be a recognized qualification.
3. The council may enter into negotiations with any authority to which this act does not extend in India or foreign country.

EFFECT OF RECOGNITION:

1. Any recognized qualification shall be a sufficient qualification for enrolment in any state register.
2. No person enrolled in any state register unless he/ she holds a recognized qualification.
3. Any person holding a recognized higher qualification can entered as a supplementary qualification in any state register.

POWER TO REQUIRE INFORMATION AS TO COURSES OF STUDY AND TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS

Every authority in any state that grants a recognized qualification shall furnish such information to the council from time to time, and the council issues courses of study and training, and examinations to be undergone to obtain such qualifications, as per the council standard.

INSPECTIONS:

1. The executive committee may appoint number of inspectors.
2. Inspectors appointed under this section shall report to the executive committee.
3. The executive committee shall forward a copy of such report to the authority or institution concerned, and also forward copies, to the central government and state council of the state in which the authority or institution is situated.

WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION

1. When, upon a report by the executive committee, it appears to the council:
2. Any institution fall short of standard by the council.
3. Any institution fall short of standard by the state council may send information to the INC and an intimation send for the period within which the institution or authority have to submit its explanation to the state government.
4. On the receipt of the explanation or, where no explanation is submitted within the period fixed, the State Government shall make its recommendations to the council.
5. The council, after such further inquiry, may can withdraw the recognition.

MODE OF DECLARATION:

All declarations under section 10 or section 14 (A) shall be published in the official gazette.

15 (A) Indian Nurses Register

1. The council shall cause to be maintained Indian Nurses Register in the prescribed manner.
2. It shall be the duty of the secretary of the council to keep the Indian Nurses Register.
3. Such register shall be deemed to be a public document within the meaning of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

15(B). supply of copies of State Register:

Each state council shall supply to the council twenty printed copies of the state register as soon as may be after the 1st day of April of each year.

POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS

The council make regulations not inconsistent with this act, such regulations may provide for:

* Property of the council
* Elections
* The meetings
* Prescribing the functions of the executive committee.
* Prescribing the powers and duties of the president and vice- president.
* Prescribing the tenure of office and the powers and duties of the secretary and other officers.
* Prescribing the standard curricula.
* Prescribing the conditions for admissions to courses of training.
* Prescribing the standards of examination.

  **STATE NURSING COUNCIL (SNC)**

The State Nurses and Midwives Council was established in 1948 under the provisions of Nurses and Midwives Act with the purpose of “better training of nurses, midwives and health visitors”. It works as an autonomous body under the Government of respective states, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

STRUCTURE:

Each state determines the specific administrative responsibility and oversight of the council of nursing.

* The governor of the state
* The state health director
* Nursing directorate
* Another state official or organization

SILENT FEATURES:

1. Has provision for autonomous body, comprising the majority of nurses, and is endowed with decision- making powers.
2. Carries out compulsory registration for all nurses and midwives practicing within the state.
3. Has provision for nurses, midwives and public health nurses to elect their own representatives to the respective state.
4. Has the power to regulate nursing education through prescribed curriculum and to enunciate examination policies.
5. Has provision for recognition of educational institutions of nursing and withdrawal of such recognition, if necessary.
6. Different types of basic as well as post- basic nursing training programs are conducted by some of the SNCs.

FUNCTIONS:

1. Registration: carries out student registration after admission to a basic nursing program and final registration after completing the course.
2. Examinations: are conducted for the different courses throughout the year.
3. Changing surname: after marriage, the surnames of the trained nurses are changed if wanted.
4. Inspection of training institution and granting recognition or withdrawal of recognition.
5. Maintenance of different registers for different categories of nurses.
6. Change of address of the trained nurses if wanted by the nurse.
7. Issue of duplicate certificate for loss of original certificate.
8. Additional qualifications registration for up-to-date statistics for higher qualifications.
9. Renewal of registration.
10. Reciprocal registration.
11. Abroad verification.
12. Publication.
13. Construction of syllabus including required courses in state.
14. In- service education program.
15. Research.