

*Correspondence***Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP): An important yet challenging & painful course**Reza Abdollahi ^{a*} 

a. Nursing and Midwifery School, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran

*Corresponding author(s): Reza Abdollahi (PhD student), Nursing and Midwifery School, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran.

Email: rezaabdollahi97@yahoo.com<https://doi.org/10.32598/JNRC.P.2403.1047>This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) (CC BY-NC 4.0).

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To the Editor

With the increasing development of science and technology, the responsibilities and roles of nurses are complicated and expanded, and this group of the healthcare team feels the need to increase the level of education more [1]. The doctoral courses in nursing including the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) strengthens the power of critical thinking in students, identifies the gaps between knowledge and practice, expresses new ideas, acquires the ability to solve problems, and establish effective and appropriate communication. PhD or DNP courses can be effective in creating professional competencies, developing organizational, leadership, ethical, and social skills, and finally expanding knowledge in nursing professional [2]. Today, the desire of nurses to continue their education up to the doctorate level has increased, and among these reasons higher qualifications, better organizational position, promotion of job status, and increase in income can be obtained. Therefore, the nurses' aims of continuing their studies at the doctoral level are not the same [3]. Accepting and studying for a doctorate degree in nursing is stepping on a tortuous path and is considered as a new experience that causes changes in one's life. Nursing students at the PhD or DNP courses dual or different emotions. So that they feel they have paid a high price for these courses. Although the experience of being a doctoral (PhD or DNP) student has been important and pleasant, the concern of uncertain futures and not being specialized, the existence of inappropriate laws related to this course along with inappropriate management, educa-

tional dissatisfaction, feelings of discrimination in the implementation of laws, economic problems, lack of support, lack of facilities adds to the difficulties of this period [4]. Also, the mismatch of expectations with existing conditions (possibility and experiences), feeling of worthlessness, not valuing the students, and getting bored of studying in the doctoral course (PhD or DNP) is another part of the problems of this course of study, so that some students of the nursing doctoral course during their studies and after a while they feel empty after starting their studies [5]. However, passing the doctorate degree leads to internal and external transformation of people, and the experience of studying at this level can be accompanied by reaching a holistic view in nursing. The hope of finding an important position in the future and the prospect of educational positions, managerial and research roles lead to the creation of a sense of positive social, legal, and personal role in PhD or DNP students [6]. Creating a positive image of the profession in the society of doctoral nursing students is one of the other positive aspects of this course, which by being a role model for students and motivating patients, has also influenced the culture of nursing, and by creating a positive image of the profession in the society, it increases the social prestige of the profession [7].

It is concluded that studying at the doctoral (PhD or DNP) level for nurses is like stepping on a path that is accompanied by hardships and sufferings and such a pleasant and constructive aspect. Due to the positive and constructive role of this stage, it can lead to personal growth and development, changing nurses' perspective on professional life, and reaching the true nature of nurs-

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ing. Therefore, it is necessary to implement the educational policy by adopting supportive and welfare policies, strengthening the quality of the educational course, and revising the laws and regulations. In addition, providing a suitable platform to remove obstacles and improve the educational quality of nursing doctorate courses (PhD or DNP) seems necessary to promote the nursing profession.

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Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work: RA; Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content: RA; Final approval of the version to be published: RA; Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved: RA.

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Availability of data and materials

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Using artificial intelligent chatbots

None.

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