What are factors affecting nurses’ decisions to join their professional association?

Many researchers have identified many factors affecting nurses’ decisions to join their professional association (White & Olson, 2004; Deleskey 2003; Ellis & Hartley 2001; Rapp & Collins, 1999; Schutezenhofer & Bridgman-Musser 1994; Yeager & Kline 1983). These factors include the following:

- High cost of membership
- Lack of time
- Lack of knowledge with regard to importance of organization
- Too busy with family responsibilities
- Philosophical differences
- Inconvenient location
- Timings of activities
- Lack of activities
- Long distance to meetings
- Benefits of membership are minimal

In 2006, I conducted a study to explore factors that influence nurses’ decision to join or not to join the Kuwait Nursing Association. This study showed that nine benefits strongly influenced the current members’ decisions to join KNA, namely social activities, relief from boredom, fun, travel, improvement of health care, something new, friendship, group benefit plans and peer group contact. The former members valued five benefits, namely education, programmes, support, professionalism and self-improvement. I concluded that current and former members differ in their reasons to join or not to join the KNA. All the benefits provided by an association may not necessarily attract members and the philosophical differences between them are one of the reasons not to join an association (Alotaibi, 2007).

References


