Health system resilience: An urgent need to mitigate the future unprecedented pandemic

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We just went through a pandemic highlighting the urgent need for a resilient health system to respond to public health threats. Undeniably, the gaps seen in health systems globally, regionally, and locally can threaten to handle the spread of COVID-19 infections. These gaps may jeopardize global health security and economic development (Shamasunder et al., 2020). A resilient health system is the best defense against outbreaks and pandemics but also against the various health threats society faces daily (Thomas et al., 2020).

A health system collects all organizations, institutions, and public and private resources to promote, maintain, and improve health. Health systems include individual and community services and all efforts that influence policies and actions of various sectors directed at the political, social, environmental, and economic determinants of health. The ability of the health system to absorb disruptions and adapt and respond accordingly is reflected in the concept of health system resilience (World Health Organization, 2016), which is currently popular in global health. The concept is widely discussed in UN policies, academic articles, and conferences and is often associated with crises or challenges, infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and climate change (Biddle et al., 2020).

Each country has a different health system, depending on their fundamental beliefs in defining health problems, who is responsible for providing health services, methods of diagnosis and treatment that are considered appropriate and effective, how health services are provided, how health services are financed, and monitoring and evaluation of health care providers and health care systems (Goldsteen et al., 2017). How about our country? How resilient is our country's health system to mitigate the future unprecedented pandemic or disaster? To answer this critical issue, strengthening the country's health system resilience should be brought to the mainstream, including in nursing education.

A health system can achieve resilience if it demonstrates an absorptive, adaptive, or transformative capacity to face a variety of disruptions in varied intensity. To achieve health system resilience, the following four dimensions must be employed: (1) mechanisms by which health system stakeholders gather, systematize, and interpret complex information into a decision- making process; (2) strategies that health system stakeholders can use to manage uncertainty and unexpected conditions; (3) health system interdependencies with other complex systems; (4) approaches used by health systems in developing socially and contextually acceptable institutions and norms (Blanchet et al., 2017). This four-dimensional framework is comprehensive yet context-specific and evidence-based, so health researchers, practitioners, and nurse educators could implement it. We should prepare future nurses to face the challenge of strengthening the health system's resilience to mitigate future unprecedented pandemics or any other global crises.

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