

Media Critique Writeup - B

[Name of Writer]

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[Date]

Media Critique Assignment - B

Response

For the majority of healthcare entities, being able to communicate adequately with the community is a top-notch agenda. Ironically, when talking about the media as a means for “product-placement” of health care knowledge, doctors have over-shadowed the nursing as medical field when it comes to any possible reflection of healthcare dynamics. United States by 2025 is expected to experience shortage of 2,60,000 registered nurses, in spite of the momentary rise in nursing employment in the current recession. Moreover, research released by Health Affairs (2006) points out that if hospitals doubled R.N staffing and nursing care hours per-patient, above 7000 patient deaths and 4 million days of care in hospitals can be averted annually. Unfortunately, present-day media fails to reflect these kinds of colossal stats. Most in-demand medical dramas are physician dominated shows, giving audience virtually no truth regarding the nursing profession (Czarny, Faden, Nolan, Bodensiek, & Sugarman, 2008).

Grey’s anatomy is one popular media show that fails to portray nursing profession in positive light. While this show has exposed viewers to the great details of healthcare life in general, it has subliminally portrayed the nursing profession dynamics in the show that seem to have great impact on how people view nursing as career. These kinds of negative images of nurses essentially give rise to the nursing shortage which has ravaged countless healthcare institutions across the world; either it be misrepresenting, undermining, or insulting the career, present-day media has failed to do the right job at being a “health educator” with regards to nursing (Strauman, & Goodier, 2008).

This show revolves around group of doctors at the Grey-Sloan Memorial Hospital, and their lives as they slowly develop into experienced physicians, with the assistance of their skilled teachers. Every season tries to show the academic year of the doctor, with every completed year, qualifying residents at higher level in the surgical profession. The end of every season is with finale, normally including a tragic incidence like character departure and death. Majority of the parts are revolving around the daily lives of doctors as surgeons, however this show focuses on their personal instead of professional lives. This show puts aside medical morals issues to emphasize on relationships and character development.

[Name of Publication]

Attention: Letters to the Editor

[Address]

[City], [State] [Zip or Postal Code]

[Email]

Dear Editor,

I wish to provide some perspective regarding a media account. The show “Grey’s Anatomy” has viewers on a large scale which are distributed across the nation. This show has failed to portray nurses with good image and basically challenge the field in several manners. First it shows that healthcare dynamics revolves around physicians and physicians only, demonstrating minimal role of nurses thereby undermining the importance of their profession and reducing its “charm”. These negative pictures of the nursing profession really add to the general shortage of nursing which has affected most of the hospitals across the country; whether it is misrepresenting, insulting or undermining the field, the media has not performed a better duty as a health educator when we talk about nursing and its shortage which we are experiencing.

As mentioned by the Institute of Medicine, the greatest sect of professionals of health-care which are giving patient care in the hospitals are the nurses and the care quality for patients in the hospitals is greatly related to the nursing staff’s performance. However, famous media now shows the opposite of what actually is nursing profession.

How this show portrays nurses is importunate to the future of this profession if the audience consider nurses are extra to the field, who would wish to continue his career in nursing? Representations of nurses on this show are nearly terrible. There are at times more nurses in some parts of the episode, but, majorly act like a background for setting the environment of a real healthcare organization. Majority of the nurses in this show are senior and they are unattractive as compared to the major doctor’s characters; generally, nurses are comparatively less visible that supports nurses’ vision as un-attractive, slightly skilled sub-ordinates.

Majority of the nurses choose this profession due to the continuous contact with individuals. For them it is a way of earning reward by assisting other people with their illness. However, as audience does not accept this nursing side, they can guess that nursing duty is isolated and it is all about the paper-work. To make it worst, very few work has been done to enlighten the people with this side of nursing profession in Grey’s anatomy. Sexual references, short lived affairs and secret lovers are ordinary in media of today when coming to depicting nurses.

Modern media, like Grey’s anatomy show, really shows doctors governing nurses, with the skill to fire and hire them. Nurses are nearly always inferior or subservient to physicians on these TV shows. Where is the power and autonomy of nurses? Medical shows constantly uphold the power of doctors, just making it powerful in the eyes of audience. Unluckily, nurses haven’t created an association like the doctors have done. Nurses haven’t progressed the way doctors have and therefore, unfortunately have not got the control that the association of doctors has. Why hospital shows are not focusing on this problem and struggling for the authority of nurses? Rather, they weaken what power they have now and place the effect of doctors on a pedestal. Medical television shows not just undermine and misrepresent the profession of nursing,

however, these rarely represent sanction obviousdisrespecting remarks regarding nurses. This instance of a nursing fault displays a visible lack of education on the role of staffed nurse.

In this series, Doctors are the heroic savers of life, whereas nurses are ill-equipped, under-educated care providers. Doctor's mistakes are balanced always because of the overpowering general regard the TV show has for the doctor skill, intellect and worry for the patients, regard which dominates each episode. Nurses are still heldcompletelyresponsible for their faults, with no chance that any external person even added to the fault; the nurse was unskilled, since competenciesare the main factors adding to the sovereignty of the profession. Medical media cannot just resist displaying doctors as gods who save lives who out-shine all the other professionals of health-care.

Besides, the episodes of this show are not successful enough in making the issues of nursing shortage a critical national problem. Audience may get the feeling that shortage of nursing is just an issue within this hospital. Thus, dependent on the episodes of this show, Grey's Anatomy is equally successful health mentor for this modern nursing problem. Unluckily, other series s related to medical hasn't combined these significant themes in their story-lines. Whereas, this show does deserve praise for giving air-time over the time of 3 episodes to this problem. Famous series s of medical may be the best source of so called edutainment on these issues of nursing, if they may move away from the centric plots of doctor and declining nursing. But, in spite of current suggestions and letters for growth, the producers of such medical shows still majorly focus on the entertainment. A good, respectable, positive picture and a precise representation of what nursing is basically is vital for the profession of nursing, for audience can finally make choices of their careers depending on their views of what they watch on the television.

Sincerely,

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