

The Improvised Community Bag

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ABSTRACT

The home visit is a vital part of community health nursing. A well-equipped, well designed community bag can support a nurse to deliver skilled care to the clients in the family. We, (Jansan Mathew, Joshan, Renjith Joseph) the alumni of Laxmi memorial college of Nursing, Mangalore took this issue as a challenge and planned to design a new version of community health nursing bag. The bag which we designed is a shoulder bag and the main features of the bag are the sterile compartment of the bag can be taken out and autoclaved. So the bag induced infection can be reduced. Bag is easy to carry, well designed and having a modern form which is made up of highly durable materials. The comprehensive description of the bag is given in the article.

Keywords: community bag, home visit

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INTRODUCTION

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi

Changes are inevitable in our life. Change is the only constant and it occurs to replace the older ideas or customs with more innovative and flexible ones.

Nursing is a field which is desire for innovation and community health nursing lying close to the heart of the public; needs to keep a pace with the modern technology.

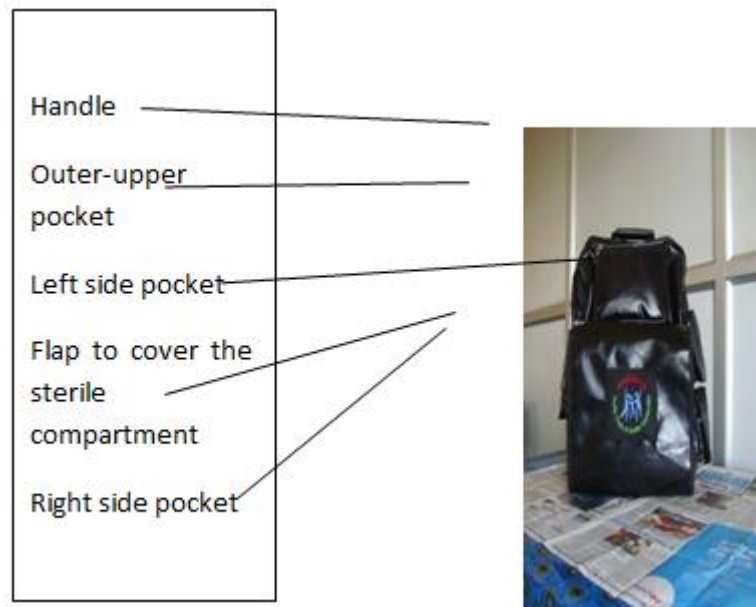
A well planned, well designed and well equipped community bag is needed to provide the comprehensive care to the people in need. But alas, the bag we are accustomed to be the same old traditional bag which makes the nurses feels awkward to carry it.

Appearance of the Bag

The new bag designed by us overcomes the confines of the conservative bag. Old look and the lack of durability make the student nurses reluctant to use it. To give a more professional look it was deliberate as laptop bag. The bag is black in color and made up of nylon which is established to be the most durable. This design gives a good stylish look to the bag; another significant feature is that the bag is water-resistant. The new community bag could be conceded on both the shoulders so that the weight is balanced and equally distributed.

Chambers of the Bag

- Outer upper pocket
- Left side pocket
- Right side pocket
- Outer upper compartment
- Lower sterile compartment
- Clean compartments-1&2



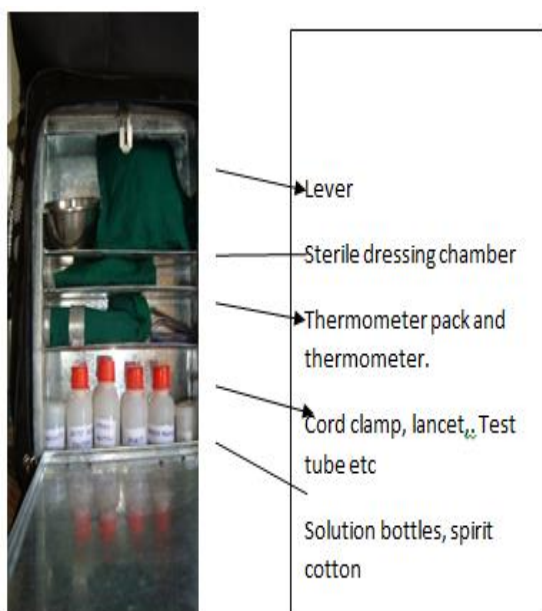
Front view of the bag.



View from the back.



Side view of the bag



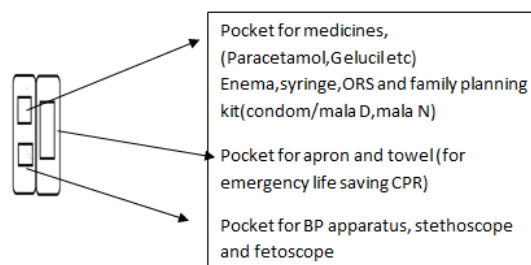
Sterile Compartment (Autoclavable)

Different chambers and the articles in each chamber of the bag

- The outer upper compartment was designed to keep the hand washing articles.
- Right side pocket- Spring balance, Snellen Chart
- Left side pocket- Plastic sheet, paper bag, Tallqvist scale, pocket Diary, Glasgow coma C Scale, UPT kit, torch, scale, scissors, Inch tape, nail cutter, pencil/pen.
- Sterile compartment- it has 4 chambers, i.e.

- (1) Dressing chamber- contains cotton balls, gauze pieces, bowls, kidney tray, sterile scissors, thumb and artery forceps.
- (2) Temperature checking -contains temperature checking pack.
- (3) Chamber for bottles-contains all solutions like betadine, Benedict solution, spirit, cotton balls, acetic acid.
- (4) Miscellaneous articles chamber-(contains test tube, lancet, cord clamp, etc.).

• Clean compartment-1



- **Clean compartment-2-** urine Test articles (a plastic box containing test tube holder, test tube cleaning brush, spirit lamp/candle, lighter, kidney tray, measuring cup, specimen bottle, pipette etc)

Advantages of the new bag:

- Double sided shoulder bag
- New face and professional look for a community bag
- Spacious interior
- Sterile compartment with light weight metal box
- Separate divisions and compartment for different procedure articles
- A bag equipped with everything that supports the community health nurse
- Maintains cleanliness
- Designed for quality care and to maintain standards of nursing
- Sterile equipments in a separate compartment
- A community bag with separate sterile compartment to be autoclaved is a practicable need
- A nurse need a professional look
- Weightless and weight is equally distributed to both shoulders
- Easy to handle the bag
- Easy to locate the articles
- The numbers of procedures that can be performed by using this bag are more than compared to the traditional bag.
- Highly durable
- The sterile compartment is made of a metal box with a material G I steel which will not rust.

- The whole material is washable
- The bag is rust proof and water proof
- The expense of the bag can be compromised as compared to its effectiveness

The procedures that can be performed using this bag are

- Measuring the body temperature
- Monitoring the blood pressure
- Assessment of anthropometric measurement
- Physical examination
- Weighing a new born
- Neurological assessment
- Antenatal examination
- Urine test for sugar/glucose
- Testing urine for albumin
- Urine pregnancy test
- Demonstration of foot and nail care
- Providing tepid sponge
- Administering an enema
- Administering injections
- Administering medications
- Perform wound dressing
- New born care
- Hemoglobin estimation
- Demonstration of ORS preparation
- Family planning measures
- CPR in emergency

Nursing is a unique profession and changing technologies are bound to assist nursing to serve efficiently. The bag is designed to facilitate the nurse to provide the care to the patient with in the changing scenario of health care.

The Best Community Bag Competition

A community bag competition was held at Annai JKK Sampoorani Ammal College of Nursing, Erode, Tamil Nadu on February 2011. The bag which we designed was displayed and presented at the competition.

The organizers and judges of the competition appreciated this innovative idea of community bag. We have bagged second prize in this competition. This motivated us to convey this idea to nursing world through this article.

CONCLUSION

Health is wealth and to meet that wealth we have to provide the services to the needy at their door step. A well designed community bag will be effective so that better care can be given. So it was our small initiative to change to face of traditional community nursing bag.

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