

Nursing imperialism in Germany: Instead of stopping the emergency, workers are recruited from abroad

November 28, 2020





- from Bernd Hontschik
conclude

For years there has been talk of a care emergency in Germany. Thousands of nurses are fleeing their jobs. But causes are not fought.

- The situation in hospitals has been called a nursing emergency for 40 years.
- Since then, hardly anything has changed about the cause of the emergency.
- Instead, Jens Spahn travels to Mexico and Kosovo in order to conclude an agreement on the recruitment of nurses.

The Philippines are Germany's main country of origin for well-trained foreign nurses. You can find it on the website of the **Federal Ministry of Health** read. 1,500 Filipino nurses are expected to arrive soon. Parliamentary State Secretary Sabine Weiss traveled to the Philippines last year and declared there: "The recruitment of foreigners **Caregivers** is an important building block to improve the personnel situation in care facilities and hospitals. "The whole thing has the character of a program. To Mexico and Kosovo is **Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn (CDU)** Personally traveled to negotiate nurse recruitment agreements.

The whole thing is old hat, even if it is now being sold as a great new idea. When I was in the operating room for the first time over forty years ago **Höchst Hospital** around a quarter of the OR nurses and nurses were from Indonesia. Even then, there was talk of a care emergency. Fourteen health ministers have now passed me by, but none of them have managed to solve the problem.

Nursing emergency in Germany: Thousands of nurses are fleeing their jobs

Nobody dared to investigate the causes. On the contrary: in the last 25 years around half of the 4,000 hospitals at the time have been closed and around 50,000 jobs have been created **Care area** painted. At the same time, the number of treatment cases rose by a quarter to around twenty million. More work with fewer staff resulted in unbearable work pressure in many places. Who can still work as a nurse in this hustle and bustle, paid miserably and with mostly hostile working hours? And so over the course of time around 300,000 have been trained **Caregivers** fled her job.

A survey showed that around half of them like to live in the **Nursing Profession** would return if there were adequate pay, good working hours with recovery phases, appreciation and respect. But the nursing staff was not offered more than applause and a poor one-off

payment, even now, in the corona pandemic. Instead, Jens Spahn travels to Mexico and Kosovo to poach their fully trained nurses. He doesn't care that they are missing there.

Germany and the nursing emergency: those affected receive scandalous employment contracts

This is what I call **Nursing imperialism**. Jens Spahn describes this as a triple-win situation: the country of origin gives up unemployed workers, Germany fills vacancies, those affected learn German and earn local wages. But you could also call the whole thing a triple-lose situation: The country of origin is losing well-educated young people in **Germany** they serve the function of wage depressions against the German nursing staff, and those affected often receive scandalous employment contracts far from home, yes, they even have to pay so-called recruitment costs of up to 15,000 euros themselves, as soon as they disillusioned want to quit in order to return home.

Lately we not only find out the weather and stock market prices every day, but also the number of free intensive care beds. What actually is an intensive care bed? An intensive care bed is a hospital bed in which intensive medical care for the seriously ill is provided by specialists **Nursing staff** takes place that has at least two years of additional training. So if you fill up exhibition halls with beds and equipment, that doesn't help. It takes intensive care nurses and intensive care workers. But we don't have that. Applause doesn't help, and we can't get it out of that either **Kosovo** or fly in from Mexico.

It is now evident that the loss of personnel and profit orientation have seriously damaged our healthcare system. You have to be amazed that under these conditions, nurses and doctors still perform at their best every day. But that won't work in the long run unless that **Healthcare** becomes part of the public services again.

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