Excerpts: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 2/5: The School of Nursing

"[B]ecause Pakistan has one of the lowest ratios in the world of nurses to doctors, [the Aga Khan University] decided that the first component of its Faculty of Health Sciences had to be a School Nursing. This was created in 1980 with substantial support from McMaster University in Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency.

"The programmes carried out by AKU’s School of Nursing over the last two decades have clearly demonstrated that a focus on nursing advancement enhances the status of women by making them indispensable partners in societal advancement. Nursing, primarily a women’s profession in Pakistan, empowers women and improves their status in their communities. It provides positive role models for other women, strengthens their decision-making and problem-solving capabilities in the eyes of others, and promotes their personal, professional, and financial autonomy. When AKU began operations in Pakistan, nursing was a very low status profession, and nursing studies were a neglected discipline in health education."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1999 Address to the World Bank InfoDev Conference (Washington D.C., USA)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5644/

"The School of Nursing’s primary mission is to raise the standards and standing of the profession itself, so that it is accorded the recognition and prestige earned and deserved by the women whose
working lives are dedicated to the demanding and honourable task of caring for the sick. We are confident that the nurses in our hospital will be rewarded with respect, appreciation and remuneration that their integrity and loyal commitment justify. The key note to the School's philosophy is excellence.

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1981 address at the Inauguration of the Aga Khan School of Nursing (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/2178/

~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~

"The Nursing School will not be so large, but it too will be producing 75 trained staff nurses every year-and I can assure you that they will be very good nurses indeed. This is a profession which often has to struggle for its rightful status. If the official statistics are accurate, there are only 4,000 women in the nursing profession throughout the country and as a result, a great deal of nursing work is performed by males.

"Now, especially, with my wife on the same platform, I would not dream of suggesting whom I should prefer to soothe my brow. If I were to simply content myself with a diplomatic observation of fact, there are some jobs for which the feminine temperament is better suited than others.

"In many parts of the world nursing, by tradition, is one of them. Therefore I believe that nurses deserve the quality of training, the excellence of working conditions and the appropriate material rewards for such sensitive and important work. That, at any rate, will be our policy at this hospital and if it is followed elsewhere in the country, I shall be very happy."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1971 Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College Foundation Stone Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/1722/

~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~
"Since its founding, the School of Nursing has graduated almost 1100 diploma students and nearly 200 Baccalaureate graduates, and has launched a post-graduate Masters Degree programme. It has become a leading resource for nursing education, not only in Pakistan, but also for other developing countries. It is on this basis that the Ministries of Health in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have invited the School of Nursing to launch its regional programme for upgrading nursing education in Eastern Africa."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1999 Address to the World Bank InfoDev Conference (Washington D.C., USA)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5644/

"When [the Aga Khan University] was founded, one of the concerns which the original advisers had shared with me, and particularly the men and women who worked on the Harvard Report, was this that the university should not only teach, but it should relate properly to the society in which it lives so that the work of its faculty, of its students, would benefit the wider community in which this institution functions. The role of continuing education in nursing is a significant role which I hope this institution will develop in the years ahead, because one of my aspirations was that this School of Nursing will achieve such a dimension in competence, in knowledge, in research, that it would become a reference point for the nursing profession in Pakistan, and not just for students. It seems to me significant, therefore, that we should, as a next step, seek to develop both postgraduate studies and a significant dimension in research. I am absolutely convinced that there is much to learn in research in nursing in Pakistan and research in nursing in the developing world generally. And it seems to me that this School of Nursing should look at those horizons, should work with all of us to try to develop them."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1996 Rufaiday-al-Islamia Building, Aga Khan University, Foundation Stone Ceremony address (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/5180/
See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 1/5: Rational, vision and hopes


See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 3/5: Institute for Educational Development


See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 4/5: Research


See also: His Highness the Aga Khan on the Aga Khan University - Part 5/5: The Future


Click here for this post in PDF format.