

The Year 1979 Report on Status of Work of Nursing Personnel in Hospital

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< The purpose and method of survey >

The purpose of present survey is to throw light on the working situations of members of Japanese Nursing Association who work in the hospitals and what they think are the problems of the present conditions of work of themselves.

The survey was conducted, between the end of October and November in 1979, on hospital nurses, midwives and licensed practical nurses who were selected from the list of JNA's membership by using the random sampling method. The questionnaires were sent to total 3,064 members (expecting replies 1,532) and the 1,541 replies were sent us back finally.

< The results of survey >

The survey showed as follows;

1. Average age of the sample was 34.9 years old and 59.8% of the sample were married (including divorced and separated nurses by their spouse) and 85.0% of which having children.
2. Characteristics common to their hospitals were
 - 1) public hospitals owned by nation, prefecture, municipality and so on (79.0%),
 - 2) bed size of the hospitals were 300 beds or more (55.4%).
3.
 - 1) The average normal hours of work and overtime per week was each 43 hours and 16 minutes and 2 hours and 10 minutes.
The number of their annual paid holidays they took actually were 10.7 days.
 - 2) The average monthly salary was ¥179,800, including income tax (the average monthly basic salary was ¥151,400) and the summer bonus (per 6 months) was ¥287,000, including income tax.
 - 3) 46.0% of the sample worked in three-shifts (day, evening and night) and the average number of the both evening and night duty was 8.9 days a month and 70-80% of which working for late shift work with another staff nurse.
18.2% of the sample worked in night duty system, which means being restricted at workplace all night following the day duty in order to make rounds on the patients on the floor regularly and to respond to possible calls. The average number of the night duty was 3.2 days a month and 45.3% of which worked alone.
4. According to the survey, half of the sample showed that the present working conditions had the following problems;
 - 1) It was difficult to take annual paid holidays or other days off in the present situation.
 - 2) A premium pay for night-shift or night duty was small.
 - 3) The salary was not rewarding enough for taking a responsibility for the work.And 43.7% of the sample said that the salary most needed improving in the three working conditions — working hours, night duty and salary.