

The current situation and the problems in the nursing school's three-year course

Kazuo Fujita
Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section
Development & Promotion
Department

We studied the current situation in the nursing school's three-year course by comparing the survey on nursing education conducted in 1991 with those conducted by the Japanese Nursing Association 20 years ago. Moreover analysing the survey results of 1992 on job choice by nursing students, we tried to clarify the problems and the tasks in the three-year course.

1. The change in the school capacity and the teaching staff

We compared the numbers of the schools and the students with those in 1971. School numbers increased 2.2 times and student numbers increased 3.5 times. Concerning administration, a medical doctor working at a hospital was at the same time positioned as head master of the school. The ratio of one teacher to student was decreased only by 1.4 students. The situations remained almost the same over 20 years. The age of teaching staff of 1991 was higher and teaching experience in 1991 was also longer than those 20 years ago.

2. The student's job choice at graduation — changes by year

We studied student job choice at graduation from 1970 to 1990. Increasing numbers of students found a job outside the hospital where they studied. However, after 1987, the numbers of those choosing positions at their school-hospital gradually increased again.

3. The teacher characteristics of the nursing school's three-year course

— from the survey on nursing education

79.3% of full-time teaching staff were senior high school graduates and 10.3% were university graduates. The average length of teaching experience was 7.4 and nursing experience was 8.6. 89.3% of staff attended workshops for nursing teachers. As to the motives, 34.2% said they became teaching staff on a hospital supervisor's order. This percentage was higher than in other nursing education systems. The teaching hours were 10.8 per week which turned out to be lower than other systems. Only 8% of the schools employed full-time teachers in nursing practice. We listed 21 problems in nursing education activities and teachers selected 16 topics which they actually regarded as problems. 37.6% said they did not have job satisfaction as teachers. This percentage was the highest among all nursing education systems. 12.4% said their job was not challenging. The percentage was also the highest among the systems. 55.8% mentioned they were not satisfied with the school.

4. The nursing teacher's problem consciousness — analysis by school organization bodies

Teachers who belonged to a school established by national, public or other organization bodies definitely had problem consciousness about their teaching activities.

5. The nursing student's characteristics of the nursing school's three-year course

— from the survey on nursing students

As to the time of entering the school, those answering soon after senior high school graduation marked the highest ratio. 36.3% of those replying the current school was not their first choice gave a nursing college as their first choice.

Concerning the merit of entering the current school, the percentage answering that they could have a chance to develop their personality was the highest, with 56.9%. 3% said they encountered reliable teachers. This percentage was the lowest among the nursing education systems.

73.1% mentioned they wanted to quit the school, and the percentage was the highest among systems. The reasons why they wanted to quit the school were as follows; being inferior in practice, not liking nurses practising together, feeling limited in abilities. The above three reasons got higher ratio than those of other systems. For reasons why they did not quit, 31.0%, the highest ratio, mentioned they were supported by school friends.

As to nursing practice, 78.6% said they could not get necessary information from patients. 60.0% said they were rejected by patients. 71.4% said they could not agree to the matter

pointed by a leader in practice. The percentages were higher than those of other systems.

6. Future tasks

- 1) The nursing school's three-year course should be transformed initially into a nursing college. If the school can not be transformed into a college because of a lack of facilities, the numbers of full-time teachers and nursing practice leaders should be increased with financial aid from the government.
- 2) In order to improve educational situations at schools which have difficulties in transformation, the nursing education law should be amended.

● SUMMARY

SUMMARY ●

**The student's consciousness entering the nursing second career
in the nursing school's three-year course
— from the responses to questionnaires
sent to 17 students/graduates**

Kazuo Fujita

Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section
Development & Promotion
Department

Aim

42.9% of the Japanese nursing school's three-year course restrict students' age, sex, etc. Therefore those who want to be a nurse or a male nurse after starting another occupation must attend an assistant nursing school with lower entrance requirements, and at least four years of rather protracted study is required to pass the national examination and get a licence. The survey was conducted to clarify the current situation in a nursing second career for promotion of nursing second career education in the nursing school's three-year course.

Method

With the cooperation of the nursing school's three-year course which accepted second career students, we sent an enquiry to 17 nursing second career students and graduates of the nursing school's three-year course. Then we tried to analyse the findings.

Survey period

From September 1 to October 9 in 1993

Survey results

Sample attributes

Sample : 13 students and 4 graduates of National Sanatoria Tokyo Nursing School Three-Year Course

Average age : 29.9 years

Sex : 13 females and 4 males

Educational background : 8 university graduates, 1 practical school graduate and 8 senior high school graduates

Marital status : 3 married

Dependents : 2 had dependents

1. The reasons for choosing nursing as an occupation

The respondents described their reasons as follows: having doubt about previous occupation, nursing seemed to be challenging, positive experiences with nurses, nursing seemed to be a lifelong occupation, etc.

2. The nursing image difference and the problems after entering nursing school

10 students/graduates had a positive view of nursing describing they had a narrow view of the profession before entering the school but discovered the integrity of the occupation. Four students/graduates gave a negative view of aspects like strict rules, tight study schedule, etc. Two said there was not particular difference before and after entrance. One student did not answer. As to the problems after entrance, age difference between classmates, too many rules, tight schedule, private conversation during class, etc. were listed.

3. Satisfaction and dissatisfaction in choosing a nursing career

Being attracted by profound nursing, being challenged by nursing, finding the importance of nursing, etc. were listed as giving satisfaction. Lack of time, gap between practice and study, etc. were noted as giving dissatisfaction. Most of the respondents were satisfied.

4. Difficulties in a nursing student life

Some students/graduates mentioned they were worried about their age and sense of value difference from other classmates or teachers. They thought they were treated with care because of their age. Several students/graduates said they had no problem.

5. Difficulties in entering the school

Many students complained that they had to study hard for the entrance examination. Some students said that entrance information for senior and male students was not provided.

6. Living expenses

As to the school fees and living expenses, some students/graduates spent their own money saved while they had been working, some were doing side jobs, some were borrowing money from their parents and some were getting scholarships.

7. Desired job field in future

To the enquiry about desired job field in future, many students/graduates answered they were hoping to work in a hospital. Some said they had not decided yet. Some students/graduates wanted to have a job in a mental or neurotic disease hospital, in a hospital for the aged, in a hospice, in a hospital outside Japan, in an outpatients' clinic which accommodates nursing related to mental self-care.

8. Being actually employed as a senior

Four nurses/male nurses described the merits and demerits of their age. Some said age did not matter, whereas some said they sometimes felt their position was uncertain. Some describe the merit of being encouraged by colleagues and having close human relationships, and the demerit of being limited in the field because of age.

9. Concerning developing a nursing second career

To the enquiry whether a nursing second career should further be developed or not, almost all the respondents said Yes. One mentioned there was no need to develop it particularly as a second career. As to the points which should be taken into consideration when a certain system would be developed, the respondents mentioned that entrance examination subjects should be tested in writing or through interview, a financial aid system should be established and a certain number of students should be enrolled.

10. Remarks on nursing in the future

The respondents described their views; to work having more time, to provide nurses having their own nursing philosophy, to widen opportunity and change to emphasise the importance of nursing, to amend the lifetime nursing qualification for more accurate nursing,

to provide profound education on humanity, to spend plenty of time on nursing education and self-enlightenment, to remove the level of difference in nursing education, to provide medical knowledge, to enroll human resources having wider understanding about various phenomena and objects, to enroll human resources having greater flexibility and experience in various fields of society, to improve working conditions of nurses, etc.

Conclusion

The students who had working experience and passed the process of self analysis about what they really wanted to do seemed to express a sense of direction and consciousness of purpose. They were trying their best even in poorly financed circumstances which impose strict limitations on them. Some graduates described the merits of being a senior. Therefore a nursing second career will have meaning, especially a nursing second career for university graduates should be expected in future.

● SUMMARY

SUMMARY ●

**Survey on job choice by nursing college
and university graduates**

Motoko Okumura
Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section
Development & Promotion
Department

Outline of the survey

The aim of the survey was to understand the situation of job choice by nursing college and university graduates and to obtain more information on choosing job and desired education in the future.

The sample was 2,633 graduates; those who graduated between March 1983 and March 1992 from seven nursing universities of 10 in Japan. The survey was conducted by mailing questionnaires to respondents and asking them to fill these in and return them. The survey period was from March to June in 1993. The responses numbered 1,332. The valid response rate was 50.6%.

Results of the survey

The respondents' average age was 27.5 years, 97.9% of them were female and 1.2% were male. As to the respondents' qualifications, 97.7% were nurses/male nurses, 89.0% were public health nurses, 10.1% were midwives, 34.0% were school nurses, etc. 11.6% of the respondents had a post-graduate degree and 0.6% had a doctor's degree.

77.0% of the respondents were working in nursing. 4.5% of the respondents were working at jobs other than nursing. 3.5% continued to study. The respondents' ratio of those working as a nurse went down according to age; the age group from 23 to 24 got the highest ratio, however the ratio over 31 years was still 65.1%.

The average years of job experience after graduation was 4.3 years. The average years of job experience connected to nursing education, experience and qualification was 4.2 years. The average years of working at a current job was 2.8 years. 54.1% of those working as a nurse said they had no job change experience, 30.4% said one change and 9.4% answered two changes. 74.9% of the respondents had working experience in a public or a private hospital after graduation.

As to job category of 1,025 respondents of those working as a nurse, 330 were public health nurses (32.2%), 457 were nurses/male nurses (44.6%), 49 were midwives (4.8%), 144 were school teachers of nursing (14.0%) and 28 were school nurses (2.7%). As to working place, 47.8% worked in a hospital, 10.4% in a public health center, 10.0% in a prefectural government office, 7.1% in a company or private office, 6.6% in a college, 3.7% in a university.

We asked the respondents with more than one year working experience after graduation whether they were satisfied with their payment and position or not. In case of being unemployed, we required them to state their last working situation. 38.8% of the respondents answered they were satisfied, 21.5% said unsatisfied and 38.0% responded they could not say satisfied or unsatisfied.

Concerning future jobs, 67.6% answered they wanted to work as a nurse. 23.5% mentioned they would like to try to look for a job not in nursing but related to nursing education, experience and qualification. 6.5% said they would like to find their job outside nursing. Moreover we asked those who wanted to find their job in nursing, which field they wanted. 34% answered district nursing, 27.0% mentioned education and research, 20.9% responded a specialist in nursing and 2.2% said administration in practice.

Following three fields of nursing; nursing for the aged, nursing at home and psychiatric nursing, setting aside high level nursing technique corresponding to the advanced medical treatment, would provide greater possibilities related to the special knowledge and judgment of nursing. Concerning a desired working field, nursing at home obtained the highest ratio. Nursing at home seemed to appeal to the respondents.

41.4% of the respondents said they would like to study in a postgraduate school in future. Of those currently working as a nurse, 46.1% mentioned they wanted to enter a postgraduate school. We asked the respondents desiring to study in a postgraduate school which field they would like to work in. 70.4% of those mentioning education and research field, 44.1% of mentioning specialists in practice and 28.1% mentioning district nursing stated their wish to study in a postgraduate school.

Concerning the response that males should also be qualified as public health nurses or midwives, 84.8% said Yes about public health nurses, but about midwives positive answers remained 35.3%.

In free description the respondents highly evaluated nursing education in university as a whole. However, they were not always accepted affirmatively regarding job choice. They described that at the first stage of their practice they sometimes felt an inferiority complex to the nurses graduated from a nursing school's three-year course. They said they would like to have on-the-job training to compensate for their weakness. They proposed setting up a certain system in university to which nurses in practice could attend again, and wanted to widen their educational opportunities. Those remarks would provide task problems of nursing university education in the future.