

SURVEY OF HEALTH CONSULTATION AND EDUCATION BY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSE AT WORKPLACE

Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section

OUTLINE OF SURVEY

1. Purpose of Survey

The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on health consultation and education service for workers by occupational health nurses. The survey was conducted as an extension of our previous survey entitled "Survey of Occupational Health Service in Workplace" (JNA Research Report No.30), with the focus placed on the health consultation and education in the workplace. The content of the Research Report No. 30 is as follows.

1. Occupational health nurses assignment
2. Employees health problems
3. Number of nursing personnel employed in one workplace
4. Status of nursing personnel in industries and office
5. Characteristics of nursing personnel who completed questionnaires
6. Function of nursing personnel
7. Participation in decision-making and scope of responsibility and authority

The information obtained by this survey will be used for development of skills and training programmes of health consultation for occupational health nurses.

192 industries and offices were randomly chosen for this survey from the total of 765 industries and offices surveyed in the Research Report No. 30. Questionnaires were sent to 474 occupational health nurses working with these industries and offices. The valid replies were 201 (42.4%)

SURVEY FINDINGS

1. Individual Health Consultation:

On an average, one occupational health nurse provided individual health consultation to 188 workers in a year.

2. Group Health Education:

128 respondents replied that they conducted group health education for workers. 69% of them believed group education was advantageous in terms of efficiency, and 64.7% expected favourable effects more than that.

3. Workers with Chronic Illness and Handicaps:

Workers with chronic health problems were given appropriate advice to maintain their condition in the workplace. Workers with handicaps were under observation by occupational health nurses as to their adaptation to workplace constantly 10.4% (of the respondents), periodically 38.3%, and very seldom 25.4%.

4. Mental Health Problems:

Workers in industries and offices are in stress more or less from the strain of everyday life. Workers may become mentally unstable at the workplace. Occupational health nurses take care of them and advise them to see psychiatrists if deemed necessary.

5. Support System for Occupational Health Nurse:

Occupational health nurses need resource persons who are able to support them in difficult situation. Difficulties they encounter may be related to nursing service, medical treatments, administrative issues, etc. It is essential that resource persons of different disciplines are made available to these nurses when necessary.

6. Educational Opportunities:

88.1% of the respondents replied they participated educational courses or seminars on occupational health during the previous year of the survey. They expressed that they wanted to attend courses or seminars on health consultation, mental health care and counseling technique.