

Study Regarding the Desire of Nurses to Enter Four-Year Universities

Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section
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I. Outline of the Study

1. Aim of the Study

Currently, there is a noted change in the situation of nurses pursuing their studies at universities, due to the considerable increase in the number of colleges of nursing and the increase in adults entering or re-entering universities. It has also been reported in the past that the many in the profession of nursing wish to further their studies at universities; however, very little information exists as to the actual situation of nurses who desire to study further.

Thus, in the eighth survey on the state of nurses for the members of the Association conducted in October 1993, "desire for further study" was established as one of the special topics.

In this article, we will conduct a new analysis on the items concerning the afore-mentioned "desire for further study" with the aim to understand the characteristics of nurses who wish to enter college; this will also be part of basic reference material to assess the facilitation of nurses applying for college in the future, as well as material to be used when admitting nurses into college.

2. Survey Method (For details please refer to "Japan Nursing Association Survey Research

Report No. 45”).

1) The survey was targeted at 10,863 nurses, chosen at random by vocational representation (primary health nurses, midwives, nurses, assistant nurses) from among the 351,066 members of the Japan Nursing Association, as of June 1993.

2) The survey method was to send survey sheets by direct mail to the work place and the individual respondents, and to have them mail back the responses in enclosed envelopes self-addressed to the Association survey office.

3) The period of the survey was October 1993.

4) The effective responses collected numbered 5,692 (recovery/ collection rate 52.4%).

5) In this report, we distinguished between those who “desired further study” at four-year colleges other than nursing colleges or at colleges of nursing, and those who were “not considering further study,” and compared the two groups in order to clarify the characteristics of nurses who desired to go on to four-year colleges.

6) The figures were broken down into 1,757 (33.1%) who “desired further study,” at four-year colleges for other than nursing, and 3,545 (66.9%) who were “not considering further study,” a total of 5,302.

With regard to four-year colleges of nursing, 1,590 (28.3%) “desired further study,” while 3,694 (65.7%) were “not considering further study,” for a total of 5,621 members.

II. Characteristics of those who desired further study in four-year colleges for other than nursing

1. Basic attributes

High percentages of those who “desired further study” were found, by local nursing associations, in the prefectures of Miyazaki (48.8%), Tokyo (45.8%), Kanagawa (42.4%), Kyoto and Ehime (41.7%).

The percentage of nurses who “desired further study” increased with age, peaking at 36.0% for those in their late 30s, 45.2% among men, 32.9% among women, the rate for men being higher.

With regard to marriage status, the ratio of those who “desired further study” among “unmarried” nurses (36.9%) was higher than that of “married” or “divorced, widowed,” nurses (30.8%). The rate for those “without children” (36.7%) was higher than those “with children” (29.8%).

Regarding educational background by general education status, the rate of nurses who "desired further study" was high among "university graduates" (43.8%), "junior college graduates" (37.3%) and "high school graduates" (34.6%). By specialization, the rates were "graduates of midwifery schools" (39.5%), "graduates of schools for health nurses and midwives" (42.1%), and "graduates of colleges of nursing" (39.5%).

The rates of those who "desired further study" increased in proportion to years of work experience, peaking at "10-19 years" numbering 36.3% and decreasing from there on.

2. Working Conditions

The rates for nurses who "desired further study" were high for the following.

By job type, "instructor of nursing" (54.6%), "midwife" (51.0%); by rank, "middle management" (38.2%), "management" (36.7%), and "non-managerial position" (31.8%).

By current work place, the results were "educational institute for nursing" (54.2%), "social welfare institute" (52.0%), "midwife clinic" (50.0%), "prefectural and municipal government offices" (46.2%), "senior citizens' home" (43.8%). By fields of current work, they were "education, research" (52.1%), "management" (38.0%). By number of continuous years of work, they were "less than one year" (46.4%), "15 to 20 years" (34.4%), and "1-4 years" (34.2%).

3. Consciousness regarding work, etc.

With regard to the intent to continue working as a nurse, three points were asked: in relation to marriage or birth of a child, in relation to change of workplace, and continuing as a nurse. Of the group with the highest ratio for "desiring further study" and continuing to work, 34.5% stated that they "would continue to work regardless of marriage or childbirth;" 41.8% stated in terms of change of work place that they "would change their work place in search of a place suited to themselves," and 43.9% stated that "job type would not matter if they could utilize their nursing experience."

For degree of satisfaction regarding current work among those with the highest rate of "desiring further study," 44.3% stated they were "very dissatisfied."

Future areas of desired work among those with the highest rate of "desiring further study" were "education, research" (61.1%), "management" (43.9%). With regard to specialized fields that they would like to try, 34.3% desired "senior citizens' nursing," 37.9% for "home care," 47.7% for "nursing in psychiatry," and 40.9% for "welfare-related."

Among those "desiring further study," 37.4% felt that they were the type suited to making

“appropriate decisions in emergency conditions,” whereas 34.1% felt they preferred to provide “steady assistance.” Among those “desiring further study,” 39.9% felt they were more “specialist-oriented,” while 30.1% felt they were “generalist-oriented.”

III. Characteristics of Nurses Desiring Further Study in Four-Year Colleges of Nursing

1. Basic attributes

By local nursing association, the rates of those “desiring further study” were high in the prefectures of Kochi (42.5%), Wakayama (41.5%), Fukushima (40.8%), Kagoshima (38.1%) and Kanagawa (36.7%) in that order.

The rates of those “desiring further study” increased with age, peaking at 36.6% for those in their late 30s, 43.2% among men, 29.8% among women, the rate for men being higher.

With regard to marriage status, the ratio of those who “desired further study” among “unmarried” nurses (33.1%) was higher than that of “married” (28.3%) or “divorced, widowed,” nurses (27.6%). The rate for those “without children” (32.9%) was higher than those “with children” (27.3%).

Regarding educational background by status of general education, the rate of nurses who “desired further study” was high among “university graduates” (43.5%), “junior college graduates” (37.0%) and “high school graduates” (30.6%). By specialization, the rates were “graduates of junior colleges of nursing (three-year course)” (42.5%), “graduates of midwifery schools” (36.3%), and “schools of nursing (college-preparatory course)” (32.8%) in that order.

The rates of those who “desired further study” increased in proportion to the years of work experience, peaking at years of experience “10-19 years” numbering 35.2% and decreasing from there on.

2. Working Conditions

The rates for nurses who “desired further study” were high for the following.

By job type, “instructors of nursing” (41.7%), “midwives” (38.5%); by rank, “middle management” (38.2%), “management” (36.7%), and “non-managerial positions” (31.8%).

By current work place, they were “educational institute other than those for nursing” (50.0%), “educational institute for nursing” (41.5%), “social welfare institute” (41.7%), “education, research” (41.9%), “management” (31.8%) in that order. By number of continuous years of work

at their present work place, they were "less than one year" (35.7%), "15 to 20 years" (32.9%), and "4-7 years" (32.0 %).

3. Consciousness regarding work, etc.

With regard to the intent to continue working as a nurse, of the group with the highest ratio of "desiring further study" and continuing to work, 32.1% stated that they "would continue to work regardless of marriage or childbirth;" 35.0% stated that they "would change their work place in search of a place suited to themselves," and 38.6% stated that "job type would not matter if they could utilize their nursing experience."

For degree of satisfaction regarding current work among those with the highest rate of "desiring further study," 36.1% stated they were "very satisfied."

Future areas of desired work among those with the highest rate of "desiring further study" were "education, research" (61.8%), "management" (36.4%). With regard to specialized fields, 32.0% desired "senior citizens' nursing," 35.8% "home care," 35.9% for "nursing in psychiatry," and 35.4% for "welfare-related."

Among those "desiring further study," 37.7% felt that they were the type suited to making "appropriate decisions in emergency conditions," whereas 29.7% felt they preferred to provide "steady assistance." Among those "desiring further study," 38.6% felt they were more "specialist-oriented," while 27.0% felt they were "generalist-oriented."

From the above, the following characteristics are indicated for nurses who desire to further their studies in four-year colleges of nursing as well as colleges other than of nursing.

Centering around the age group of the twenties to the thirties, a higher rate of men desire to further their studies than women, usually with 10-19 years of experience as nurses.

Furthermore, more unmarried nurses wish to further study than those who are married, divorced or widowed.

Regarding job type, a higher rate of instructors of nursing and midwives desired to further their studies. Moreover, the rates of nurses wishing to work in the areas of "education, research," and "management," those considering working in "nursing in psychiatry" and "welfare-related" fields and specialist-oriented fields are high.

From the above characteristics, it can be said that nurses desiring to study in four-year colleges are of the type who wish to utilize their experience in nursing over a long-term period, prefer to change their work place, are dissatisfied with their current job and are highly interested in other areas.