SHORT PAPER

Expected Characteristics for New Home-Visiting Nurses According to Experienced Nurses

Akiko AKIYAMA 1) Yumi FUKUYAMA 2)

1) Institute of Nursing and Medical Care, Faculty of Health Science, Kio University, Japan
2) Institute of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, Saga University, Japan

ABSTRACT

Background: This study aimed to examine the qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses from the perspective of experienced home-visiting nurses.

Methods: An anonymous survey was mailed to 2,000 home-visiting nurses randomly selected from 5,565 home-visit nursing stations.

Results: We extracted four subscales using an exploratory factor analysis: (a) being well-mannered, (b) acquiring basic knowledge and skills, (c) giving consideration to the patient and their family members, and (d) actually practicing trained concepts in nursing education.

Conclusion: Our findings indicated that nursing education should focus more on developing appropriate bedside manner and that it may be useful to develop tools such as virtual reality simulation to translate and apply new nurses' theoretical knowledge and skills to clinical contexts.

< Key-words >
home care, home-visit nursing, home-visiting nurse, nursing education, Japan

a.akiyama@kio.ac.jp (Akiko AKIYAMA: Japan)

Asian J Human Services, 2021, 20:61-66. © 2021 Asian Society of Human Services
I. Introduction

To retain necessary human resources for home-based medical and end-of-life care, we should support active learning for new graduate nurses\(^1\). Previous studies reported that new graduate nurses cannot realistically work at home-visit nursing stations because these jobs require specialized and extensive experience\(^2,3\).

Therefore, Fukuyama et al. first conducted a qualitative study to explore actual conditions in practice, identifying challenges reported by new graduate visiting nurses\(^4\). Akiyama et al. then conducted a qualitative study, asking skilled home-visiting nurses to describe required characteristics for performing their duties effectively\(^5\). The purpose of this study was to examine the components that constitute necessary qualities for new graduate visiting nurses.

II. Methods

1. Study design and Participants

An anonymous survey was mailed to 2,000 home-visiting nurses randomly selected from 5,565 registered home-visit nursing stations (Hokkaido: 124, Tohoku region: 118, Kanto region: 578, Chubu region: 305, Kinki region: 441, Chugoku/Shikoku region: 173, Kyusyu/ Okinawa region: 261). In the seven Japanese regions, the questionnaire’s distribution rate ranged from 43.4 to 30.7. As of February 2019, these stations are full members of the National Association for Visiting Nurse Services. The study was performed between August and September 2019. A letter attached to the survey clearly stated study purpose, along with explanations regarding the right to refuse participation, privacy protection, and publication of anonymized data only. All participants provided written informed consent.

2. Questionnaire

The questionnaires sought information about the characteristics, type of home-visit nursing station, the number of healthcare workers, and components of the qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses measured using 20 items. Qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses were determined through a 20-question interview based on our previous qualitative surveys\(^4,5\). We asked subjects to assign a score ranging from 1 (highly disagree) to 5 (highly agree).

3. Statistics analysis

We conducted item analysis, followed by exploratory factor analysis, on survey results. All statistics were performed in SPSS 22.0J for Windows.
4. Ethical considerations

This study protocol was approved by the institutional review boards of Kio university (No: H30-21). A letter attached to the survey clearly stated study purpose, along with explanations regarding the right to refuse participation, privacy protection, and publication of anonymized data only. All participants provided written informed consent.

III. Results

Of the 2,000 mailed questionnaires, 74 were returned because of incorrect addresses. We received 328 responses (response rate: 17.0%). After excluding 16 responses from home-visiting nurses with <2 years of experience, the final analysis included 312 surveys. Table 1 shows participant characteristics. The exploratory factor analysis extracted four subscales consisting of 17 items (Table 2).

| Variables | Values |
|-----------|--------|
| Age (years) | 51.8±7.8 |
| Sex (Female) | 289 (92.6) |
| (Male) | 19 (6.1) |
| (Unknown) | 4 (1.3) |
| Years of experience as nurse | 26.6±8.2 |
| Years of experience as visiting nurse | 12.0±7.7 |
| Type of Home-visit nursing station | |
| Single | 79 (25.3) |
| Multiple (established other institution in parallel) | 229 (73.4) |
| Hospital | 80 (25.6) |
| Clinic | 40 (12.8) |
| Home help services | 87 (27.9) |
| Unknown | 4 (1.3) |
| Type of healthcare workers | 13.3±11.3 |
| Home-visit nurses, full-time | 4.5±2.6 |
| Home-visit nurses, part-time | 3.2±3.0 |
| Physical therapist, Occupational therapist, Speech therapist | 3.1±3.9 |
| Others | 3.4±7.4 |
| Components of the qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses | |
| Being well-mannered | 4.8±0.3 |
| Acquiring basic knowledge and skills | 4.3±0.5 |
| Giving consideration to the patient and his/her family members | 4.5±0.5 |
| Actually practicing trained concepts in nursing education | 4.0±0.7 |

N=312, n (%), †Mean ± SD, ‡1 (highly disagree) to 5 (highly agree)
<Table 2> The components of the qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses

| Items                                                                 | Factor loading |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| **1. Being well-mannered (7 items, α= 0.90)**                        |                |
| He/she is well groomed.                                              | .897           |
| He/she can handle the goods politely.                                | .847           |
| He/she can put his/her shoes off neatly.                             | .834           |
| He/she can use polite language.                                       | .815           |
| He/she can use the appropriate honorific.                            | .680           |
| He/she can correspond on the telephone appropriately.                | .600           |
| He/she can be careful about the behavior at the patient’s home (opening and closing the door, etc.) | .560 |
| **2. Acquiring basic knowledge and skills (4 items, α= 0.86)**       |                |
| He/she has the prerequisite basic knowledge needed for patient assessment. | .889 |
| He/she understands the pathophysiology at a level that can pass the national exam for nurses. | .832 |
| He/she understands the scientific basis of basic nursing skills.     | .676           |
| He/she understands basic nursing skills.                             | .646           |
| **3. Giving consideration to the patient and his/her family members (3 items, α= 0.78)** | | |
| He/she can ponder the feelings of patients and their family members. | .814           |
| He/she has a sense of proper distance between patients and their family members. | .805 |
| He/she can treat patients and their family members sincerely.       | .567           |
| **4. Actually practicing trained concepts in nursing education (3 items, α= 0.78)** | | |
| He/she can provide nursing skills necessary for home-visit nursing.  | .827           |
| He/she can practice nursing skills experienced in practical training. | .697           |
| He/she can properly carry out patient assessments.                  | .493           |

Exploratory factor analysis of the 20-item instrument assessing the qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses (number of items, Cronbach’s alpha). Responses were provided for all items on a five-point scale ranging from 1 (“highly disagree”) to 5 (“highly agree”). The mean of the total score for each subscale was used in this study.

**IV. Discussion**

Our study identified four qualities that experienced visiting nurses felt were required for new graduate visiting nurses: (a) being well-mannered, (b) acquiring basic knowledge and skills, (c) giving consideration to the patient and their family members, as well as (d) actually practicing trained concepts in nursing education.

A novel finding in this study is that experienced home-visitng nurses felt being well-mannered was the most important quality for new nurses. Therefore, we may need to focus more on developing appropriate bedside manner during nursing education.3,4
The components that mostly corresponded to current Japanese nursing curriculum were qualities b and d. Previously, Fukuyama et al. found that new graduate visiting nurses had difficulties with: (1) understanding client needs, (2) providing daily-life care, (3) providing medical assistance, and (4) collaborating with other stakeholders. These results suggest that new graduate visiting nurses experience problems translating and applying their theoretical knowledge and skills in a clinical context. A previous study that investigated virtual reality simulation as a teaching tool in endoscopy virtual reality endoscopic simulation found that trainees who used this tool improved in all areas of learning. Therefore, future models can consider using virtual reality simulation to help nursing students integrate theory and practice in nursing education.

In conclusion, our findings indicated that nursing education should focus more on developing appropriate bedside manner. It may be useful to develop tools such as virtual reality simulations that help new nurses translate and apply their theoretical knowledge and skills to a clinical context.

This study has several limitations. First, the response rate was low at 17.0%. Second, we did not examine criterion validity. Therefore, our results may not be generalizable to other settings. We recommend that future studies make efforts to increase sample size and link the identified characteristics with actual success in clinical practice.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the visiting nurses that participated in this study. This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI (17K12199), Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C).

References

1) Fukui S, Yamamoto-Mitani N & Fujita J. Five types of home-visit nursing agencies in Japan based on characteristics of service delivery: cluster analysis of three nationwide surveys. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2014, 20(14), 644. DOI: 10.1186/s12913-014-0644-8.

2) van Iersel M, Latour CH, de Vos R, Kirschner PA & Scholte Op Reimer WJ. Nursing students’ perceptions of community care and other areas of nursing practice - A review of the literature. *Int J Nurs Stud.* 2016, 61, 1-19.

3) Abiodun RO, Daniels F, Pimmer C & Chipps J. Nurse graduates’ experiences and support needs: A qualitative systematic review of South Africa’s community service programme. *Curationis.* 2019, 42(1), e1-12.

4) Fukuyama Y & Akiyama A. Home-care nursing challenges for newly qualified nurses: A qualitative study. *Int J Gerontology.* 2019, special issue, 78-82.
5) Akiya A & Fukuyama Y. Qualities required for new graduate visiting nurses: A qualitative study. *J Gen Fam Med.* 2020, 21, 87-91.

6) Mahmood T, Scaffidi MA, Khan R & Grover SC. Virtual reality simulation in endoscopy training: Current evidence and future directions. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2018, 24(48), 5439-5445.
Asian Journal of Human Services

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Masahiro KOHZUKI  Tohoku University (Japan)

EXECUTIVE EDITORS
LEE, In Jae  Hanshin University (Korea)
Satoru EBIHARA  Toho University (Japan)

HAN, Chang Wan  Shimonoseki City University (Japan)
Guo QI  Tianjin Medical University (China)
Hsintai LIN  National Taiwan Normal University (Taiwan)
Inkeri RUOKONEN  University of Helsinki (Finland)
LEE, Jae Won  Pukyong National University (Korea)
Jenyi LI  Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
SONN, Jung Won  University College London (UK)
Kagari SHIBAZAKI  University of Huddersfield (UK)
Nigel A MARSHALL  University of Sussex (UK)
Osamu ITO  Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University (Japan)
Zhihong JIANG  First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University (China)
Petr DOBŠÁK  Masaryk University (Czech)
LEE, Sun Woo  Inje University (Korea)
YOO, Tae Kyun  Soongsil University (Korea)
KIM, Young Choul  University of Evansville (USA)
Yuichiro HARUNA  National Institute of Vocational Rehabilitation (Japan)
Zhongli JIANG  First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University (China)

EDITORIAL STAFF
EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Aiko KOHARA  Shimonoseki City University (Japan)
KIM, Min Ji  Shimonoseki City University (Japan)
Natsuki YANO  Tohoku University / University of the Ryukyus (Japan)

Asian Journal of Human Services
VOL.20 APRIL 2021
© 2021 Asian Society of Human Services

As of April 1, 2021
CONTENTS

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Structure of Nutrition Improvement Approaches for Care-dependent Older People and Related Challenges in Community-based Integrated Care
Yuko FUJIO et al. p.1

Rapid E-mail Response to First-Contact E-mails Increases Consultation Continuation Rates for Suicide Prevention
Asumi TAKAHASHI et al. p.19

Factors that Affect the Estimated Revenue of Kantaki Services: Multifunctional in-home Long-term Care in Japan
Rika WATANABE et al. p.34

The Verification of Reliability and Validity of Shimonoseki City University Lecturer Evaluation Scale (SLES)
Minji KIM et al. p.48

SHORT PAPER

Expected Characteristics for New Home-Visiting Nurses According to Experienced Nurses
Akiko AKIYAMA et al. p.61