Prospects for Clinical Nurse Specialist Education (Mental Health Nursing)

at the National College of Nursing Graduate School
National college of nursing, JAPAN
Makiko Mori

I. Research Background

The training of clinical nurse specialists is a new mission for our university. Following the establishment of the curriculum for infectious disease clinical nurse specialists in 2013, we plan to expand the clinical nurse specialist education curriculum to include cancer nursing, mental health nursing, and pediatric nursing beginning in 2018, in addition to nursing training and postgraduate education at the National Advanced Specialist Medical Research Center, a driving force of psychiatric care in Japan.

At present, in May 2017, there are 265 registered mental health clinical nurse specialists. Of these, 4 are affiliated with the National Advanced Specialist Medical Research Center and 5 with the National Organization of Health, while the majority are affiliated with non-governmental hospitals.

In our university's training curriculum for clinical nurse specialists, we are developing a program to train human resources in the form of mental health clinical nurse specialists who can actively participate in the National Advanced Specialist Medical Research Center as well as training liaison mental health clinical nurse specialists who perform advanced mental health care in departments other than the department of psychiatry, in addition to mental health clinical nurse specialists focusing on individuals with psychiatric disorders.

"Clinical nurse specialist" refers to those individuals who possess superior practical nursing skills in a specific field of nursing. Clinical nurse specialists fulfill 6 roles in order to efficiently provide high quality nursing care to individuals, families, and groups with complicated and difficult nursing problems. These roles are education, practice, consultation, regulation, ethical regulation, and research. These roles are considered essential to the fulfillment of the policy-based medical care field for which the National Advanced Specialist Medical Research Center is responsible, but to the promotion of clinical research, education and training, and the dissemination of information.

II. Research Objective

The objective of this research is to report on the specialized course education program (lecture course/seminar course, practical training) enabling the acquisition of the latest techniques and theories for improving the advanced and specialized practical skills of clinical nursing and nursing research skills at the National Advanced Specialist Medical Review Requirements from the Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities—were classified categorically by contents.

B. Organization of the equivalence between the lecture/seminar course and various practical training

Literature is cited without having modified the document and sources are clearly specified.

VI. Discussion

Unique characteristics of mental health clinical nurse specialist education at our university are: ① liaison mental health clinical nurse specialist education and ② improving advanced practical nursing skills upon understanding of policy-based medicine.

Meanwhile, as those enrolled have diverse clinical experience and academic backgrounds, it is necessary to revise instruction based on an understanding of the latest research of classes and evaluations from practical training facilities.

Further, the creation of a support system available until application for certification as a clinical nurse specialist is considered an additional challenge.

VII. Conclusions

The characteristics of curriculum structure and the scientifically sound mental health clinical nurse specialist training at our university were revealed through collating the contents of lectures/seminars and various practical trainings. We would like to make efforts to construct a unique educational system at our university based on evaluations from those enrolled and practical training facilities.