Educational Needs and Learning Needs of Visiting Nurses in Japan: Difference According to the Years of Home-Visit Nursing Care Experience

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I. Objective

In Japan, it is a difficult situation that the institution to which visiting nurses belong sponsors an opportunity for training to be given to them. Therefore, visiting nurses must grasp and learn the contents which they should learn and want to learn. Furthermore, since different from their needs by Experience, it is necessary to understand the Educational needs and Learning needs in accordance with the years of experience. This study explores the difference in educational needs and learning needs according to the years of home-visit nursing care experience.

Educational need: The necessity of education and the necessary aspect of Education for attaining desirable situation as a visiting nurse.

Learning needs: Something perceived as interesting by learners, or knowledge, skills, and attitude regarded as necessary for goal attainment, which can be acquired through learning experiences.

II. Methods

Participants: visiting nurses working at home nursing stations in Japan.

Instruments

1) The Educational Needs Assessment Tool for Visiting Nurses (ENAT-VN) was used to measure the educational needs of visiting nurses.

- The items of the ENAT-VN describe the desirability of visiting nurses that was identified through a qualitative study (Yokoyama, et al., 2010).
- 9 subscales and 36 items on a 4 point Likert-type scale
- Reliability and validity were tested (Suzuki & Funashima, et al., 2011), Cronbach’s α=.97, Test-retest reliability coefficient=.85

2) The Learning Needs Assessment Tool for Visiting Nurses (LNAT-VN) was used to measure the learning needs of visiting nurses.

- The items of the LNAT-VN were created based on the qualitative study (Muras & Funashima, 2010).
- 25 items on a 6 point Likert-type scale
- Reliability and validity were tested (Suzuki & Funashima, 2012), Cronbach’s α=.85, Test-retest reliability coefficient=.89

I) The Visiting Nurses’ Attributes Questionnaire (VNAQ)

- VNAQ was used to examine the demographic characteristics of visiting nurses.
- Content validity was validated by a pilot study and a panel of experts.

III. Results

Data collection and Analysis

Directors randomly selected home nursing stations in Japan and sent questionnaires. The instrument packets were distributed to directors who agreed to participate. 559 (61.7%) visiting nurses of 906 were asked to return them by mail.

463 valid answers among the instrument packets were returned by visiting nurses were analyzed statistically. The mean, standard deviation, and multiple comparison were analyzed.

The score distribution of ENAT-VN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1 year (n=38)</td>
<td>74.6 (SD=20.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year ~ 3 years (n=122)</td>
<td>73.0 (SD=18.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years ~ 5 years (n=60)</td>
<td>70.5 (SD=20.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years ~ 9 years (n=109)</td>
<td>69.6 (SD=18.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 years or more (n=134)</td>
<td>66.4 (SD=16.6)</td>
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The mean total score of the ENAT-VN

Mean=44.4, SD=12.3

Among five groups, thirteen items had a significant difference on the mean item score of the ENAT-VN (p<.05).

- Understanding a client’s condition of disease and life situation
- Practicing nursing using the method according to the situation of a client and a care worker
- Practicing required nursing according to a client’s condition of disease and life situation
- Assessing progress of a client and a family, and determining the priority of a problem or a subject
- Experiencing respect to efforts of a family
- Respecting the everyday life which the client and the family have built
- Understanding the goods which a client and a family tend to use
- Diagnosing the disease based on a client’s condition of disease and life situation
- Diagnosing a client’s condition, exchanging required information with a related occupational description
- Educating the information on utilisable social resources from a related occupational description
- Engaging practical use of social resources, etc., to other occupational descriptions
- Evaluating the introduced social resources with other occupational descriptions
- Grasping the financial condition of the home nursing station which is working

The score distribution of LNAT-VN

<table>
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</tbody>
</table>

The mean total score of the LNAT-VN

Mean=19.0, SD=12.3

Among five groups, one item had a significant difference on the mean item score of the LNAT-VN (p<.05).

- Grasping the financial condition of the home nursing station which is working

IV. Implication

The results suggested that there were some significant difference on the mean item score of the ENAT-VN and the LNAT-VN. Developing effective continuing education programs for visiting nurses based on the findings of this study will help to promote quality of home-visit nursing care.