



'Analogy' as methodology in solving modern day problems by learning from F. Nightingale's work

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PURPOSE: In these modern times when considerable environmental changes are taking place on a global scale and a variety of social security systems are showing signs of deadlock, how to live a healthy life is once again a common issue for all mankind. In the midst of radical social changes in Britain in her time, F. Nightingale (1820 – 1910), known as a founder of modern nursing, penned a huge volume of writings containing a number of noteworthy proposals which saw through mankind's future and established the basis for a broad scope of institutional reforms. The challenge for modern day nurses in finding solutions to modern day complex problems could be minimized by learning from F. Nightingale. The purpose of this study was to identify analogies in order to solve modern day complex problems by analyzing from the works of F. Nightingale.

METHOD: In an attempt to establish the way of analogies, 12 of her most important accomplishments, related to social reform, were chosen and 12 modern day complex problems in the health fields in Japan which are analogous to problems solved by F. Nightingale were selected as the subjects of this study. Background research of each accomplishment and modern day complex problem was conducted and structural commonness of those 2 phenomena was identified. We finally integrated those structural commonness and found the way of analogy to solve the problems by learning from F. Nightingale's work.

RESULT:

FN's 12 accomplishments and Analogous modern day problems in Japan

No.	FN's 12 accomplishments related to social reform	Analogous modern day complex problems in the health fields in Japan
1	Reform of the Lady's Hospital on Harley Street (1853-1855)	Harmonizing pursuit of hospital management efficiency and improvement of patient service
2	Enlisting in the British Army at Scutari (1854-1856)	Building a support system for large-scale disasters
3	Improving the sanitary and administrative conditions of the British Army (1856-)	Health and medical welfare system reform
4	Improving administrative support of St. Thomas Hospital (1859-1860)	Utilization of statistical method in health and welfare policy making process
5	Establishment of a training school for nurses (1860)	Establishment and improvement of nurse training institution
6	Establishment of a training school for midwives (1861)	Establishment of perinatal care delivery system, improvement and improvement of midwifery training institution
7	Improving the sanitary conditions in India (1862-1884)	Construction of international support system
8	Refining the social support system for the poor (1862-1867)	Social support for vulnerable people, correction of health inequality
9	Decisiveness in closing the training school for midwives (1867-1869)	Construction of crisis management system in medical field
10	Improving the educational quality of the nurses' training school (1872-)	Quality assurance of education accompanying the rapid increase of nursing universities
11	Reform of the home health care experience for district nurses (1880-1892)	Construction of Regional Comprehensive Care System
12	Ensuring quality patient care is in place regardless of licensing requirements (1886-1889)	Direction of expansion of role of nursing

Process of analogy to solve the modern day problems

F. Nightingale started practicing from the reconstruction of a charitable hospital which was in business failure. "God has established the laws of nature that we have determined ... The law of God is God's and at the same time ours. It is our own way to aim at the whole of a given life and it is a belief that we are our own stronghold." Based on such a belief, she observed her patients carefully, found out the relationship between the ladies' charitable activities and prolonged hospitalization, set the clear goal of fulfilling the desire to obtain work for becoming independent, raising attention to physical health, and clarified the function of the hospital. In order to fulfill the true function of the hospital, she reformed the mechanism of the procurement of goods and thoroughly managed human resources. As a result, she achieved both patient health recovery and hospital reconstruction. In addition, she compiled and evaluated the achievements in a report, and found out the next task of not being able to train the next generation nursing staff at this place and reported it to the investors.

Comparing this with the situation of hospital management in Japan today, there is a difference between the disease structure and the medical treatment compensation system. But the fact that medical welfare expenses have pressured the national finance, failed to obtain public relief and fallen into business failure make it a comparable situation. Reform of the Lady's Hospital on Harley Street was an amazing win-win-win example of hospital reconstruction from a nursing viewpoint.



Methodology of analogy to solve the modern day problems

She put forward reforms independently, in teams and in inter-professional collaboration. She described the outcomes, verifying that the true goals had been realized at the essential level, and identified the problems which led to the next development and continual improvement.

Finally the methodology of analogy to solve the problems by learning from F. Nightingale's work was extracted as follows.

1. Based on Natural Law and believing in human potential.
2. To compare the background of each problem to grasp the historical process and structural cause of the problem and to deduce an action plan.
3. Use scientific epistemology as a standard when implementing the plan.
4. In case of unexpected accidents, put top priority on securing the safety of human beings, inquire into the cause and prevent recurrence.

DISCUSSION: Although the community and health care services are facing systemic financial troubles, it has been suggested that by extracting a way of solving problems as hypothesis by using this analogy, we can realize a human centered healthier society based on the unique philosophy of nursing.