

Learning environment and learning opportunity associated with research utilization for nurses in Japanese hospitals

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Background

In 1996, the first study on research utilization in nursing practice was published in Japan. In contrast, in the United States, many studies on research utilization have been published since the 1970s. This indicates that the progression of research utilization in nursing practice in Japan has been markedly slow compared with that in the United States. Therefore, it is an important issue to promote the learning environment and learning opportunity for nurses in Japan in order to improve their competency in research utilization.

Objectives

To clarify the present state of the learning environment and learning opportunity associated with research utilization for nurses in Japanese hospitals, and discuss how to promote them for Japanese nurses in order to improve their research utilization competency.

Methods

- A mail-based survey was conducted.
- The questionnaire to investigate the learning environment and learning opportunity for nurses in hospitals related to research utilization, as well as the hospital attributes.
- The content validity of it was established through a pilot study.
- The questionnaire was distributed to 109 hospitals whose directors of nursing had consented to participate in the study.
- Respondents were those in charge of in-service education for nurses in each hospital, and they were asked to respond to the questionnaire by mail using the self-addressed envelope provided.
- The data were analyzed statistically.

Results

Characteristics of the Hospitals (n=97)

Table 1. Types of Hospitals

	n(%)
General Hospitals	82 (84.5%)
Psychiatric Hospitals	12 (12.4%)
Unknown	3 (3.1%)

Table 2. Public or Private Hospitals

	n(%)
Public	45 (46.4%)
Private	52 (53.6%)

Table 3. Number of Beds of Hospitals

	n(%)		n(%)
20-99	3 (3.1%)	400-499	13 (13.4%)
100-199	27 (27.8%)	500-599	3 (3.1%)
200-299	23 (23.7%)	600-699	3 (3.1%)
300-399	21 (21.7%)	700	4 (4.1%)

Learning Environment for Nurses in the Hospitals to Promote Research Utilization (n=97)

Table 4. Library/Reading Room

	n(%)
Having a library with librarians	15 (15.5%)
Having a library with no librarian	10 (10.3%)
Having a reading room with extensive literature	7 (7.2%)
Having a reading room with insufficient literature	47 (48.5%)
No library or reading room	18 (18.5%)

Table 5. Facilities for Literature Search

	n(%)
Definitely sufficient	7 (7.2%)
Relatively sufficient	30 (30.9%)
Relatively insufficient	29 (29.9%)
Definitely insufficient	26 (26.8%)
Unknown	5 (5.2%)

Table 6. Databases for Literature Search for Nurses

	n(%)
Ichushi-Web	43 (44.3%)
JDream	12 (12.4%)
PubMed	11 (11.3%)
CINAHL	6 (6.2%)

Table 7. Internet Environment for Nurses

	n(%)
Definitely sufficient	12 (12.4%)
Relatively sufficient	31 (32.0%)
Relatively insufficient	47 (48.4%)
Definitely insufficient	3 (3.1%)
Unknown	4 (4.1%)

Learning Opportunities and Resources for Nurses in the Hospitals to Promote Research Utilization (n=97)

Table 8. Support System for nurses to participate in seminars/conferences outside of hospitals

	n(%)
Present	93 (95.9%)
Absent	4 (4.1%)

Hospital reimburses the seminar/conference fee and travel expenses incurred by nurses 85(87.6%)

Table 9. Resource Persons Whom Nurses Can Consult about Nursing Practice in Highly Specialized Area

	n(%)
Present	80 (82.5%)
Absent	17 (17.5%)

Certified Nurse Specialist (21, 21.6%) Certified Nurse (70, 72.2%) Master Nurse (21, 21.6%) Others (6, 6.2%)

Table 10. Resource Persons Whom Nurses Can Consult about Nursing Research

	n(%)
Present	72 (74.2%)
Absent	24 (24.7%)
Unknown	1 (1.0%)

Certified Nurse Specialist (17, 17.5%) Certified Nurse (30, 30.9%) Master Nurse (25, 25.8%) Physician (13, 13.4%) Others (17, 17.5%)

Table 11. Seminars for Nurses Related to Research Utilization

	n(%)		n(%)
Seminars on Research Utilization	17 (17.5%)	Seminars on Evaluating Research Articles	11 (11.3%)
Seminars on Conducting Nursing Research	60 (61.9%)	None of the Seminars Mentioned Above	27 (27.8%)
Seminars on Literature Search	36 (37.1%)		

Conclusions

The results of this study revealed that the present state regarding the learning environment and learning opportunity for research utilization for Japanese nurses in hospitals is inadequate, and so their improvement is a future priority. To promote effective seminars on research utilization for nurses in hospitals, it is also important to develop educational programs and disseminate them.