

Survey on Nursing Students' Choice on Their Way after Graduation

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I. Outline of the Survey

1. Purpose

This survey offers the resources as the fundamental data for the examination of the way of the future education of nursing in grasping nursing students' consciousness on the matters ; from what motives they entered the school of nursing, how they evaluate the education of nursing they have had, to the candidates for an entrance into a school of higher grade after graduation what school they wish to enter, and to the candidates for an employment, what place of employment they wish to work for and what working conditions they appreciate.

2. Method

A random sampling was conducted on 5,000 students in the last year at their each school. Questionnaires sent to Practical Nursing Programs, (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs, Practical Nursing Programs, Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Nursing are 4,362, valid replies of which are 3,921 (89.9%). Questionnaires sent to Accelerated Diploma Programs for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) are 1,473, valid replies of which are 1,336 (90.7%). Total valid replies are 5,257.

3. Term

From November 1991 to January 1992.

II. Findings of the Survey

1. Attribute of the subject

The age group of respondents of Practical Nursing Programs spreads widely, such as from less than 18 years to more than 30 years. In the other courses, the age difference is scarcely observed. As to the sex distinction, female is 91%. Almost males are students of Practical Nursing Programs. Married persons are 5.8%. As to their present living quarters, among the group of "own home", replies from (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs show a high ratio, i. e. 82.4%. Among the group of "dormitory of hospital", a high ratio is seen in replies from Practical Nursing Programs, i. e. 45.9%. Among the group of "dormitory of school", a high ratio is seen in replies from Diploma Programs in Nursing, i. e. 48.6%. The educational background of the students, except those of (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs, are almost high school graduates or higher.

2. Reasons for entering the school of nursing

The top is "to acquire a qualification" from 80% of respondents in every course. Particularly, a remarkable ratio is observed in the replies from Associate Degree Programs in Nursing, which is 85.5%. The second reason is "to work for peoples", about 60%, and the third reason is "profitably for job seeking", about 30%. Half of students replied that the schools they entered are their first-choice.

3. Advantage of entering the school of nursing

Among the all courses, many respondents thought the advantage is "growing in human nature". Reviewing in each course, a high ratio is observed in the reply "acquiring knowledge and skills in nursing" from Practical Nursing Programs and (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs, which are 61.4% and 62.3%, respectively. The many of replies from Diploma Programs in Nursing, Associate Degree Programs in Nursing and Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Nursing are "good for their human nature", the ratios of which are 56.9%, 56.4% and 52.7%, respectively.

4. Their way after graduation

As the working conditions for their decision of working place after graduation, respondents in high ratio chose the following three ; “good income”, “appropriate working hour” and “expectation to the contents in nursing”.

Of those who have the will to apply for an entrance into a school in higher grade where they can obtain a state qualification, 50.6% are students of Practical Nursing Programs and 83.8% were (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs. Many of respondents of Diploma Programs in Nursing and Associate Degree Programs in Nursing wished to go to a school of public health nurse, the ratios of which are 57.1% and 74.0%, respectively. 35.9% of respondents of Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Nursing replied “go to a school in higher grade”, which is a high ratio comparing with others. The said school in higher grade is mainly graduate school.

Among those who have the will to continue to work, 42.6% of students of Practical Nursing Programs answered “work as long as possible”, and 42.7% answered “leave the place of employment due to marriage/ childbearing/ child rearing and return to the work after child rearing”. The former and the latter are of the ratio of almost half and half.

On the other hand, respondents of (Senior) High School Practical Nursing Programs, Diploma Programs in Nursing and Diploma Programs in Nursing wished to “continue to work” rather than “leave the job”. 33.7% of Baccalaureate Degree Programs in Nursing wished to work even if change the place of work, which ratio is higher than others.