



Collaboration with an Enterprise at a Japanese University

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Abstract. Until recently, most public health nursing curriculums were based on nurturing community health nurses. However, due to widespread changes in curriculums and a slow increase in demand for occupational health nurses, there has been an increase in interest among nursing students. The current structure of lectures does not sufficiently satisfy the increasing expectations of the business sector or the students. This research reports on the collaboration with an enterprise and the creation of a curriculum which with limited credits will attract occupational health nursing students (The Health Support Department of Oita Canon Corporation.).

Keywords: occupational health nurse students, education

I. Preface

In Japan, there was a revision in 2011 of the “Public Health Nurse, Midwife, and Nurse Regulated Education Criteria”.¹⁾ As a result of this amendment, many universities have adjusted their curriculums for public health nursing to include interdepartmental electives and admittance quotas. University “A”, the subject of

this research, established a public health nursing course and became recognized as a university specializing in public health nursing education. Until recently, most public health nursing curriculums were based on nurturing community health nurses. However, due to widespread changes in curriculums and a slow increase in demand for occupational health nurses, there has been an increase in interest among nursing students. The current structure of lectures does not sufficiently satisfy the increasing expectations of the business sector or the students. This research reports on the collaboration with an enterprise and the creation of a curriculum which with limited credits will attract occupational health nursing students.

II. Methods

1. Introduction to the university

University “A” is a national university composed of 6000 undergraduate students and 1000 post graduate students, and offers an education in the Faculty of Medicine (Institute of Medicine and Institute of Nursing), Faculty of Culture and Education, Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Science and Engineering, or Faculty of Agriculture. There are 60 first year students in the Institute of Nursing. University “A” was the first in the region to establish a nursing school, and through the early integration of clinical training, continues to be a forefront leader in the production of successful practitioners. Since 2010, there have been 6 graduates who have become occupational health nurses.

2. Process of the study

In order to attract the interest of nursing students, as well as create a course curriculum which would be useful in the field, cooperation was enlisted of a graduate of University “A” who worked in the Health Support Department of Oita Canon Corporation. The occupational nursing course (1 credit: eight 90-minute sessions) involved one 90-minute session conducted by Oita Canon Corporation. The session included a lecture on the reality of occupational health nursing

activities as well as a themed group-work activity involving the review and assessment of mock health checkup results. Post session, the 14 fourth year students who elected to take the occupational health nursing course were given a survey.

3. Ethical consideration

When undergoing this research, the protection of privacy and related issues were orally explained to all participants and consent of cooperation was obtained. In addition, written consent in relevance to this research was obtained from Oita Canon Corporation.

III. Results

1. Results of the survey

①14 students (100%) showed an overall satisfaction rate. ②The length of the lecture was just right: 11 students (78.6%), too short: 3 students (21.4%). ③The lecture's level of difficulty was just right: 14 students (100%). ④The handout materials were extremely beneficial: 11 students (78.6%), beneficial (21.4%). ⑤The lecture contained information matching your level of expectation very well: 12 students (85.7%), fairly well: 2 students (14.3%). ⑥You will use what you have learned in the lecture definitely: 10 students (71.4%), if the opportunity arises: 4 students (28.6%). ⑦If the same lecture is offered again, I would recommend it to others definitely: 13 students (92.2%), most likely: 1 student (7.1%). In addition, free comments written on the survey reflected the student's satisfaction with taking the session, the beneficial aspects of the lecture, the clarification achieved during the group-work activity concerning areas to focus on when assessing health checkup results, the opportunity to learn about enterprises and budgets, and the comprehension of the essence of effective occupational health nursing. Furthermore, Oita Canon Corporation expressed its opinion that the collaboration was a good opportunity for the general familiarization with Canon products.

IV. Discussion

In an attempt to secure the quality of education, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports Science and Technology made a recommendation for universities to avoid lecture-dominant courses by incorporating activity-based seminars into the curriculum. This study shows an example of the use of mock-data (mimicked to resemble the actual data) and a group work session to assess the data. Occupational health nurses are required to work effectively in order to support the profit-seeking stance of a company. As shown by the student's evaluation, this study provided an opportunity to obtain the skills that are required in the occupational setting. In addition, the students were able to meet and speak with an active member of the occupational health nursing community, which enabled them to feel a familiarity with the profession.

At University "A", the principle motto is "the nurturing of practicality". In the future, maintaining a network with graduates will enable opportunities for the strengthening of collaboration with enterprises. The importance lies not only in creating a curriculum which will motivate students, but also in focusing on seminar components which will be instrumental in the field.

Conclusion

This research utilized the graduate (occupational health nurse). The questionnaire was carried out and the result was evaluated. In order to make it the education which is useful for practice, it is necessary to utilize a graduate positively.

Reference

[1] <http://www.mext.go.jp/> Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology