

Public Health Nurses' Perceptions about New Staff Education in Service-Learning

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Background

In Japan, public health nurses play an important role in community health. A combination of theoretical knowledge and practical skills are required to practice techniques such as community diagnosis and home visits. However, there are many cases where the on-site education system is insufficient.

Aim of the study

This study aims to clarify public health nurses' perceptions about new staff education in service-learning.

Methods

Anonymous self-administered questionnaires were distributed to 70 public health nurses who had completed their fifth year of employment in City A. The survey period was from September to October 2019. Some examples of the questionnaire items are *consideration for human resource development* and *the perception to pass down the way of thinking and skills as a public health nurse*. A qualitative inductive analysis was conducted for the contents of the open-ended responses.

Results

The valid response rate was 30%. Among the results of consideration for human resource development were *asking new public health nurses to express their thoughts and feelings, respecting the answers expressed and sharing them*. Similarly, the perception to pass down the way of thinking and skills as a public health nurse included *listening to the opinions of the new public health nurses first, and having a discussion without denying anything*.

Conclusions and implications

Our study clarifies that trainers are conscious of the process of expressing their thoughts when instructing new public health nurses.