Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century

An oral presentation at the Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges

Tokugoro Tsunematsu

Abstract

The Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges entitled Meeting the Challenges of Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century was held on June 21-22, 1999 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The author had a chance to speak under the title of Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century at a session of Nursing Profession: Changes for the Next Millennium, first presenting the social trends surrounding medical and nursing care in Shimane as well as in Japan, and then details of the establishment of the Shimane Nursing College in the context of coping with the above-mentioned situation. Ideals and Objectives of Education were publicized by the College. These are expressed briefly in three key phrases as follows:

1. Human Understanding (Love for Human),
2. Development of the Role of Nursing,

In the future, highly qualified nursing professionals will be in greater demand than ever. The key phrases of our college's Ideals and Objectives of Education will continue to be the most important philosophy for nursing as a profession in the coming century.

Key words: Education, Nursing Profession in the Twenty-First Century, Human Understanding, Role of Nursing, Contribution to Community.

1. Introduction

The Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges entitled Meeting the Challenges of Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century was held on June 21-22, 1999, in Honolulu at the Hawai‘i East-West Center, Hawai‘i Imin International Conference Center. The author had a chance to speak under the title of Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century at a session of Nursing Profession: Changes for the Next Millennium. Contents of the speech are presented here. First, the social trends surrounding medical and nursing care in Shimane Prefecture as well as in Japan, and, next, the details of the establishment of Shimane Nursing College in the view of coping with the first-mentioned trends are discussed. Ideals and Objectives of Education were publicized. These are expressed briefly in
three key phrases as follows: 1. Human Understanding (Love for Human), 2. Development of the Role of Nursing, and 3. Contribution to the Health and Welfare of Community. In the future, highly qualified nursing professionals will be in greater demand than ever. The most important philosophy for nursing as a profession in the coming century will be discussed according to the key phrases of our college's Ideals and Objective of Education.

II. Outline of the Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges

The seminar1) was first established for presidents of Junior and Community Colleges to discuss academic and policy issues common among the relevant Colleges in the Asia-Pacific region and to learn more about the exciting innovations that are occurring in such areas as international education, advanced communications, enrollment management and more. Since it was first established in 1993, the seminar has attracted presidents and participants from Japan, Korea, New Zealand, United States, Taiwan Republic of China, American Samoa and U.S. Trust Territories. The Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges was co-sponsored by Japanese Society of Public Junior Colleges, Association of Private Junior Colleges in Japan, Hawaii’i Pacific University and the University of Hawaii’i Community College. Ms. Joyce S. Tsunoda, Senior Vice President, University of Hawaii’i and Chancellor for Community Colleges, was the host of the fourth Seminar in Honolulu, Hawaii’i. Twelve members consisting of nine presidents, an ex-president, a professor and an advisor(ex-secretary- in -general) from the Japanese Society of Public Junior Colleges, and ten members, including four presidents from Association of Private Junior Colleges in Japan and a president from Association of Nursing Colleges in All Japan, participated in the seminar from Japan.

III. Seminar Program

The seminar program is shown in Table 1. In this year's seminar a great emphasis was placed on such topics as enrollment management, nursing and health care, as well as the issues facing nutrition education. As for the topic of nursing and health care, there were four sessions consisting of 1) Nursing Profession: Changes for the Next Millennium, 2) Nursing Education Response to Changes in the Nursing Profession, 3) Nursing Profession's Role in Identifying High Risk Families, 4) Changing Roles of Patient Care.

IV. An oral presentation under a title of Nursing as Profession in the Twenty-First Century

In the session of Nursing Profession: Changes for the next Millennium, there were two presentations: Ms. Shelley Womack, Member, Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA) Board of Directors, and the author, President of Shimane Nursing Colleges. The author's presentation2) under the title of Nursing as Profession in the Twenty-First Century was as follows:

1. Introductory remarks

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Joyce S. Tsunoda, Senior Vice
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President, University of Hawai‘i and Chancellor for Community Colleges for hosting the Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges and for providing me with an opportunity to make a speech entitled Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century at this well-organized meeting. The time allotted for my presentation is not very long, so I would like to briefly talk first about social trends surrounding medical and nursing care in Japan and Shimane Prefecture where I come from, and second about Shimane Nursing College, and last about nursing as a profession in the coming century.

2. Social trends surrounding medical and nursing care in Japan

Now I am going to speak about the first topic, that is: social trends surrounding medical and nursing care in Japan. As shown in the Table 2, there is an increase in the elderly population. 15.7% of the population in Japan is now 65 years of age or above. It is anticipated that this percentage will increase rapidly. Life expectancy was 77.01 for males, and 83.59 for females in 1996. There has been a steady decrease in the young population since the second baby boom in 1971-1974 because of the decreasing birthrate. The special birthrate was 1.43 in 1996 - the third lowest in the world. There are changes in types of illnesses nowadays. While there is a decreasing number of patients with acute infectious diseases, there is a marked increase in cases of chronic diseases in the elderly and life-style related diseases in adults. Malignant diseases now rank at the top of the list of causes of death, followed by cardiac diseases and cerebral vascular diseases respectively. As for medical care, we have observed such changes as wider usage of highly developed and specialized medical care services at hospitals and shorter hospital stays resulting in a greater use of home-recuperation. We have also observed in citizens changes of sense of values regarding health. Well-being in terms of the quality of life is a very important concept for people. Although all citizens have been covered by the National or Employee’s Health Insurance for several decades, the Extended-care Social Insurance System for the Elderly will be added in 2000. These changes are making the scope of nursing settings expand even more. And great expectations are being placed on the quality of nursing in every field.

3. Nursing settings at present and in the future

Table 3 shows various nursing settings at present and in the future. It is anticipated that there will be an ever increasing number of workplaces especially outside hospitals.

4. Special trends in Shimane Prefecture

An outline of Shimane Prefecture where I am from is shown in Table 4. It is located in the western part of the main island (Honshu). Its area is about 6,700 square kilometers and its population is about 770,000. For your information, the total population of Japan is about 126,166,000. The social background of the prefecture is as follows: (1) It has the highest per capita ratio of elderly people (aged 65 and above), or 23.1 % of the population as compared with 15.7% overall in Japan. (2) There is depopulation in mountainous areas and on isolated islands resulting in a shortage of health-related personnel such as doctors and nurses.
(3) And there is an increasing number of nuclear families and of women working outside resulting in a shortage of the care-giving power at home.

5. Establishment of Shimane Nursing College

In order to cope with this situation and to produce more highly-qualified nurses, the Shimane Prefectural Government determined to establish a college of three-year nursing course program as shown in Table 5, although there had been several hospital-attached nursing schools offering a diploma course. The college was first started in 1995. In 1998, the one-year specialty course programs, including Community-based Nursing and Midwifery course, additionally started. For your information, there is now a newly established baccalaureate course of Nursing School in the Prefecture, which was attached to Shimane Medical University.

6. Ideals and Objectives of Education at Shimane Nursing College

When our nursing college was opened, we publicized the college’s Ideals and Objectives of Education as shown in Table 6. We express the philosophy underlying them briefly in three key phrases: (1) Human Understanding (Love for Human) (2) Development of the Role of Nursing and (3) Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community (Open-door College). These are shown in Table 7. Our faculty members all engage in academic activities directed to the achievement of these Ideals and Objectives.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare jointly revised in August 1996 the standard curriculum for the three-year nursing course. An intent of the revision was that, in response to the social changes mentioned above, basic education for nursing should be revised to provide students with practical skills based on scientific principles, with an open-minded view regarding the integration of health care, medical care and welfare services, and with refined and in-depth knowledge of culture and human needs. Following the revision of the standard curriculum, our college revised our curriculum in order to educate students to be more responsive to the social changes in the coming century in Shimane and Japan. Our revised curriculum was originally written in Japanese. In order to make it well known not only throughout this country but also worldwide, its English version was made and published.

7. Nursing as a profession in the Twenty-First Century

Now I am going to talk about my main subject: Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century. In accordance with the Ideals and Objectives of Education at our college, I would like to discuss the subject from the viewpoints of 1) Human Understanding (Love for Human), 2) Development of the Role of Nursing, and 3) Contribution to Health and Welfare in Community.

1) Human Understanding (Love for Human) is essential for nursing. Nurses should be prepared with the following as shown in Table 8.

(1) Development of moral character on the basis of compassion for human beings, and effective
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and creative performance of tasks in a way integrating knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for the nursing profession.

(2) Broad cultural and ethical background, and respect for the dignity of life and the natural rights of human beings.

(3) Sincere consideration for the integrity of the global environment.

2) Development of the Role of Nursing is expected in every field as shown in Table 9.

(1) Participation in various health-related fields with improved basic standards of nursing education.

(2) Life-long learning of the ever-developing knowledge and of skills to maintain the standards of nursing professionals.

(3) Establishment of holistic and science-based nursing using innovative thinking and nursing processes in response to shorter hospital stays.

(4) Training of specialist nurses in various fields to meet the needs of highly specialized medical services

(5) Greater emphasis of the home-visit nursing practice to meet the increasing needs of patients, recuperating at home.

(6) While maintaining their professional independence and integrity, nurses must join in interdisciplinary teamwork for health care, medical care and welfare services providing cooperation and leadership in the coordination of health-related personnel to meet the increasing needs for care for the elderly.

(7) For those who have problems related to health and are physically and mentally handicapped, advocacy activities are to be carried out to eliminate their disadvantages and suffering by educating people in the community or by working on the relevant organizations of national and local governments.

3) Contribution to the Health and Welfare of Community

As shown in Table 10, nurses are required to play important roles for contribution to improvement of the health and welfare in their communities.

(1) Nurses should have the following goal: Health for All, and engage in educational activities for people on the prevention of diseases, and maintenance and improvement of health in communities, nations and world.

(2) Engagement in administrative work in hospitals, welfare facilities and the national and local governments to improve comprehensive services of public health care, medical care and welfare.

(3) The nursing professional should play a role as a citizen in daily activities to improve health and welfare in a community in which he or she lives.

(4) The faculty of nursing college should contribute the fruits of its academic teachings and research to the promotion of community development especially in terms of health and welfare.
8. Summary

In conclusion, I would like to summarize my speech by saying that the scope of nursing settings is widening at present and it is anticipated that this trend will be more and more remarkable. Great expectations are being placed on the quality of nursing in every field. In the future highly qualified nursing professionals will be in greater demand than ever. The philosophy expressed in the three key phrases of Human Understanding (Love for Human), Development of the Role of Nursing, and Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community will continue to be the most important for nursing as a profession in the coming century.

V. Conclusion

The Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges was held on June 20-21, 1999. The goal of this seminar is to provide an opportunity to build alliances, strengthen ties and prepare for the future through international understanding and cooperation. Participants to this year’s seminar from Japan, the United States and other countries had ample opportunities to actively share ideas and views on such topics as enrollment management, nursing and health care, as well as the issues facing nutrition education. In a session of the Nursing Profession: Changes for the Next Millennium, the author was provided with a chance to speak on Nursing as a Profession in the Twenty-First Century. According to the ideals and objectives of education at Shimane Nursing College, the author concluded that the three key phrases: Human Understanding (Love for Human), Development of the Role of Nursing, and Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community would be the most important philosophy for nursing professionals in the next century.

Reference

1) Program of the Fourth Seminar for Presidents of Junior and Community Colleges sponsored by Japanese Society of Public Junior Colleges, Association of Private Junior Colleges in Japan, Hawai'i Pacific University and University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, June 21-22, 1999
2) Tsunematsu, T.: Nursing as a Profession in the Next Century (in Japanese), Koutanyou 37, 2, 1999
Monday, June 21, 1999

Opening Chant
Kamuela Chun, Director, Native Hawaiian Vocational Education Program, University of Hawaii's Community Colleges

Welcome Remarks
Gosho Ogawa, Consul General, Japanese Consulate General
Joyce Tsunoda, Senior Vice President, University of Hawaii and Chancellor for Community Colleges
William Zanella, Associate Dean, Hawaii's Pacific University
Kenji Oto, President, Japanese Society of Public Junior Colleges and President, Kurosaki City College
Selig Sakata, Managing Director, Association of Private Junior Colleges in Japan

General Trends in Higher Education
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Woods
Community College Liaison, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC

Enrollment Management
Discussion on issues, new approaches and challenges of attracting and retaining students in today's changing environment.
Nancy Ellis, Vice President and Dean of Student Support Services, University of Hawaii
Selig Sakata, President, Hiroshima Banka Junior College
Haruo Watanabe, President, Yamagata Women's College
Mona Lee, Dean of Student Services, Kapiolani Community College

Nursing Profession: Changes for the Next Millennium
Shelley Womach, Member, Hawaii Nurses' Association (HNA) Board of Directors
Takagora Funamatsu, President, Shimane Nursing College

Nursing Education Response to Changes in the Nursing Profession
Clyde Sakamoto, Provost, Momi Community College
John Steppell, Assistant Dean of Nursing Program, Hawaii Pacific University
Joan Matsukawa, Professor, Kapiolani Community College
Dorothy Motoyama, Nurse Consultant
Mitsuo Kato, Professor, Nigata Prefectural University College of Nursing

Issues Fueled Nutrition Education
Dr. Terry Shimon, Director of Preventive Medicine, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
Linda Bocchino, Assistant Professor of Nursing Program, Hawaii Pacific University

Nursing Profession's Role in Identifying High Risk Families
Nancy Tsubara, Acting Project Director, Marine New Parents Support Program

Site Visitations
Group A: Visit HPU School of Nursing and tour facilities
Group B: Visit HPU Nutrition Education and tour facilities

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Evolution of Service Learning at Maricopa Community Colleges
Keynote Speaker: Paul Elmer
Chancellor, Maricopa Community Colleges

Changing Roles of Patient Care
Health care leaders will share their views on the dynamic changes occurring in the healthcare industry as new models for patient care emerge, reflecting today's active lifestyles and growing population.
Dr. Patricia Blanche, Vice President, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii
Dr. Ira Zain, Occupational Health and Preventative Medicine
Renee Nakamura, Director, Project Dana
Sister Myoko Kudo, Project Dana

Dr. Gordon Green, Associate Director of the Office of Medical Education, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii

Innovative Attempts in Japanese Junior College from Women's Viewpoint
Kumi Haru, President, Okayama Christian Junior College
University of Hawaii Community Colleges: Redefining "Community"
Joyce Tsunoda, Senior Vice President, University of Hawaii and Chancellor for Community Colleges

Service Learning for Health Majors: Role of Students in the Community
Robert Frone, Professor of Anthropology, Kapiolani Community College

Closing Remarks
Joyce Tsunoda, Senior Vice President, University of Hawaii and Chancellor for Community Colleges
William Zanella, Associate Dean, Hawaii's Pacific University
Kenji Oto, President, Japanese Society of Public Junior Colleges and President, Kurosaki City College
Selig Sakata, Managing Director, Association of Private Junior Colleges in Japan
Shunji Murachi, Director, Society of Private Colleges of Nursing in Japan
Table 2 Social trends surrounding medical and nursing services in Japan

1. An increase in the elderly population.
2. A decreasing birthrate.
3. Changes in the types of illnesses and the leading causes of death.
4. Wider usage of highly developed and specialized medical care services.
5. Shorter hospital stays and a greater use of home-recovery.
6. Changes of people's sense of values regarding health.
7. Introduction of extended-care social insurance system for the elderly (Kaigohoken).

Table 3 Nursing settings at present and in the future in Japan

1. Hospitals
2. Clinics
3. Homes
4. Day nurseries
5. Nurse's offices at schools
6. Overseas
7. Research institutes
8. Educational facilities
9. Health guidance offices at business corporations
10. Medical and welfare facilities for the elderly
11. Public health centers and local governments
12. Others

Table 4 Social trends surrounding medical and nursing services in Shimane Prefecture

Location: in the western part of the main island (Honshu)
Area: about 6,700 km²
Population: about 770,000

Social background:
1. Highest per capita ratio of elderly people in Japan
   → increasing percentage of the bed-ridden elderly and dementia patients
2. Depopulation in mountainous areas and on isolated islands
   → shortage of health-related personnel (doctors, nurses)
3. Increasing number of nuclear families and of women working outside
   → shortage of the care-giving power at home

Table 5 An outline of Shimane Nursing College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Annual Enrollment</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Course</td>
<td>3-year</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>Senior high school graduates are eligible to enter through entrance exam. Graduates are given Associate Degrees and are eligible to take National Exam for Nurse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Course: Community-based Nursing Course</td>
<td>1-year</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Graduates of three-year nursing course are allowed to enter after passing entrance exam. Graduates are eligible to take National Exam for Public Health Nurse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery Course</td>
<td>1-year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Graduates of three-year nursing course are allowed to enter after passing entrance exam. Graduates are eligible to take National Exam for Midwife.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6  Ideals and Objectives of Education at Shimane Nursing College

1. Ideals

Ideals are as follows: “Education and research is conducted in accordance with the spirit of both the Fundamental Education Law (Law No. 25, 1947) and the Article 69-2 of the School Education Law (Law No. 22, 1947) with the goal of providing students with the in-depth knowledge and skills necessary for a nursing career as well as of fostering and promoting humanity and creativity in the nursing profession. In addition, Shimane Nursing College is dedicated to providing the practicing professionals in health and nursing care services with the chance to continue their life-long education. Through these education activities, endeavors are made to improve the health and welfare of all people, especially the citizens of Shimane Prefecture.” The philosophy underlying the Ideals is that

1. Students who sincerely desire to become nursing professionals are encouraged to develop their moral character on the basis of compassion for human beings and are prepared to effectively and creatively perform their tasks in a way integrating knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for nursing profession. (Human Understanding [Love for Human])

2. Students are expected to keep an open mind to the changing needs of the nursing profession and the nurses’ role in it in terms of the public well-being from domestic as well as international viewpoints. (Development of the Role of Nursing)

3. The college contributes the fruits of its academic teachings and research to the promotion of community development, and serves as an open-door college to the community. (Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community)

Table 7  Three key phrases of the Ideas and Objectives of Education

1. Human Understanding [Love for Human]
2. Development of the Role of Nursing
3. Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community (Open-door College)

Table 8  Nursing as a profession in the Twenty-First Century (1)

Human Understanding [Love for Human]
1. Development of moral character and integration of knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for nursing profession
2. Broad cultural and ethical background and respect for the dignity of life and the natural rights of human beings
3. Sincere consideration for the integrity of the global environment

Table 9  Nursing as a profession in the Twenty-First Century (2)

Development of the Role of Nursing
1. An improved standards of basic nursing education
2. Lifelong learning
3. Innovative thinking and nursing processes
4. Training of specialist nurses
5. The home-visit nursing practice
6. Cooperation and leadership in the coordination of health-related personnel
7. Advocacy

Table 10  Nursing as a profession in the Twenty-First Century (3)

Contribution to Health and Welfare of Community
1. Following the goal of HEALTH FOR ALL
2. Engagement in administrative work
3. Playing a role as a citizen to improve health and welfare in a community
4. Contributing the fruits of academic teachings and research to the promotion of community development