

Worries and Experiences of Male Student Nurses during Their Public Health Internship: Şanlıurfa Example

Adskhan Öztürk

University of Harran, Turkey

Email: Adskhan.Ozt78@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of the study is to describe the concerns and experiences of male student nurses who will go on a public health internship for the first time. This is a descriptive study conducted with 27 male nurses who took a Public Health internship at Harran University School of Health. Data were collected through a semi-structured interview form. All of the male students went to home visits with their girlfriends. They stated that they could not communicate directly during home visits and the internship was not very efficient in this state. Male students faced resistance in public health practices, so it was determined that they were not beneficial to both society and themselves, learning decreased and change was slow.

Keywords: Male Nurse, Nursing, Public Health.



A. INTRODUCTION

The place of public health practices is very important in protecting and increasing the health level of the society. Increasing costs of treatment services and loss of workforce caused by diseases make disease prevention services more important. Public health nursing, in particular, reaches out to members of the community and provides services to them whether there is a disease, how they will be protected from existing health hazards and to improve the health status (Öztek & Kubilay, 2005; Bayık et al., 2002; İnanç & Üstünsöz, 1998).

In order to achieve these goals, public health nursing monitors individuals and families in the community in the environment they live in, collects data about them, identifies problems, and develops a goal suitable for each problem by prioritizing these problems. Nursing today; Being a dynamic process based on professionalism and interpersonal relationships, it can be applied by both genders in developed countries. The proper performance of a profession ensures that the employees in this profession are satisfied with the service they provide and that the individual who receives the service is benefited and satisfied. Single women-specific vocational nurses in both study areas caused some of the problems of being, as well as students leads to complaints from time to time by the nurses, men with colleagues share this problem and the idea that it might be easier to be able to overcome forward sürmektedirler (İnanç & Üstünsöz, 1998) in this process in Turkey.

With the participation of men in the nursing profession, an important step has been taken in ensuring the professional development of the nursing profession. The desire to increase the number of men in nursing is based on a better status of nursing,

ensuring a balance in gender, and decreasing men's anxiety about this profession (Bozkır et al., 2008). However, the process of change can always be troublesome and stressful for those who experience the firsts (Öztek & Kubilay, 2005; Bayık et al., 2002; İnanç & Üstünsöz, 1998; Taşçı, 2007; Karadakovan, 1993).

Social structure shapes nurses' attitudes, nursing practice, and society's attitudes towards nursing. The most integrated part of men is public health. For this reason, the problems and conflicts experienced by male student nurses both in themselves and in the society were again in public health.3-8 (İnanç & Üstünsöz, 1998; Bozkır et al., 2008; Taşçı, 2007; Karadakovan, 1993; Ökdem et al., 2000; Yavuz & Dramalı, 1997). In this context, this study was conducted to determine the conflicts that male nurse students experience in public health practices and their coping mechanisms.

B. METHOD

The research reflects the experiences of all male students (n = 27) who took a 4th grade public health nursing course at Harran University School of Health. The students were informed about the purpose of the research and their consent was obtained to participate in the study. The research data were collected through a semi-structured interview form. Two face-to-face interviews were conducted by the researcher with male students, at the beginning and at the end of the public health internship. The semi-structured interview form consists of questions such as the difficulties experienced during the first home visit as a man, the situations experienced in the next visit and the last suggestions in line with the purposes of public health internship. One interview lasted 10 to 15 minutes on average. The evaluation of the research was evaluated by the change of the students' expressions at the beginning and end of the public health internship.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Male nurse students are mostly in the 22-27 age group. It was determined that 48.1% of the students were from the center of Şanlıurfa, 44.4% from Diyarbakır and 7.4% from Mardin. The majority of the students stated that they chose the nursing profession as the reason for coming to the nursing profession, because 59.4% had better financial means, more opportunities to find a job, and the rest because their family wanted or kept their score.

80.6% of male student nurses first used the following expressions to the question 'Should there be male nurses in public health practices?': "There should be a male nurse, but where there are no female patients, more women should be outside of the delivery services. Since there are more women in public health, a male nurse should not be".

"There should be a male nurse in public health. Because the safety of our girlfriends can be an issue. That's why we can go out to protect him. When female nurses talk to girls on intimate matters, male nurses should be able to talk to men.

However, generally male nurses should not take part in home visits, they should be in outside work, ie in work or school health".

"Male nurses should not be in closed places like Şanlıurfa. Because there is a lot of talk to men and women in such places. It is very difficult for the male nurse family to accept during home visits. It is misunderstood to have a woman at home and let the male nurse into the house. Or her husband might get angry. I also had a hard time during home visits. I couldn't get into the house without my girlfriend. Therefore, men should not be in public health. "

At the end of the study, the statements of the two students changed as follows: "Before I started my public health internship, I had a lot of concerns. I thought people wouldn't tell me their problem because I was always rejected and I was a man. However, after the application, I saw that I overcame my own prejudices and if I got over it, people would look with it. Regardless of the application, everyone should do it, regardless of male or female. The public should get used to it"

"I think male nurses had such trouble because of their own prejudices. However, in order for male nurses to be accepted by the society, we first need to bring our profession to the forefront, not our gender. Sanliurfa region should also get used to this. I think my friends were so opposed because it didn't fit their values. However, they did not have any problem as men when I visited the house. I've done my apps. It was effective. Male nurse should be everywhere. "

When asked about the experiences of the male students during their first home visit, all of the students stated that they went with their girlfriend during their first home visit and when the door was opened, their girlfriend spoke for him. When his girlfriend said that her boyfriend would make the next visits, 60% of the families did not accept it, and 40% agreed to visit the house on condition that they come with their girlfriend. Two students expressed this situation as follows:

"I usually made the home visit with my girlfriend. She asked my girlfriend because she was a woman at home, and she answered. When he was not there, I could not enter the house. That's why I have never been able to own my house. That's why I had a hard time and couldn't be effective. "

"The areas where I had the most difficulties during home visits were when I was doing physical examination to the woman. Since the woman was hesitant, I could not be examined much except vital signs. In education, I could not get into intimate subjects in their applications. It's as if this family is not my family, but my girlfriend's family is like I'm helping my girlfriend".

"The girls' coming with us increased their workload a lot. Therefore, it was as if their two families did not have any family at all. When my girlfriend had another job, I went to my family alone once. He didn't let me in. That's why I felt like I was offended. "

At the end of the public health internship, male students stated that they were very upset about their home visits, that they were useless and that they were tired. For this reason, it was suggested that a girl and a man should take the same family in

public health internships in areas such as Şanlıurfa where traditional lifestyle is lived, or that men should not be held responsible for home visits.

It can be said that almost all of the male nurse students are from southeast culture. According to the statements she used about the public health internship, she stated that it can be easier and there will be no difficulties with female nurse students in public health practices. Another point is that men cannot be active outside of their protective role. He reiterated that the minds of these students changed little after the internship and that the male nurse should not be visiting their home.

In the light of these results, it can be said that male students evaluate the nursing profession under the traditional perspective and therefore limit the nursing practices for women. This view will take time to change. Considering the thoughts of the patients about themselves according to the students; A little more than half of them stated that they do not have any problems, approximately of them find it odd that they are nurses, and 1/10 of them have difficulty in choosing a form of address for the patients. In Taşçı's study titled the thoughts of the patients hospitalized in the obstetrics and gynecology departments about male nurses, 71% of the patients stated that they did not want to receive care from a male nurse and 65.1% of them stated that they would be uncomfortable when the male nurse gave care to them (Taşçı, 2007) In Oktay's study, what kind of nurse to look at

Examined they want, they want to receive care from female nurses the majority of patients görülmüştür (Oktay, 1989). In addition, patients in the Bricklayer's study, 64% did not know whether the men working nurses in hospitals in Turkey, negatively related to the 43 male nurses may give good care and nursing profession (Taşçı, 2007). In Özbasaran and Taspınar's study, 17% of the working nurses stated that male nurses would change the perspective of the society (Özbasaran & Üye, 1998). In Karadakovan's study, 64.6% of the students stated that the profession would increase the status of male nurses in the society (Karadakovan, 1993).

D. CONCLUSION

In this study, it was determined that in public health practices, most of the male nurse students start with resistance and therefore they are not beneficial to both society and themselves, learning decreases and change is slow. YÖK, Ministry of Health and Nursing Associations cooperate with the media to make programs that explain that there is no gender discrimination in the nursing profession. Inviting male nurses working abroad to nursing-related trainings, congresses and symposiums to become role models. It can bring suggestions such as increasing the number of male nurses working in the field.

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