

Research Note

Behavior and Difficulties of Peruvian Mothers When Taking their Children to Consult a Doctor in Japan

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Abstract

Objective

This study aimed to clarify the behavior, the difficulties and coping strategies faced by Peruvian mothers residing in Japan in terms of considering an efficient support system when they need to consult a doctor for their child's illness.

Method

Semi-structured interviews were conducted in Spanish or Japanese with four Peruvian mothers residing in prefecture A. Descriptive content analysis was performed.

Results

The behavior of a Peruvian mothers residing in Japan leading up to a medical institution is summarized in [Life that paying attention to health for not to go to the hospital], [Determining whether to go to the hospital], and [Selecting which hospital to go to]. Peruvian mothers were faced with difficulties when they visit a medical institution that [Difference in language], [Difference in medical system and cultural background], [Lack of support], and [Situation that they cannot take time off from work]. They took coping actions such as improving their Japanese ability, continuing child-rearing habits in Peru, utilizing social support, and seeing a doctor after hours.

Conclusion

Peruvian mothers residing in Japan have regularly taken preventive actions and have been referred for doctor consultation when they could not handle their child's illness all by themselves. Based on the results, the language barrier seems serious, and the development of a medical interpretation system seems urgent. There is a need for a system that facilitates Peruvian mothers, who tend to get isolated in a typical Japanese society, to obtain information on medical consultation and support in Japan. In addition, nurses and healthcare workers should be aware of such deals and thoughts during the follow-up visits of Peruvian mothers and their children.

Keywords: resident foreigners, mothers, children, consultation behavior, intercultural nursing