

Factors related to interest in foreign perinatal culture and confidence in the care for foreign people of nurses and midwives working in Obstetrics unit: A pilot study

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【Introduction】

The number of foreign women experiencing pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare in Japan is expected to rise. Although they need to receive Japanese professional support, there are various issues, such as language barrier, lack of social supports, and cultural differences.

This is a pilot study which set a goal to explore the levels of nurses and midwives' interest in "culture concerning pregnancy, childbirth and childcare for foreign people", their confidence in "perinatal care for foreign mothers and fathers (hereafter: clients)", and the related factors. Moreover, revealing the potential factors and situations related to difficulties in caring clients, and what the care providers believe is necessary to have confidence in care.

【Method】

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Integrated Education Organization (No.C2023-014) at the University. Paper-based, self-administered questionnaire was used. Data were collected from a university hospital in Tokyo, Japan from August 2nd to 27th 2023. Inclusion criteria were all nurses and midwives working in Obstetrics unit who have some experience with providing perinatal care. The questionnaire included 19 items about demographic data, interest and confidence level, values and needs when providing care. The levels were scaled from 1 (Not at all) to 7 (very much), respectively.

This is a pilot study, and the number of sample size is small; therefore, in addition to P value, effect size was evaluated. Association between the two ordinal variables: interest and confidence, and related factors were analyzed by Spearman's correlation coefficients (ρ), and Mann-Whitney U-test. Effect size r of Mann-Whitney U-test was calculated by Z/\sqrt{n} . Z is calculated from the test statistic U , the mean and the variance. Free descriptions were coded and categorized, respectively.

【Results】

1. Characteristics of participants

A nurse and eight midwives completed the survey (response rate = 30.0%). All participants had experience caring for one or more clients.

2. Level of interest and confidence, and related factors

Mean value of the interest level was 5.89 and the major related factors (effect size > 0.5) were years of nursing experience at Obstetrics department ($\rho = 0.650$, $P = 0.058$), length of stay abroad ($\rho = 0.662$, $P = 0.052$), have opportunities to interact with foreign people outside work ($r = 0.730$, $P = 0.028$) and have learning experiences of cross-cultural studies ($r = 0.730$, $P = 0.028$). Mean value of confidence level was 2.33 and the major related factors were degree ($\rho = 0.637$, $P = 0.065$), have opportunities to interact with foreign people outside work ($r = 0.606$, P

$= 0.069$), have learning experience of cross-cultural studies ($r = 0.606$, $P = 0.069$), have learning experience of perinatal care for foreign people ($r = 0.535$, $P = 0.109$) and have overseas experiences ($r = 0.507$, $P = 0.128$).

3. Difficulties in caring for clients

All participants experienced some difficulties, and language barrier was one of the major factors for every respondent. Seven (77.6%) selected teaching parenting skills for the situation in which the participants felt difficulties. In addition, all respondents believed that language skills were required to improve their confidence in care. Six respondents (66.7%) answered that knowledge of pregnancy among foreigners, childbirth, and childcare culture was also important.

4. Nurses and midwives' values and needs

For nurses and midwives' values, seven codes were retrieved and classified into three categories. The three categories were 【Communication methods and attitude】 , 【Consideration for cultural and personal values】 and 【Careful support】 .

For problems faced or likely to be faced in the future when dealing with clients, five codes were retrieved and classified into three categories. The three categories were 【Communication problems】 , 【Cultural concern】 and 【Post-discharge support】 . Communication was the most important issue. Some respondents experienced "Decline in quality of care owing to communication difficulties." In addition, there are "Limits of resource use for communication." Respondents had difficulty understanding clients' complaints [when the AI translator did not understand the message]. Although various efforts had been made to ensure effective communication, several problems remained unsolved.

【Discussion】

This study suggests that while nurses and midwives have strong interest in foreign perinatal culture, they have low confidence in providing care. It means that, while they are eager to provide high-quality care, they may not be able to provide the care they think is necessary to support clients due to their lack of confidence. Major influencing factors were about having interest in international interactions and the learning experiences of cross-cultural studies and perinatal care for clients. Also, language barrier may be a major cause of difficulties in the care. It is necessary to create learning environments regarding foreign perinatal culture, caring for clients, and communicating in foreign languages when offering care to help improve self-confidence among such healthcare providers.

【COI】 There is no COI to be disclosed.