

Intercultural Sensitivity Among Nursing Educators: Comparison between Japan and China

○ Congcong Wang¹, Akiko Kondo¹, Kazuko Naruse², Kosuke Niitsu³, Dingyi Long¹

1. Institute of Science Tokyo, 2. Tokyo Medical University, 3. University of Washington Bothell

【Introduction】

Due to world globalization, intercultural sensitivity is critical for nursing educators to training students for the diverse cultural settings. However, research on factors influencing intercultural sensitivity among nursing educators is limited worldwide, including in Japan and China. The aim of this study was to compare the factors related to intercultural sensitivity among nursing educators between Japan and China.

【Method】

This study was a cross-sectional international comparative study. Participants were nursing educators affiliated with nursing-related departments, teaching and mentoring students, and holding national nursing qualifications. The study invited 5,097 (3,475 in Japan and 1,622 in China) nursing educators from 284 universities in Japan and 303 universities in mainland China, whose email addresses were available on their university websites. We used Google Forms (Japan) and Tencent Survey (China) for the online survey with factors that could be related to intercultural sensitivity and the Intercultural Sensitivity Scale (ISS). Data were collected from October to December 2023.

ISS developed by Chen & Starosta (2000), has 24 items rated on a 5-point Likert scale. We obtained permission to use and translate the ISS into Chinese (Chen), and to use Japanese version (Kuwano et al., 2016). The ISS was translated into Chinese and adjusted by two native Chinese PhD students, back translated by two professional translators, and assessed among 21 Chinese nurses ($\alpha=0.85$, ICC=0.86). In this study, the overall Cronbach's alpha was 0.85 among 214 Chinese nursing educators.

Bivariate analyses were used to select variables for linear regression. A significance level of $p<0.001$ was chosen for large sample sizes ($n>1,000$), and $p<0.05$ was used for the Chinese subgroup ($n=214$). This study was approved by the Ethics Review Committee of the Institute of Education of the University (C2023-30). Participation was voluntary and anonymous.

【Results】

A total of 1,240 nursing educators (1,026 in Japan, 214 in China) submitted the answers, a response rate of 24.3% (29.5% in Japan, 13.2% in China). After excluding four uncertain cases, 1,236 responses were analyzed (1,022 in Japan, 214 in China).

The linear regression among all participants showed that Chinese nursing educators exhibited significantly higher intercultural sensitivity than Japanese nursing educators ($\beta = -0.163$, $p < 0.001$) after adjusting for confounders.

Table 1 shows the factors associated with intercultural sensitivity in Japan and China in each linear regression model. Having experience in

studying, research, or training abroad was positively associated with intercultural sensitivity among both groups. For Japanese nursing educators, non-native language ability, cross-cultural friendships, and participation in cross-cultural exchanges were positive factors. For Chinese nursing educators, frequent use of non-native languages and having family members with overseas experience were positively correlated with intercultural sensitivity, whereas years of full-time work was negatively correlated. Variance Inflation Factor values for all variables were below 3.

Table 1 Factors associated with intercultural sensitivity in Japan and China

Countries	Predictors	β	R^2	
Japan ($n=1,022$)	Job titles	-0.001	0.022	
	Holding an overseas education degree (ref. not holding)	-0.008	0.051	
	Having study/research/training abroad experience (ref. not having)	0.096***	0.080	
	Overseas work experience	0.004	0.038	
	Number of countries visited	0.053	0.043	
	Duration spent overseas	0.074	0.040	
	Number of non-native languages utilized	0.030	0.030	
	Non-native language ability	0.278***	0.072	
	Frequency of non-native language use	-0.051	0.000	
	Number of cross-cultural friends	0.218***	0.045	
	Frequency of participation in cross-cultural exchanges	0.153***	0.013	
	Family members with overseas experience (ref. without)	0.034	0.001	
	Linear regression analysis (enter): Adjusted $R^2 = 0.429$, $F = 64.483$ ($p < 0.001$), Durbin-Watson ratio = 1.983.			
	China ($n=214$)	Woman (ref. Man)	0.127	0.015
Years of working as a full-time nursing educator		-0.224**	0.018	
Incomes		-0.037	0.012	
Education level		0.015	0.030	
Holding an overseas education degree (ref. not holding)		-0.079	0.000	
Having study/research/training abroad experience (ref. not having)		0.177*	0.053	
Overseas work experience		-0.101	0.001	
Number of countries visited		0.084	0.023	
Duration spent overseas		-0.009	0.005	
Number of non-native languages utilized		0.047	0.002	
Non-native language ability		0.068	0.037	
Frequency of non-native language use		0.185*	0.026	
Number of cross-cultural friends		0.168	0.028	
Frequency of participation in cross-cultural exchanges		0.049	0.002	
Family members with overseas experience (ref. without)	0.169*	0.024		
Having international nursing students (ref. not having)	-0.086	0.007		
Linear regression analysis (enter): Adjusted $R^2 = 0.208$, $F = 3.793$ ($p < 0.001$), Durbin-Watson ratio = 2.118. ref.: reference. * $p<0.05$; ** $p<0.01$; *** $p<0.001$.				

【Discussion】

Facilitating opportunities for international study is recommended for both Japanese and Chinese nursing educators. Enhancing intercultural sensitivity among Japanese nursing educators involves improving non-native language ability, fostering cross-cultural friendships, and promoting cross-cultural interactions. Increasing opportunities to use non-native language could improve the intercultural sensitivity of Chinese nursing educators.

【COI】 There is no conflict of interest to be disclosed.

【Reference】

- Chen, G., & Starosta, W. J. (2000). The development and validation of the intercultural sensitivity scale. *Human Communication*, 3, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1037/t61546-000>
- Kuwano, N., Fukuda, H., & Murashima, S. (2016). Factors affecting professional autonomy of Japanese nurses caring for culturally and linguistically diverse patients in a hospital setting in Japan. *J Transcult Nurs*, 27(6), 567-573. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1043659615587588>