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KEY WORDS : DECISION MAKING / COMMUNITY NURSING / NURSING STUDENTS

KITTIPHOOM PHINYO : THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CERTAIN SELECTED FACTORS WITH DECISION MAKING ABILITY REGARDING THE NURSING PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE FOURTH YEAR NURSING STUDENTS IN NURSING COLLEGES, UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE NORTHEAST OF THAILAND.

THESIS ADVISORS : SOMCHIT PADUMANONDA, Dr.P.H., TASSANEE NONTASORN, Ph.D. (Ed. Psy.)

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The purpose of this correlational survey research was to investigate the relationship between certain selected factors such as the academic success of the community health nursing subject, nursing students' attitude towards the community health nursing subject, and the environment of teaching – learning in the field practice of the community health nursing subject with decision making ability regarding the nursing problems in the community. The sample consisted of 212 senior nursing students of four nursing colleges, under the jurisdiction of the ministry of public health in the Northeast of Thailand. Data were collected by using questionnaires and test form and analyzed by using correlation and linear multiple regression.

The results were as follows: The academic success of the community health nursing subject was at middle level 63.7% (mean=50.22, standard deviation=5.53). Nursing students' attitude towards the community health nursing subject was also at middle level 62.3% (mean =117.92, standard deviation =9.29). The environment of teaching – learning in the field practice of the community health nursing subject was at middle level 74.5% (mean =138.99, standard deviation =16.42). The field practice is divided into four sub-sections the results of which were at middle level for all of them as follows: the physical environment 69.8% (mean =23.32, standard deviation =3.81), the atmosphere in peer group 67.9% (mean =19.45, standard deviation =2.66), the atmosphere in nursing team work 60.8% (mean =23.65, standard deviation =3.22), and the supervisory behavior of nursing instructors 71.2% (mean =72.57, standard deviation =11.51). The abilities for decision making on the nursing problems in the community were at low level for all sub-sections as follows: the problem defining stage 75.9% (mean =3.95, standard deviation =2.17), analyzing of data stage 60.4% (mean =55.83, standard deviation =8.87), analyzing the alternative stages 87.7% (mean =22.45, standard deviation =5.12) and choosing the alternative stage 100% (mean =7.26, standard deviation =2.82). There was no significant relationship between dependent and independent variables.

According to the results, it is recommended that the nursing instructors should study to find the variables related to decision making ability regarding the nursing problems in the community and the model of teaching to improve the decision making ability regarding the nursing problems in the community of nursing students.