

Thesis Title Roles of Dental Nurses in Community Dental Health: An Analysis from Dentists and Dental Nurses' Viewpoints.

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Date of Graduation May 31, 1988.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was twofold as follows: Firstly, to study and compare the actual and the expected roles of dental nurses in Community Dental Health as seen from the dentists and dental nurses' viewpoints, secondly, to compare between dental personnel' viewpoints regarding the positions, working stations and conditions. The target population was made up of dentists and dental nurses working in provincial health offices and community hospitals in 72 provinces, totalling 326 persons. 97 (71.30 percent) out of 136 (100 percent) questionnaire forms and 229 (39.20 percent) out of 325 (50 percent) questionnaires froms were completed and returned from the dentists and dental nurses, respectively. The instrument used in this inquiry was a structured questionnaire constructed by the

researcher from extensive analysis of related literature and consulting with experts prior to pretesting. The data was then analysed by looking at frequencies, percentages mean and standard deviation analysis. Futhermore, a Pair T-test and T-test were employed to compare the differences.

The following conclusions were based on the finding of this investigation:

In providing simple and preliminary treatment to adults and referring patients the viewpoints of dentists and dental nurses as to the actual of dental nurses were at a statistical high level.

The expected roles of dental nurses according to the viewpoints of dentists and dental nurses were mostly in providing equipment support and in the organization of dental prevention programs in schools.

The comparison of the actual and the expected roles according to the dental personnel's viewpoints was as follows:

From the viewpoints of the dentists and dental nurses there was a significant difference between the actual and expected roles at P value = .05 on every issue, except in providing simple dental treatment for adults in which we found no significant difference of viewpoints. Only the dentists expressed no significant difference between the two roles in providing preliminary dental treatment for adults and referring the patients.

The comparison of the dentists and dental nurses' viewpoints as to the actual and expected roles of dental

nurses was as follows :

There was a significant difference between the viewpoints of dentists and dental nurses at P value $<.05$ as to the actual role on school dental health, community dental health and administration .As to the difference, it was only in secretarial work that the dentists reported a higher mean score than the dental nurses, apart from this the dental nurses reported higher viewpoints.

The hypothesis of difference between the viewpoints of dentists and dental nurses toward the expected roles was retained at P value $<.05$ on community dental health, follow up and evaluation and administration.

The comparison of dentists' viewpoints to the roles of dental nurses regarding the working stations were as following:

There was only a significant difference between the PHO dentists and CH dentists' viewpoints toward the actual roles at P value $<.05$ on administration. As to the difference, the PHO dentists reported a higher mean score than the CH dentists in all aspects of administration.

The PHO dentists and CH dentists' viewpoints towards the expected roles was significantly different at P value $<.05$ on community dental health, supervision, follow up and evaluation and administration; the PHO dentists have a higher mean' score.

The comparison of dental nurses' viewpoints to roles of dental nurses regarding the working condition were as follows:

There was a significant difference between the viewpoints of dental nurses working with and without dentists at P value $<.05$ on school dental health, community dental health, follow up and evaluation and administration. The dental nurses working without dentists have a higher mean score than the dental nurses working with dentists on supporting and advising schools to launch dental surveillance programs. And on the other items the dental nurses working with dentists have higher mean scores.

The viewpoints toward the expected role of the dental nurses working with and without dentists was significantly different at P value $<.05$ only on administration. As to the difference, the dental nurses working without dentists have higher mean scores than the dental nurses working with dentists.