

Current Situation and Development of Community Nursing in China

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Abstract: Community nursing is a continuous, dynamic and comprehensive nursing service based on the knowledge and skills of public health and nursing. It takes the population as the service object and maintains and promotes health as the ultimate goal. With China gradually entering the aging society in recent years, community nursing has become an essential direction of nursing development and an inevitable trend of health care development. Despite the strong support of relevant government departments, China's community nursing is developing continuously. However, because of the late start of development, large population base and other reasons, there are still many problems, such as insufficient supply of nursing services, a significant shortage of nursing facilities, and uneven quality of nursing. This paper mainly discusses the above community health care problems caused by China's aging population and puts forward some suggestions, for example, the government should appropriately increase investment, strengthen publicity, pay attention to the training of nursing talents, recruit more nursing staff and provide them with corresponding training and assessment, improve the quality of nursing staff, promote the more comprehensive application of community nursing concepts and models, and provide theoretical reference for exploring the establishment of a sound and sustainable community nursing service system in China.

Keywords: community nursing, community nurses, quality control, community nursing development

1. Introduction

According to the World Health Organization, "The overall goal of health for all in the 21st century is to improve equity in health care and ensure that all populations have access to sustainable health systems and services, leading to a longer life expectancy and improved quality of life for all". Community medical service is the most basic medical and health care service for residents, and community nursing extends the object of care from individual patients to healthy individuals, families and even the whole community. Such continuous, dynamic and comprehensive service is impossible for hospital nursing to complete. Therefore, the development of community nursing is aggravating the aging population and the shortage of health resources. The miniaturization of family size in China is significant [1].

Using the literature review method and searching relevant literature, this paper summarizes the status quo of community nursing, existing problems, countermeasures and prospects in the

development of community nursing, and provides ideas for developing community nursing in China. China is experiencing an aging population, and community care is expected to solve some elderly medical and nursing problems. It is significant to study community nursing to improve community service and enhance service quality. The current situation and challenges of community nursing in China must be changed through policies. Papers studying community nursing can highlight current problems and suggest constructive suggestions to promote policy formulation and reform. The research content of this paper can provide a theoretical basis and practical experience for the promotion and application of the community nursing model and promote the broader application of the community nursing concept and model.

2. Analysis of the Current Situation of Community Nursing in China

According to the experience of developed countries such as the United Kingdom, with the development of society, the number of large general hospitals will gradually decrease, general practice clinics will achieve full coverage in urban and rural areas, and more than 90% of the health problems of urban and rural residents can be dealt with in the nearest community hospital [2]. China's community medical and health service centers cover a broader area, and community hospitals are gradually increasing. However, due to China's large population base, diverse levels of demand, and urban and rural development imbalance, the development of community nursing still exists in the following problems.

2.1. Lack of Government Policy and Financial Support

The development of community nursing in our country is relatively late compared with the developed countries, basically in the development stage just at the beginning. The service model is relatively simple, does not have corresponding professional characteristics, and must be more competitive than traditional hospitals. Furthermore, a perfect community nursing organization and management system must be established. Although the state pays more and more attention to the development of community public health services, the investment in community nursing is still insufficient, the relevant policies are not perfect, and the corresponding laws and regulations are not perfect, which not only makes the quality of community nursing, not unified standards but also makes the occupational safety of community nurses can not be guaranteed. Some remote and rural areas in China still need to carry out community nursing. Compared with investing a lot of money and human resources into large hospitals, relevant government departments have less investment in community medical services, and the distribution of medical resources could be more evenly distributed. In addition, China's medical insurance policy still needs to be perfect. Some areas cannot be reimbursed by community medical insurance, and residents who do not have medical insurance assigned to community hospitals cannot be reimbursed in community hospitals [3]. These unfavourable factors all inhibit the development of community medical services.

2.2. Insufficient Number of Community Nurses

The perfect staffing of community medical service centers is the basis for the smooth development of community health service. Only by ensuring the human resources staffing of community nursing can we improve the quality of community nursing area and meet the multi-level health needs of community residents. The World Health Organization recommends a 2:1 or 4:1 ratio of community nurses to community doctors. The Ministry of Health requires that each community health service centre be equipped with at least six general practice practitioners and nine registered nurses. According to the *China Nursing Development Plan (2016-2020)*, the number of nurses working in primary medical institutions will reach 1 million by 2020 [4]. However, at present, according to

relevant studies, it is difficult for community hospitals in first-tier cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou to meet the requirement of having one registered nurse for each practising physician, and even fewer community health service centres in other regions meet the requirement [5]. Although the number of nurses engaged in primary health care has increased significantly, it still needs to meet the requirements of the World Health Organization. Therefore, to fully meet the multi-level needs of social residents, the number of community nursing staff still needs to be further increased.

2.3. Low Overall Quality of Community Nurses

Community nursing work is wide-ranging, comprehensive quality requirements are high, and compared with nurses engaged in clinical nursing work in hospitals, community nurses require a more comprehensive knowledge of general medicine [6]. However, some literature shows that China's community nurses are mainly specialists. In contrast, most foreign community nurses have bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and above, while the 392 nursing undergraduates surveyed community nursing employment intention only accounted for 23.6% [7]. In addition, due to the shortage of nursing personnel in China, some community medical service centers have to employ some of the education and professional level of community nursing workers are low. Hence, many community nursing workers in the post who need more systematic professional training and learning have been engaged in related work. Although this can effectively alleviate the urgent need for community nursing personnel in China, it reduces the overall level of community nursing in China [8]. To a certain extent, this reflects the need for more highly educated nursing talents in China's community nursing team, and the overall quality of community nurses could be higher, which is also one of the factors affecting the development of community nursing in China.

2.4. Low Public Acceptance

The content of community nursing service is divided into institutional nursing and family nursing according to the workplace. It can be divided into direct and indirect nursing according to whether the work content touches the service object. According to the nature of the work content, it is divided into primary medical care and public health. The primary medical service content is to carry out general practitioners' medical instructions for treating patients with chronic and joint diseases, such as monitoring vital signs, intravenous infusion, intramuscular injection, wound dressing change, urinary catheterization and nasal feeding. The content of public health service is the establishment of health records, health care for particular groups, including rehabilitation and care for the elderly, patients with chronic diseases, people with disabilities, and perinatal women), community population vaccination, psychiatric management, health education, children's planned immunization, child development monitoring and guidance, disease screening, community chronic disease management, nutrition guidance, infectious disease prevention and control, etc. [9]. Although China's community nursing has carried out corresponding services in medical treatment, prevention, health care, rehabilitation, health education and family planning, the specific implementation is not deep enough. The centre of work is only health consultation and health publicity and education, so the primary technical conditions of most of the domestic community health centers and clinics are far from meeting the increasing medical needs of people. The decompression effect of community health centers on provincial and municipal hospitals is a drop in the bucket. Although China's community nursing has developed rapidly in recent years, and the number of community health service centers has increased dramatically, residents believe more in large hospitals. They are more inclined to go to large hospitals for medical treatment when health problems occur. It has become a regular phenomenon that township residents go to provincial and

municipal hospitals for medical treatment, resulting in large hospitals being congested and small hospitals challenging to operate. The tension over resources in provincial and municipal hospitals has intensified [10]. Therefore, to promote the development of community nursing, how to change the concept of residents and promote community nursing services and enhance the social identity of community nursing staff is still an urgent problem to be solved.

3. Corresponding Countermeasure

3.1. Increase Government Investment

Increase government investment in the grass-roots health sector to alleviate the shortage of human resources, financial and material resources for community health services, and reasonably increase the allocation of medical care. Learn from developed countries' government investment in community care, and improve the medical insurance system, to ensure the standard and sustainable development of community care. First of all, we should increase the infrastructure to improve the hardware level and service capacity of community health institutions, for example, Zhenjiang's implementation of the new reform [11], the implementation of large hospitals and community health service institutions to establish a close-type partnership, increase the management of hospitals and community health institutions, technical assistance and information sharing, the opening of rehabilitation joint wards, which greatly enhanced the health service capacity of grass-roots organizations, has a positive reference value. Secondly, the health administration should pay more attention to the development of community nursing and improve the laws, regulations and rules. Perfect regulations and policies are an essential guarantee for the development of good causes, and it is a system that cannot be cut off to promote the harmonious development of community nursing. In the establishment of the medical insurance system, we should fully consider how to link with the community health service system, not only to a certain extent to ensure the immediate interests of community health care workers and community health care resources can be rationally applied but also to enable more residents to get convenient and fast as well as a high level of high-quality health care services. Define the function of community nursing and community nursing responsibilities, increase and refine the performance assessment of community nursing work, develop a system of rewards and penalties, and implement personnel supervision. At the same time as increasing resource inputs, community nursing management should be standardized and institutionalized to promote the joint development of community nursing staff and community health services.

3.2. Increasing the Number of Community Caregivers

The shortage of nursing staff in the community is a severe problem, so there is a need to attract nursing staff willing to choose and stay in the community. Studies have shown that nursing staff turnover has become common in hospitals. In addition to nursing staff's reasons, the top five reasons for nurses' turnover, in order, are hard work, accounting for 93.60%; low economic income, accounting for 85.71%; high risk and heavy psychological burden, accounting for 84.48 per cent; low social status of nurses, accounting for 80.53%; and poor social treatment, accounting for 67.14% [12]. On the one hand, in today's society, there is insufficient awareness of the importance of nursing work, low social status of nursing staff, and the value of labour is not reflected; on the other hand, the current modern management system of community health is not perfect, and there is insufficient practical experience in the management of nursing talents, which makes the original nursing human resources allocation seriously insufficient at the same time, increase non-nursing work, and more and more aggravate the work pressure of nursing staff. All these will bring great negative emotions to the community nursing staff, so some measures should be taken to retain

community nursing staff. For example, they are using data to incentive community care workers to improve their sense of career benefits. Sense of occupational benefit refers to the individual's perceived occupational benefits; the more robust the sense of occupational benefit, the weaker the sense of burnout; community nurses can perceive the occupational benefits such as nursing effect, patient or family satisfaction, etc. Clinical should strengthen the display of nursing results to enhance the nurses' sense of occupational benefit and motivate them to participate in nursing work actively. For example, nursing satisfaction questionnaires are regularly distributed to patients; patients are instructed to fill in and retrieve the questionnaires; nursing satisfaction scores for each period are counted, and nursing satisfaction data of excellent community nursing staff are displayed inline graphs [13]. This can enhance the community nursing staff's sense of personal achievement and professional benefit, thereby reducing the negative emotions associated with their work and thus retaining community nursing staff.

3.3. Strengthening Community Nursing Manpower Training

The Government should introduce targeted policies to train nursing professionals based on community nursing needs and strengthen the authorities' management and guidance in training community nursing personnel. In order to meet the unique needs of community nursing services, relevant courses should be offered, and the practical ability and service level of nursing talents should be upgraded through internships and simulation training. Training and refresher courses related to community nursing are held regularly to update the knowledge base of nursing personnel and improve their work skills. A clear career development path for nursing staff is crucial to attracting and retaining talent, so career promotion paths for nursing staff should be clarified, and corresponding appointment mechanisms and assessment systems should be provided. By improving treatment, implementing preferential policies and other incentives, the work motivation of nursing staff can be enhanced, and more talents can be attracted to invest in community nursing work. Support community nursing staff to participate in scientific research activities, broaden their knowledge horizons, and enhance their scientific research innovation and problem-solving abilities to improve the quality of nursing services. Through exchanges and cooperation, introduce advanced foreign community nursing experiences and management models to cultivate internationalized community nursing talents.

3.4. Strengthen the Efforts on Publicity

Strengthening publicity on community nursing through the news media, radio and television or other publicity channels so that community residents can understand the scope of the work of community nurses, their work objectives and the social effects they produce, and to rectify the prejudices that community residents have against community nursing. With the gradual improvement of the living standard of our residents and increasing awareness of health care, more healthcare programs appear in the publicity media. However, because of the constant impact of the tide of the commodity economy in China, many advertisements and projects are carried out for profit. Hence, people waste time and pay money based on the expected results that have yet to be achieved. Therefore, the enthusiasm of the masses was seriously suppressed, affecting the development of the physical and mental health of the masses. To strengthen the news media to promote community nursing, give full play to and actively guide the social effects produced by community nursing. For example, the news media publicize the warm images between community nursing staff and community residents, enhance the excellent image of community nursing staff, and promote the change of community residents' health concepts from in-hospital care to community care. Increasing publicity on the advantages of community nursing and health care

knowledge can raise residents' awareness of health care, change their poor lifestyles and behavioral habits, prevent illnesses and promote residents' recognition of community nursing. Therefore, strengthening publicity efforts effectively solves the problem of low acceptance by residents in the community.

4. Conclusion

In general, community nursing is a new thing in the development of nursing profession, it is the inevitable product of social development, scientific and technological take-off and medical model transformation, it is a crucial way to promote health, maintain health, prevent diseases and restore health, it has a far-reaching impact on the growth and development of the future society, and it has great social value and significance, it can enhance the level of social welfare so that the community residents, especially the elderly, It can enhance the level of social welfare so that community residents, especially the elderly, the sick or the disabled, etc., can receive better care and improve their quality of life, further enhancing the level of social welfare; it can help share the pressure on hospitals so that patients with joint or chronic diseases can receive treatment and care in the community, reducing the pressure on medical institutions; and it can carry out health education to enhance the public's health literacy, such as preventive medical education and promotion of a healthy life style. It can also form a sound community ecology so that community members such as the elderly, the sick or the disabled can better integrate into the community life, form a good atmosphere of mutual help and love in the community, and require a large number of professional nursing staff, thus creating more employment opportunities for the community, further serving the community, preventing diseases, and improving the health of the residents, which is an integral part of the strategy of Healthy China, and better promotes the strategy of Healthy China Strategy. There are many areas for improvement in the development of community nursing in China, such as insufficient supply of nursing services and uneven quality of nursing care, imperfect nursing service mechanism and lack of comprehensive talents, and weak autonomous operational capacity of community nursing services. It is believed that through the unremitting efforts of enhancing residents' understanding of community nursing, training professionals, improving the quantity and quality of community nursing personnel, paying great attention to the relevant departments, clarifying the duties of community nurses, and increasing the government's macro-control, community nursing will be able to benefit every resident in the community in the future truly, and will be able to show a bright future in front of the people.

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