

〔日本家族看護学会国際交流委員会調査報告〕

## 2015 Survey on Family Nursing Education and Research in Asian Countries: Prospects for Network Construction of Family Nursing Research Institutes in Asia

Naho Sato<sup>1)</sup> Naohiro Hohashi<sup>2)</sup> Satoshi Takatani<sup>1)</sup> Junko Honda<sup>1)</sup>

1) Member, Committee for International Exchange, Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing

2) Director, Committee for International Exchange, Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing

### I. Introduction

Two decades have passed since the Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing (JARFN) was launched, with the goal of establishing family nursing in Japan. The number of JARFN members has been increasing year by year and the field of family nursing continues to progress. The organization's next challenge has been to gain a foothold for development of an Asia-wide network for exchange of information and communication related to education, research and practice of family nursing. With this objective, JARFN conducted a survey to clarify the current status of family nursing education, research and practice in Asia in 2008. Now, almost a decade later, family nursing in Asia has developed further. In the current survey, we added more participating countries and regions than in the previous survey so as to clarify the current situation. Compared with the previous data, we would like to present the results for exchange with our colleagues in Asia.

### II. Method

#### 1. Participants of Survey

The participating institutions were 237 universities in twelve countries and regions including Bru-

nei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Suitable respondents for the survey were identified by following three procedures, labeled here as A, B or C.

A: 1) Select universities having a department of nursing through International Association of Universities' Worldwide database of Higher Education



### A Request for Your Cooperation in a Survey Concerning Family Nursing Research Institutions in Asian Countries and Regions

#### To everyone involved in nursing in Asia:

The Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing (JARFN) is a 21-year-old institution with about 1,500 members. The International Exchange Committee in JARFN aims to establish a network of family nursing research institutions in Asia. As a part of its preparatory activities, JARFN is conducting a "Survey on Family Nursing Research Institutions in Asia," in which nursing universities in Asian countries will be asked about how they currently educate, research, and implement family nursing. This, it is hoped, will provide us and our colleagues with ideas concerning the future of education, research, and practice of family nursing in Asia, thereby serving as a stepping stone for establishing an Asian network of family nursing.

JARFN appreciates your cooperation in the the future development of nursing in Asia. Thank you in advance for your valuable time to participate in our survey.

#### Responding to the survey:

Please fill in the web survey sheet (in English) available at  
[http://www.familynursing.org/jarfn\\_exchange/survey.html](http://www.familynursing.org/jarfn_exchange/survey.html)

#### Deadline for responses:

March 31, 2016

Naohiro Hohashi, PhD, RN, PHN  
Director of International exchanges,  
Japanese Association for Research in Family Nursing  
E-mail: [exchange@familynursing.org](mailto:exchange@familynursing.org)  
URL: [http://www.familynursing.org/jarfn\\_exchange/e\\_index.html](http://www.familynursing.org/jarfn_exchange/e_index.html)

Figure 1. Leaflet Concerning this Survey

Institutions, Systems and Credentials (<http://www.whed.net/>); 2) Using PubMed, extract the authors' information with academic position (e.g., dean, professor, associate professor, lecturer, assistant professor) of published papers from these institutions; and 3) Search and access personal email addresses from the university's website.

B: Obtain a list of department of nursing or contact information from family nursing researchers via personal communications with committee members.

C: Obtain contact information utilizing manual search with a search engine. In addition, a leaflet concerning this survey was made and distributed at the 12th International Family Nursing Conference in Odense, Denmark (Figure 1). The survey was conducted from August 2015 to March 2016.

## 2. Survey Items

We adopted the same items utilized in the 2008 survey (Hohashi, Kawahara, Kobayashi, et al., 2009). The items covered five key areas concerning the following: 1) family nursing; 2) family nursing education; 3) practical teaching concerning family nursing; 4) survey and research concerning family nursing; and 5) international exchanges on family nursing. Each key area consisted of two to four questions. After adding items of respondents' affiliation, field of nursing specialty and a free entry space, the survey form was posted on a web site set up exclusively for this purpose. Responses to the survey were input into the form and submitted electronically. We regarded participation in the survey as signifying consent.

## III. Results

### 1. Characteristics of Participants

Table 1 shows the characteristics of partici-

Table 1. Characteristics of Participants

Countries and regions	
Hong Kong (4), Indonesia (2), Malaysia (2), Philippines (2), Thailand (2), Taiwan (1), Vietnam (1)	
Affiliations	
University with up to doctoral programs	6
University with up to master's programs	6
University with no graduate programs	2
Positions at their affiliations	
Dean/Head	6
Professor	0
Associate Professor	1
Senior Lecturer/Lecturer	3
Assistant Professor	3
Other	1
Field of nursing specialty (multiple answers)	
Adult nursing	6
Public health nursing	5
Basic nursing	4
Family nursing	4
Geriatric nursing	4
Community nursing	3
Home-care nursing	3
Psychiatric nursing	2
Pediatric nursing	1
Maternity/Midwifery	1
Other	4

$n=14$ .

pants. Fourteen respondents from ten universities participated this survey. They were from Hong Kong (4), Indonesia (2), Malaysia (2), Philippines (2), Thailand (2), Vietnam (1) and Taiwan (1). Affiliations were universities with no graduate programs, universities with up to master's programs and universities with up to doctoral programs. Participants' position at the affiliation ranged from dean/head to assistant professor, and various fields of nursing specialization were represented.

### 2. Family Nursing Education

In this survey, family nursing was defined as "A field of nursing that was established in the 1970s in North America and had spread around the world. It focuses on the family as the subject of nursing care, and considers the family as a primary unit with which to work concerning family health promotions" (Hohashi, Kawahara, Kobayashi, et al., 2009). Eleven participants responded they were familiar with family nursing as de-

**Table 2.** Family Nursing Education in the Curriculum

Question: Which of the following applies to the form (class, field, etc.) in which family nursing education is offered at your institution?	
Graduate programs ( <i>n</i> =12)	
Family nursing is an independent subject area	2
Family nursing is provided in conjunction with another subject area	6
Not provided	2
No reply	2
Undergraduate programs ( <i>n</i> =14)	
Family nursing is an independent subject area	4
Family nursing is provided in conjunction with another subject area	9
Not provided	1
No reply	0
Question: Does your institution foster specialist practitioners of family nursing?	
Yes	5
No	7
Unknown	2
Question: Do you practice family nursing?	
Yes	7
No	5
Not now, but previously	2

*n*=14.

scribed above, and 13 participants responded they were interested in family nursing.

Table 2 shows the position of family nursing education in the curriculum of participants' institutions. In graduate program, two participants responded their institutions positioned family nursing as an independent subject, and six responded they offered family nursing in conjunction with another subject area. In undergraduate programs, four participants responded they positioned family nursing as an independent subject, and nine responded they offered family nursing in conjunction with another subject area. Participants of two institutions with graduate programs and one with undergraduate programs responded to the effect that they did not offer family nursing education.

Regarding advanced practice education, five participants gave positive replies to the question as to whether or not their institution fostered specialist practitioners of family nursing.

**Table 3.** Affiliated Family Nursing Associations of Participants

I am not a member	11
I belong to an association	5
International Family Nursing Association (1)	
Ikatan Perawat Kesehatan Komunitas Indonesia (1)	
Kolegium Keperawatan Keluarga (Indonesia) (1)	
Gerontology Nurses Association of the Philippines (1)	
Maternal and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (1)	

*n*=14, multiple answers.

### 3. Family Nursing Research and Membership in Association Concerning Family Nursing

In response to the question about involvement in family nursing research activities, eight replied they were currently involved in, or had previously been involved in, such activities. Table 3 shows the status of research activities concerning family nursing and membership in a society, association or organization related to family nursing. Eleven respondents replied they did not hold membership in any association concerning family nursing, whereas the others replied they belonged to a national association and/or international association of family nursing, including International Family Nursing Association (IFNA).

### 4. International Exchanges and Asian Networking on Family Nursing

Table 4 shows the current status of participants' international exchange and viewpoints concerning the establishment of an Asian network on family nursing. In this survey, IFNA and the International Family Nursing Conference (IFNC) appeared to be relatively unfamiliar to the participants. All 14 indicated agreement with a plan to establish an Asian network of family nursing researchers. Four of the 14 participants responded they had experienced international exchanges and international collaborative research. The comments written in the free entry space are shown in Table 5.

**Table 4.** International Exchange and Asian Network on Family Nursing

Question: Do you know of the International Family Nursing Conference, an international academic conference on family nursing?	
Yes	5
No	9
Question: Have you ever participated in the International Family Nursing Conference?	
Yes	2
No	11
No reply	1
Question: Would you approve or disapprove of a plan to establish an Asian network of family nursing researchers?	
Approve	14
Don't approve	0
Question: Are you affiliated with family nursing researchers in other countries (exchange of information, collaborative research, etc.)?	
Yes	4
No	9
Not now, but previously	1

*n*=14.

**Table 5.** Excerpts from Free Comments

<p>"Family Nursing in America is now not meanwhile as Family Nurse practitioner. Most of the graduate school of Thailand have been move to Community Nurses Practitioner program. None of the graduate program provided Family Nursing program for about ten years."</p> <p>"In our program, we have a component of teaching called community health nursing. This may have some components similar to family nursing."</p> <p>"I am happy that our school was able to participate in this survey. I am hoping for the success of this endeavor. Rest assured that our university through its college of nursing will help in any way we can for the future establishment of family nursing in Asian countries."</p> <p>"It would be more possible fruitfulness if we could meet and discuss in person for future collaboration."</p> <p>"I interested to join as a member in family nursing association."</p> <p>"Hope I can register it soon."</p> <p>"I want to joint research with JARFN"</p>
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*n*=7.

#### IV. Discussion

As in the previous survey conducted in 2008, the response rate for this survey was also low. While making general inferences from the findings of the current survey is difficult due to the low response rate, useful remarks to be considered for future networking were obtained. They were: 1. strategic construction of a network taking Asian

characteristics into account; 2. the current status of family nursing education in Asian countries and regions; and 3. expectations toward an Asian network in family nursing.

#### 1. Strategic Construction of a Network Taking Asian Characteristics into Account

The low response rate suggested that more practical ingenuity will be necessary for grasping and sharing the current situation of family nursing education and research in each country and region in order to establish a network. Compared with the results of the 2008 survey, there were no respondents from individuals at institutions in China and Korea. Since the number of graduate programs in these countries have increased in recent years, family nursing education and research activities almost certainly have changed. The low response rate might have been due to a committee not being able to designate a suitable individual who could respond to the survey. On the other hand, committee members often had difficulty finding suitable individuals due to the language problems. While it was understood there were some universities with departments of nursing in Laos and Myanmar, for example, we could not make contact with institutions in those countries. This problem relates not only to our survey, but also may become an issue in future attempts at networking.

As a proposal, first of all, JARFN should establish a network with nursing associations and universities in countries and regions with high interest in family nursing education and research as the "initial base" of the Asian network, so as to grasp and share a more detailed situation of current family nursing. As results showed, it is inferred that family nursing researchers in Asia do not have much experience of international ex-

changes and collaborative research. Most of respondents answered they were not familiar with IFNC and had never participated in IFNC activities. Through sharing of its accumulated experience, JARFN can contribute to Asian researchers who are interested in international exchange and collaborations.

## 2. Current Status of Family Nursing Education in Asian Countries and Regions

The status of family nursing education was similar to the results of survey in 2008. In both graduate and undergraduate programs, family nursing tended to be provided in conjunction with another subject area. Some respondents who wrote in comments stated that family nursing was offered as a component of community health nursing. A recent Japanese survey concerning family nursing education clarified similar results in Japanese basic nursing education (Asano, Araki, Ogino, et al., 2016). The composition of the curriculum and the method of education were also affected by the health policy of the respective governments, the demands of society, and so on. IFNA position statement on pre-licensure family nursing education (International Family Nursing Association, 2015) may be a useful tool in terms of exchanges about family nursing education in Asian countries and regions.

## 3. Expectations Toward an Asian Network in Family Nursing

All respondents of this survey approved of the

proposal to establish an Asian network in family nursing, which was also same as the result in 2008. Moreover, comments by some respondents indicated interest in such a network and in future collaboration. The next step will be to create details of the future network. It will be particularly important to consider measures for realizing Asian researcher exchanges and cooperation according to the “initial base” described above. If the initial base leads to organic cooperation, it would facilitate the organizing of regional conferences and symposiums.

Recent trends in health problems in Asian countries are also expected to result in increased attention and social demand for education in health care and nursing science. With its 22 years of history and experience as a nursing organization, JARFN will be able to perform a pivotal role that will contribute to family nursing in Asia.

### References

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