

The Nurses of Community Training Model for Community Health System Development: The Community Participation Approach

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The National Health Care Reform in Thailand reflects the increasing demand of nurses in the community health care settings. To secure the availability of manpower, local young people are targeted to be trained to serve their own community after graduation. This research aimed to develop training model for nurses of community (NOC), and to study the potential of local administration and community hospital in cooperating with nursing school to produce nurses who can work collaboratively and effectively with community people. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were applied. Data were initially collected using NOC survey form with staffs of 35 local administrations and nurses in the primary care unit of three provinces in central region. Three local administrations were randomly selected for in-depth interview with key informants. Manpower policy, existing practice and potential in community health system development were explored. The results revealed three significant exemplars which include environmental health, chronic illness in aged people, and Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever. The findings were used as an input for designing training program which include six main systems: admission, curriculum management, local administration champion, school-hospital-community collaboration, competency development, and employment. The current nursing curriculum was tailored to meet the special requirement of this initiative and community context. Teaching and learning activities in community including the student mentoring system and instructor preparation were incorporated. The findings will be beneficial to the implementation step in NOC project and be a model for future development of nursing education that collaboratively tailored by community participation. The University IRB protocol was approved to ensure voluntary participation, privacy, basic human right and dignity including risk and benefits of the participants in this study.