

**Report**

## **Research Activities in the Department of Nursing**

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Research activity at the Department of Nursing is overviewed from the point of research topics, the theme of the projects admitted for grant from the Ministry of Education and Science of Japan, and expected research topics, trying to clarify the needs and challenges of the Department from multilateral aspects in future research activities.

The Department of Nursing, Aino University is currently divided into the five areas and further into 12 fields. On the other hand, according to the Scientific Research Grant Program (2015 fiscal year), the research topics in nursing science is subdivided into the five areas ; a) basic nursing, b) clinical nursing, c) lifelong developmental nursing, d) elderly nursing, and e) community health nursing.

Here the research activity at the Department is classified according to the subdivision listed in the Scientific Research Grant Program by classifying 12 fields of the Department into the five classification. In addition to the above classification, the research activity is also classified into the four groups according to the theme ; ① nursing care and nursing technology, ② nursing education (training), ③ nursing management, safety and medical team, ④ nursing theory, ethics and other.

The research output analyzed in this review is limited to the original and review papers in recent five years, which were published by the researchers belonging to Aino University to reflect the trend in main research carried out at Aino University. In this review, 96 papers and, 11 research grants from the Ministry of Education and Science is analyzed.

The list is the summary of research activity of the Department classified in the matrix of 5 areas by 4 thematic classification. As shown in Table, all staff of the Department is placed in one of the five areas. When we see the number of papers by thematic classification, some trends can be easily observed. In basic nursing area, there are more themes related to nursing education, and nursing management, safety and team medical care. On the other hand, in Life-span Development Nursing and Elderly Nursing areas, many themes are related to nursing care and nursing technology. In Community Health Nursing and Education areas, research themes are related with nursing ethics and theory and others (Table).

The Japanese Nursing Evaluation Society has

Table 1 Classification of Research Activity of the Department by Filed and Theme

Theme classification	nursing care, nursing technology	nursing education (training)	Nursing management, safety, team nursing	ethics, theory, others
Basic nursing and medical (Basic nursing field, integrated nursing field, basic and specialized basic fields)	7, 11,	26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 40, 75, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 89, 91, 92, K8	4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 42, 43, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, K2, K3, K5,	15, 17, 39, 41, 65, 66, 85, 90
Clinical Nursing (Adult acute field, adult chronic field)	21, 45, 46,	22, 24, 25	9, 10, 23	50
Lifelong development Nursing (Pediatric nursing field, maternal nursing field)	2, 3, 13, 18, 19, 20, 37, 63, 86, K1	44, 51	38,	62, 88,
Community health nursing, education (public health sector, mental nursing field, home nursing field, nursing and education)	96, K7	68, 69, 87, 94,	K11, 73, 74, 76,	1, 33, 34, 35, 70, 71, 72, 77, 78, 79, 93, 95
Elderly Nursing (Geriatric nursing field)	49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, K6, K9, K10		47, 48, 67	36

been established for the purpose of the research for the system of evaluation needs and evaluation methods in nursing, for the study to refine the evaluation technology, for the development of a new evaluation method, in which Katsuya Kanda (basic nursing field) is serving as the chairman of the Society and Tatsunobu Takeuchi (pediatric nursing field) as the secretary of the Society, respectively. They are involved with the research in nursing management, as the research topics of the graduate school of nursing of Aino University, which is active and promising as the main research topics of the Department. This field is especially important from the view point of human resources education in nursing.

Recently research on nursing in Japan has been increasing year by year. The increase in the opportunity of presenting research results, such as the Japanese Society of Nursing Evaluation, is believed to be helpful to encourage the development of research activity. However, the mainstream in nursing research at the current stage is mainly on phenomenological stage, which has not yet reached the stage directly leading to the construction and development of nursing theory. Unfortunately, this is the same at the Department. We strongly believe that it is essential to develop the research which can verify the effect of nursing practice for the enhancement of nursing science. Some research endeavors have been launched at the Department adopted as an Activity Start support by the Ministry. The research project of elderly care by Yoko Honda, approved as a Challenging Exploratory Research, is to verify the effects of nursing in practice, which is highly expected to contribute to the improvement of nursing. At the same time, this study can be considered to be a promising pillar in the field

of nursing for the elderly.

Among the 96 research output, according to the thematic classification, nursing education is the most popular with 26 papers published in this theme. Many research were carried out covering multiple research areas. Essentially all staff of the Department, including Motomu Yamaguchi, and Miwa Takahashi, have been involved with the research projects in Nursing Education as joint projects. However, in the theme other than Nursing Education, the number of joint research projects with other staff is relatively small. It is to be noticed that the target subjects for the research in Nursing Education is mainly students, especially the student in training, which should be expanded to the subjects just before graduation or even to the graduates from the nursing school to demonstrate the educational effects in nursing education.

It is highly desired to set up the main research project under the planning of the joint research of the Department, even asking the participation of the staff from other Departments of the University, which should be discussed under the framework of the whole university. As a candidate research theme with high priority, we propose the care system for the elderly dementia as the first priority, which is considered as a strategic research in Japan. It should be the first research theme we will tackle as the unification in nursing school and the clinical settings.

The University is posting the concept of "symmetrical" and trying to promote team medical service and community care system. The research project of "Community Development of Bonding" lead by Yasuyo Masuda is one

of the representative one in community system care with action research, which can be expected to be grown up as the main pillar of the research of the Department. We will try to convert this ideological basis to the reality as the joint research among the staff of the Department.

This time, we did not categorize the results in quantitative or qualitative research. We did not either dare to examine the methodology or techniques used in the study. In order to promote the study of nursing that requires a variety of theories and research methods and technology, we definitely need the active participation of Yasuhiro Oda, Yuji Nakata and Eiji Wakamiya, who are expected to lead the research activity of the Department.

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