

# Discussion about the Current Situation and Future Prospects of Nursing

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**Abstract:** Nursing is the basis for ensuring people's health, and it is also the trump card for patients to recover. In recent years, with the increasing attention on nursing work, the development goal of nursing is also moving towards the direction of "quality nursing". However, in the nursing field of our country, the systematic training time of nursing personnel is relatively short, the academic ability and scientific research ability are insufficient, and the nursing talents are extremely lacking as well. By discussing the multi-point practice and continuous nursing model at home and abroad, comparing the development trend of nursing in China and abroad, and exploring the current and the future development of nursing career and scientific research. The scope of work of nursing workers in the new era involves medical treatment, scientific research, teaching and management, and is still developing. The proposal and development of future nursing goals such as multi-point practice and home nursing in the new era will contribute to the high-quality development of nursing. It will also provide new ideas and future prospects.

**Keywords:** Nursing, High-quality development, Current status, Development goals, The mode of care

## 1. The Development and Deficiency of Chinese Nursing Field

When we talk about the development of nursing in the future, we must affirm that the road ahead is bright. Nursing is the basis to ensure people's health, and it also helps patients recover soon. The development of nursing in the future requires highly educated talents as well. China resumed higher nursing education in 1983, beginning with a five-year nursing undergraduate program in Tianjin Medical College. But until today, the nursing talents are still in a state of serious shortage, which is persisting in cultivating high-level nursing personnel. Up to now, there is still a shortage of nursing personnel. Specifically manifested as the lack of high-level nursing talents and the uneven distribution of the talents. Therefore, in order to solve the problem, China has reserved the educational level from technical secondary school to doctorate. Due to the wide range of the educational level settings, the education level gap has become more disparate, and the quality of the nurses has also become more and more spotty.

With the development of the times and the improvement of the employers' requirements, more and more nurses with high education and enthusiasm in research field are slowly appearing in the hospital. In the future nursing management system, the precise nursing development direction will also be driven by the highly educated people. In the near future, highly educated nurses will change the general public's view of nurses, and nursing will also become a respected, specific and bright discipline. Besides setting goals for the future nursing will also be on the agenda.

The concept of "high-quality nursing" proposed by China has to be mentioned when talking about the development goals of future nursing, and the goals will also be in the direction of "high-quality nursing". Nursing talents in the new era will use high academic standards, scientific research spirit and practical spirit to realize the standardization and specific expansion of nursing process, and add indispensable humanistic care to achieve the "high-quality nursing" and be responsible to the society.

With the "high-quality nursing" proposed by China, it has continuously raised its awareness on nursing work, which is manifested as: advocating the establishment of a high-quality nursing service system, developing the personal quality and the nursing team, improving innovative nursing models, strengthening the teaching and construction of nursing discipline as well. But for now, many nurses in our country still have lower education. On one hand, most students can choose employments after graduation from undergraduates, junior colleges or even technical secondary schools, and relatively few students choose to continue to improve their education. On the other hand, compared with the "'5+3' integration" or "5+ training", most of the students trained by the four-year undergraduate nursing are

general nurses who lack the clinical experience. This is why many nurses have the insufficient academic ability and the scientific research ability. What's more the current society still has a large prejudice against nurses, such as distrusting the nursing works, discrimination against nursing occupations. This shows that there is still a large room to developing nursing industry China.

According to the "2020 China Health and Family Planning Statistical Yearbook", by the end of 2019, there were a total of 4,445,047 registered nurses in our country, of which 20.8% had a bachelor degree, and only 0.2% had a postgraduate degree, indicating that the nursing education development is unbalance. The number of registered nurses per 1,000 population in cities is about 5.22, while the number of registered nurses per 1,000 population in rural areas is only 1.99. It can be seen that the number of registered nurses in rural areas is much lower than that in cities, indicating that the geographical development of nursing is uneven. According to statistics from the World Health Organization, as of 2014, the number of registered nurses per 1,000 population in Japan was 11.241, the number of registered nurses in Germany in 2015 was 13.794, and the number of registered nurses in Australia in 2016 was about 12.566. The number of registered nurses per 1,000 population in China is far less than that of other countries in the world. At present, Chinese nursing resources are still in a state of extreme tension.

To sum up, it is more and more important to establish the development goals in the future and clarify the quality requirements in the construction of nursing work in the new era.

## **2. The Development Goals of Nursing**

### ***2.1. The development goal of future nursing-nurses practice in multiple locations***

With the advent of the aging of China, elderly care is also an indispensable part of future nursing. As of 2020, the old in China has reached 234 million, accounting for about 12% of the total population. At present, the demand for geriatric nursing talents in the society has shown an upward trend in both quantity and quality. However, the education on geriatric nursing is still dominated by theoretical training, and the practical teaching time is limited in a single form, which cannot truly meet the needs of the elderly. In addition, the nursing services in today's society have gradually expanded from in-hospital to out-of-hospital, and the service contents has also undergone diverse changes - increasing demand of health and diet management, home care, continuous care, palliative care, making the market demands for nurses and nursing works expand in many directions. However, nursing work still has problems such as long and irregular working hours, heavy nursing work, and low economic income at present, resulting in a serious loss of nursing workers and a shortage of nursing talents.

For the above problems, FRAINO et al. [1] pointed out in their research that part-time or full-time nurses recruited by the government, hospitals and institutions can supplement the medical resources and solve the nursing problems caused by home care. In fact, the time and places of foreign nurses are relatively flexible. Nurses are managed by the government after registration and license, and they are not restricted by the medical institutions they serve. What's more, nurses can also freely choose the places and forms of work, such as online or offline works, which is called the multi-point practice. The multi-site practice methods of foreign nursing workers are diverse, some hospital nurses work part-time outside the hospital, such as full-time nurses, part-time nurses, temporary nurses, etc. In recent years, the emergence of softwares such as "Uber Nurse" and "Nursing Home" in the United States has provided conditions for nurses to carry out Internet remote care [2].

In recent years, China has also made adjustments and innovations in the direction of nurses' multi-point practice. For example, if a nurse applies for practicing registration in Beijing, the practice location column of the "Nurse Practitioner Certificate" is registered as "Beijing". If a nurse adjusts her practice organization within the administrative area of this city, it is not necessary to submit a relevant application for registration change.

Recently, the development of medical consortia, the emergence of urban medical groups, the county medical consortia, the cross-regional specialist alliances, and the telemedicine collaboration networks have provided nursing workers with remote care in multiple fields, multiple dimensions, and even in different regions a strong support. With the deepening of hierarchical diagnosis and treatment, the construction of medical consortium is becoming more and more mature. It also provides the possibility of multi-point practice for nursing workers.

### ***2.2. Development goal of future nursing-door-to-door service***

At present, in the era of rapid development of the "Internet +" industry, there are new opportunities for the construction and development of the nursing career. Make full use of cloud computing, big data, Internet, blockchain, mobile Internet and other new information technology, combined with the development of smart hospitals and "Internet + medical health" and other requirements, focus on strengthening the nursing informatization construction, and use informatization means to innovate the nursing service model [3] to provide the patients with more convenient and efficient nursing services. In response to the national call and promote the construction of nursing informatization, many hospitals have also set up the pilot projects for "Internet +" nursing services. The Ningbo Cloud Hospital platform online ordering for patients, door-to-door service for nurses and intelligent medical services. It builds a comprehensive and continuous medical care service system, which guides the direction for the development of "Internet +" nursing services.

### ***2.3. Development goal of future nursing-propos high requirements for nursing industry***

At present, the normalized development of the COVID-19 has put forward higher requirements for the nursing industry in the post-epidemic era. First, professionalism is the foundation of nurses. Nurses must have a solid grasp of the theoretical basis so that they can face the various emergencies without chaotic situations. Second, mental health nursing is a compulsory course for nurses to learn, and it is also a quite important course. Under the normalization trend of epidemic prevention and control, many hospitals have become more and more strict in the management of entry and exit personnel, the accompanying family members of patients are restricted as well. It also puts forward higher requirements for nursing workers to always pay attention to the physical and mental changes of patients, provide timely feedback to guide patients. Third, pay attention to details during nursing as much as possible, enhance active service awareness, observe and deal with patient problems in a timely manner, discover problems in the medical process actively, and strengthen communication and cooperation with doctors. Fourth, scientific research is also a necessary ability for nurses. Nurses can't execute the doctors' orders simply. Besides, nursing workers must have scientific awareness and independent ideas so that they can always dare to try and innovate.

## **3. Career Development Perspectives for Nurses**

### ***3.1. Development perspective one-medical perspective***

The scope of nurses in the new era involves many fields and aspects. It is distributed in medical treatment, scientific research, teaching and management, and is still expanding a lot. In addition, medical treatment and management are different from traditional nursing work, so the scientific research and teaching still need further exploration.

From a medical point of view, the diversion direction of nursing includes three aspects: community nursing, clinical nursing and oral nursing. Community nursing is the most basic nursing work, which provides people basic medical and health services. What's more, community nurses usually work at the grassroots level in the gridded big data medical system, such as community disease investigations, community physical examinations and daily drug injections, which can provide physical health checks and assistance for community patients, popularize health knowledge, statistically analyze residents' health data, and provide grassroots Public health escort.

Clinical nurses mainly shares the task of treating patients in the hospital, and it is the fundamental guarantee for the smooth operation of various departments. In different positions, clinical nurses provide medical care and supervise recovery for outpatients, emergency and inpatient patients in different departments, and track the recovery status of patients after leaving the hospital. Clinical nurses can also be subdivided in the hospital. For example, the guiding and consulting nurses are responsible for the consultation, triage and admission of patients and their families; the clinical treatment nurses follow the doctor's instructions and perform treatment operations for patients, such as injections, feeding medicines, collecting test specimens, and patrolling, observe the condition; emergency, anesthesia, operating room nurses are responsible for providing auxiliary work for doctors at any time, participate in the first aid if necessary.

Oral nurses undertake more meticulous work tasks. Every consultation in the stomatology department can be regarded as an operation. It is completed by the stomatologist and the oral nurses. In addition to

being familiar with nursing work, oral nurses also need to learn knowledge of maxillofacial repair, oral surgery to cooperate with the diagnosis and treatment of stomatologists and perform every operation perfectly.

In recent years, nursing clinics have also received attention, and nursing clinics have been opened in traditional Chinese medicine, psychiatry, PICC clinics, and blood purification centers in large tertiary hospitals. Nursing clinics enable nurses to visit the clinic independently and use nursing knowledge to solve problems for patients, make it more convenient for patients to control disease, prevent recurrence, track disease, and improve treatment efficiency.

### ***3.2. Development perspective two-the perspective of scientific research, teaching and management***

The emergence of highly educated nurses and nurses' intervention in scientific research are complementary. With the increasing in the proportion of nurses who has postgraduate degrees in hospitals, nursing research in hospitals is also on the agenda. Nursing scientific research can combine scientific research topics with clinical practice, so as to explore better nursing concepts and provide better services for patients. Therefore, some hospitals are providing laboratories for nurses to support the nursing research.

In terms of teaching and management, the training of nursing master students and professional doctoral students in medical schools is carried out in the hospital. Many nurses have become master tutors and doctoral tutors, cultivating the nursing talents in the hospital. Setting of the post of vice president of nursing in hospitals has also made it a reality for nurses to participate in hospital management, making the responsibilities of medical care more clear.

## **4. Models for Future Nursing Development**

The increasing of male nurses has eased the pressure of the heavy nursing works. In terms of the admissions to medical universities, the number of male students has a clear upward trend. People's notion that "nurses only have women" is also constantly changing, and the professional development of male nurses has become one of the hotspots in the medical field and even the society. In addition, male nurses can play a good supplementary role in the female-based nursing team [4]. They are active in the operating room, emergency department, intensive care department and other important departments, sharing part of the nursing work pressure, and more conducive to the overall stability of nursing work.

We better take a longer-term view, learn from foreign advanced nursing education experience, and improve the domestic nursing education level. For example, the continuous nursing model has gradually attracted people's attention in the United States. Driven by nursing research, the continuous nursing practice in the United States has always been in an international leading position. Continuous nursing uses transitional nursing intervention, BOOST model, RED model and INTERACT model [5] for nursing. It also makes emergency plans from various aspects to better meet specific organizational needs and goals. For another example, Canada has developed a system of integrated care for older persons (SIPA) based on the PACE model in the United States [6]. They are patient-centered, providing comprehensive community-based and institutional care for the elderly through the community-based multidisciplinary teams (MDT), which also provides new ideas for the development of the model of the combination of medical and nursing care for the elderly in China.

## **5. Summarize**

To sum up, the future development of nursing in China is bright. Though compared with foreign countries, there is still a lot of room to develop. The economic development and the innovation of the "Internet +" industry have provided new ideas for the new model of nursing in China. In the future, nursing work will also establish cooperative relationships in multiple fields and industries, and form a comprehensive development system such as medical alliance and smart nursing [7]. In the background of the post-epidemic era, the requirements for the quality and technical level of nurses have risen to a new level. It needs not only the basic theoretical ability of nursing workers, but also the combination of scientific research, innovation, clinical practice and other abilities to achieve all-round development, achieve the development goals of future nursing, and fulfill the quality requirements of the role of nurses.

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