

ABSTRACT

As the society is changing, the medical technology is rapidly developing. To keep pace with the increasing demand for high quantity and quality nursing by the public, the basic nursing education has already upgraded to the bachelor degree level in Macao. The nurses, too, have a great thirst for learning to strengthen their capacity. Thus continuing education becomes an important path to update knowledge and improve professional technology for the in-serve nurses. The purpose of this study is to explore the expectations of the nurses in continuing education programmes and to investigate their opinions for nursing education in Macao. The result of which will be the references of the development of further education programmes. Questionnaires were distributed and collected from 696 registered nurses serving in Kiang Wu Hospital, The Hospital Centre Conde St. Januario (CHCSJ Government Hospital), Government health centres and other medical institutes. The results showed that 44.3% of the nurses planned to continue to study and 47.6% of them were preparing to attend Bachelor degree programme. Among them, 61.6% would like to take up part-time learning while 64.7% prefer lectures. However, the majority (80.2%) choose specialized focused programmes, with 50.7% meaning to take up psychological counseling. 40.7% of the nurses would like to adopt programmes with assignment assessments only and 34.1% of them preferred programmes held locally, while 34.3% favoured co-joint programmes with other cities or countries. The general nursing population (75.6%) has the purpose of enriching their knowledge in joining the continuing education programmes. The result of this study gives us much inspiration in the establishment of continuing programmes and the development of the professional nursing. For instance, the choice of specialised focused programmes, the mode of local lecture and part-time delivery, the developing of Bachelor degree programme of nursing, different kinds of specialized nursing programmes, and psychological counseling programme, etc., the developing of nursing research and information technology application are highly expected by the nurses of Macao.