

# **The Subjective Feeling of Nursing Educators about Curriculum Change and the Need of Counseling**

## **Abstract**

The purpose of the study is to identify the subjective feeling and counseling need of the nursing educators during curriculum change from hospital-based occupation training to higher professional education in a nursing school, Macau. It is a qualitative research using "observer-as-participant" method to analyze the perceptions, emotional feelings and coping strategies of the educators, therefore, the counseling needs are recommended.

The samples are four nursing educators who attained the whole change process and were responsible for a subject. A semi-structure questionnaire is used to in-depth interview. The data is analyzed according to the following framework:

1. Three scopes: The perceptions (for the institution, curriculum and self) ,emotional feelings and coping strategies
2. Two attitudes: positive and negative attitudes
3. Two layers: generalization (if cover two or more cases) and specification (if only cover one case)

The findings indicated that the educators had positive attitude to the new curriculum and institution respectively. They recognized that the changes was necessary, the curriculum met the need of international trend, and the cohesion of institution and school are good. The negative attitude came from the curriculum unfamiliar, less times and experience, poor communication with the instructors from consultative university, and the role they should to be. The negative attitude to institution mainly came from the hesitation of the leaders and less experience about the institution change. The negative attitude to educators themselves mainly came from the unhealthy self-analysis, misunderstanding for the role of modern educators, aged, and lack of the formal teaching training.

Most of the emotional feelings are negative during the curriculum change process. The positive emotional feeling related to the honor of participating, the happiness for the validation success, and the satisfactory for the unity. The negative attitude is divided into two layer according to the level of feeling. The first layer is fear and anxiety. It related to the viewing the change as a danger and threat, the communication barrier, low academic level, and the risk of losing job . The second layer is frustration. It related to the difficulties of developing the new curriculum, limited opportunity to promote the knowledge and qualification, a rugged change

way, the conflict between ideal and reality, long-term stress, and the uncertain and ambiguous condition.

The educators used a lot of behavioral and cognitive coping strategies to face the contradiction of perception and the impact of negative emotional feeling. Most of the coping strategies are positive and are viewed as the counseling needs of the educators.

To assist the nursing educators, adapt the changing work environment and unexpected human life, the following counseling needs are recommended as follow:

1. To enhance the active self-recognition and psychological qualification, and to assist the grow-up of the educators
2. To improve the higher academic level of the educators through continue education.
3. To enhance the support network through communication
4. To train the new type nursing educators who master both profession and academic through giving more resources.