The Current Situation of Nursing Service for the Aging Population in the Community

Yu TONG¹,a, Qin-lan LIN¹,b and Ling GAO¹,c,*

¹Nursing School of Beihua University, Jilin, China

a451815800@qq.com, b1010340876@qq.com, c949236198@qq.com

*Corresponding author

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Abstract. The aging population has become one of major questions of world concern. The increasing expansion of the aging population has a significant impact on the socio-economic development and brings the pressure and challenge inevitably to the individual and society. In this situation, it is particularly important to make great efforts to carry on the community nursing service for the elderly. This paper analyzes the status of community nursing of the elderly and their demand for community nursing service based on related literature and existing statistical data, and discusses on how to allocate nurses in the community where the aging population live and how to provide better community nursing service.

Introduction

Aging population is an important health problem that all of countries around the world are facing at present. With the aging population increasing and the function of the family protection weakened, there is an urgent demand for the nursing service system for the elderly in communities as the society develops. The care service for the aged population in communities, which combines advantages of the home care services and the institutional care services, not only makes the elderly enjoy the old time in the familiar environment, but also allows them to enjoy professional pension services from family protection related social institutions. However, it is difficult to meet the needs of old people because our country is still weak in the functions of community medical institutions. This article aims to understand the actual needs of the aging population and shortages of community service to improve the care quality of community aging population.

1. The Community Nursing Demand for the Aging Population

Due to the decline in fertility and the increase of survival rates in the 20th century, there has been a significant increase in the elderly population in most of the developed countries and some developing countries [1]. According to the latest National Population Census, China will be ranked among the “aging” countries.

The coming aging society leads to a series of problems, such as the elderly health care, daily care and so on, which have brought the unprecedented pressure on families, the society and the country and have serious effects on the social politics, economy and culture [2,3]. Most of the elderly have one or more diseases caused by the degenerative body functions. According to the survey, more than 70.00% of the senior citizens have some kinds of chronic diseases; the hospitalization rate of them was up to 7.62%, far more than that of the average hospitalization rate of the other age groups, which was said to be 4.36%. The number of the people who can’t take care of themselves covered from 3.9% to 8.4%. There were 1.4 million long-term bedridden elderly people [4,5]. Therefore, there is an urge for the community to give support and assistance in order to improve the quality and satisfaction of life and to relieve the pressure of the society and their family. Proper community care service for the elderly plays an important part in realizing a healthy aging.
2. Current Situation and Problems in the Elderly Community Care

In order to meet the health care needs brought by the aging, areas in China launch various community care for the elderly based on their actual situation, such as nursing homes, home care, nursing expert out-patient clinic service and community health services. Some areas create health records for those over 60 years old and some areas provide regular door-to-door service, etc. [6] In general, although to some degree the nursing service system in the community in China has been improved, the community care service content, the service scale and the quality of the service still can’t meet the diversified demands of the elderly. Besides the nursing service system in the community is far less than a complete one.

2.1 A lack of planning

Although there are relatively complete services in some developed cities, and a socialized service system for the aged has been established gradually, the general situation in the whole country is still a mass because of the lack of a unified system of social care service standards. If cities provide different services according to the degree of development and economic state, the happiness of the elderly will be affected. Thus, the systematic planning takes a vital role in the development of the nursing system in the community.

2.2 The low level of professional service

The nurses working in the community mainly graduate from junior college and technical secondary school, and titles are limited in nurses and nurse practitioner. They work in the community for such a short time and most of them spend less than 5 years on the clinical nursing work. As the research says, it is difficult for nurses of clinical experience to adapt to the community work in a limited time because they are deeply affected by the long-term hospital mode. In addition, the community health service institutions provide few opportunities to further the education for community nurses. On average, the number of training is (1.90 + 1.13). The survey found that the community nurse training mainly includes health education, chronic disease management and common operation technology in the community, which reveals that the institutions pay less attention to care for the elderly in the community. Thus this program must be involved. And most of community nurses are mainly responsible for infusion, few for rehabilitation and vaccination and none for specific family visiting [7].

In addition, most nurses devote themselves to the community work not because of enthusiasm for the job but mainly because of failing to find proper employment units or avoiding the night shift. The employment is mostly based on contracts and some even have not signed labor contracts, which lead to the mobility of community nurses and low professional level.

2.3 Service content needs to be expanded, and service quality needs to be improved

At present, the community care services commonly focus on regular physical examination, the instruction to proper exercise, health consultation, guidance of drug application, etc. But these are far from being able to meet the requirements of aging population for community nursing. Only if we develop other nursing service in the community, such as guidance of diet and nutrition, behavior safety and immunization nursing, psychological consultation, health supervision, and family-bed service, etc., can we further meet the needs of the old men who are at the terminal stage of cancer, recovering from the operation or living alone and allocate health resources more reasonably.

3. Professional Set-up Needs for Nurses in the Community Where the Aging Population Live

Talents for the community nursing are the key to the persistence, thoroughness and sound development of the nursing service [8]. Working in a comparatively free environment, the nurses in the community are required to be sure about the goal of the community nursing, which aims to promote and maintain the health of human beings and attach importance to the preventive services [9]. The government must take effective measures to attract more community nursing talents. Only
if we meet the requirements of professional nurses, can we improve the quality of the elderly care services in the community.

The research shows that the core abilities of nursing for the aged people are as the following: the ability to deal with emergency, the ability to perceive common diseases and drug reactions, the ability to perform the nursing technique, the ability to have education on the health, the ability to think independently and critically and to solve problems, the ability to apply the theory, the predicted nursing ability, the ability to communicate effectively with the elderly, and the ability to manage and guard the security of the old. The nine core abilities to nurse the elderly take physical, pathological, psychological and social features of the elderly into account and are consistent with the practical work in hospital, community, nursing homes and so on. Equipped with such abilities in the community nursing, nurses are qualified for the occupation. In the meanwhile, the development of the abilities is also the goal and central task for cultivation of the nursing talents. The design of talent training programs, the arrangements of the curriculum and the design of method of teaching and practice must target at the nine abilities making every nurse acquire the abilities [10].

Therefore, the elderly care in the community, a branch of nursing, calls for more strict demands for the nursing talents in accordance with the core nursing abilities. With the help of reform in methods of training and practicing, more talents who are up to the job of nursing the old will enter the occupation in the hospital, community and nursing homes.

4. Summary

To sum up, as China is coming into an aging society, the nursing services in the community provided in different areas still need to be improved. It is a relative plan and design that provides better service for the old and makes them happy. If we attach more importance to improving the professional abilities of the nurses, we’ll make great progress to improve the quality of the nursing service in the community.

References


