School Nursing in Taiwan and Practices of School Nurses Association

Presented by

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About Taiwan (Formosa)

- Area: 36,193 km²
- Population: 23.52 million (2016)
- 2016 Per Capita Gross National Income: 19,653 USD
The ratio of students in school to total Taiwan population: 19.6%
The ratio of school nursing personnel to the nurses in the country is 2.95% (Preschool nursing personnel excluded)

The ratio of existing school nursing personnel in Taiwan to existing nurses in the country

- Number of existing school nurses in Taiwan: 4,662
- Number of existing nurses in Taiwan: 157,968

- According to the Ministry of Education, the number of existing school nurses in elementary, junior high, high school, and vocational high schools in Taiwan is: 4,662 (Preschool nursing personnel excluded)
## Population of teenagers in Taiwan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End of Year</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>12 Years old</th>
<th>13 Years old</th>
<th>14 Years old</th>
<th>15 Years old</th>
<th>16 Years old</th>
<th>17 Years old</th>
<th>18 Years old</th>
<th>19 Years old</th>
<th>20 Years old</th>
<th>21 Years old</th>
<th>22 Years old</th>
<th>23 Years old</th>
<th>24 Years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1,944,463</td>
<td>114,687</td>
<td>119,139</td>
<td>128,710</td>
<td>133,726</td>
<td>159,589</td>
<td>147,434</td>
<td>138,767</td>
<td>167,804</td>
<td>167,012</td>
<td>167,266</td>
<td>166,642</td>
<td>167,887</td>
<td>165,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The total population of teenagers from age 12-24 in Taiwan in 2016 is 3,735,157.
Urban-rural Gap Leads to Huge Differences in Schools

- Due to geography and population distribution, resources allocation in urban and rural areas vary extremely. Thus, schools operate differently.

- Large elementary and junior high schools are located in the cities and have more resources. **Student population around 1,000~4000.**

- Small elementary and junior high schools are located on the offshore islands and mountain areas and have fewer resources. **Student population around 10~80 people.**
The employment of and authorities governing school nurses in primary and middle schools in Taiwan

➢ School Health Act stipulates: Each school shall employ school nurse regardless of the size of the school.

【1 nurse shall be staffed for 39 classes or fewer; at least 2 nurses shall be staffed for 40 classes and above. ~ stipulated in Article 7 of School Health Act】

➢ Hired as civil servants in public high, junior high, and elementary schools

➢ Source of funding: National education budget.

➢ Practicing registration: Regulated by the health departments. Governing body: directed by the education departments, and cooperate with regional health departments when necessary (vaccination, infectious disease prevention and control)
The practical work contents of existing school nursing (gathered and consolidated from school nursing personnel’s self-experience)

- Administrative duties in health center
- School health assessment (develop health promotion projects based on this)
- Physical assessment
- Health Document Management
- Emergency sickness and injury treatment
- Prevention of infectious diseases
- Case management and follow up on necessary medical treatment
- Environmental assessment (focusing on discovering dangerous factors)
- Health counseling (focusing on physical and mental development)
- Other duties delegated by the supervisors
School Nurses Association of R.O.C

Purposes:

➢ To develop a comprehensive function in the health center of the school
➢ To Maintain the healthiness of teachers, staffs, and students
➢ To promote the specialization of school nursing practices
➢ To promote the rights of school nursing personnel
➢ To organize the grassroots nursing personnel to form a bottom up negotiation force to talk to and negotiate with the government
The establishment and functions of SNAC
(Heart broken → Action → Walking out of isolation)

- 1986: The government cut the junior high school nurses’ pay by four tiers (martial law lifted on July 15, 1987)
- 1993: The Ministry of Education and Examination Yuan jointly recruited registered school nurses (through promotion examination) without equivalent posts for them.
- 1994: School nurses began to unite.
- 1995: Together School nurses protested on streets to show their grievance.
The establishment and functions of SNAC
(Heart broken → Action → Walking out of isolation)

- 1996~1997: The staffing of registered school nurses in elementary and junior high school at each city and county was gradually implemented.

- 1996: School Nurses Association of R.O.C was founded.

- 2000~2008: Staffing registered school nurses in high school and vocational high school is completed.

- 1996~Present: Unite the collective forces to defend the position of school nurses, and develop school nursing practices with fellow school nurses.
Events of impact:

→ **1986 - degradation**: grievance against lowered rank in school after hardworking.

→ **1993 – promotion exam hosted by government without equivalent posts**: grievance against deception.

→ Anger over being ranked the lowest in school in human resources restructure by government.
In 1995, school nurses gathered and protested on streets to express their grievance.

In the end of the same year, the staffing of registered school nurses (junior rank) was completed.
There are currently around 4,300 members, made up by school nurses in 21 cities and counties in Taiwan. Around 75% of the existing school nurses (a total of 5,852 schools) are members of SNAC, which form a force to influence the school health policies and to speak up for the rights of student health care and development of school nursing profession.
The Basis of Action and Strategies of SNAC

- Form consensus **internally**
  - Insisting on the professional autonomy of school nursing
  - Prioritize the best interests of the students

- **External** actions to call for the society’s appreciation
  - Analyze and describe the costs and benefits
  - Drum up support from parents, general public, officials, members of Legislative Yuan
Actions and Contributions of SNAC

- Consolidate the practical knowledge of experienced school nurses and compile it into a practice manual. Revise the manual when needed. The current version is the 3rd edition.
- Promote orientation training for new school nurses and design the courses.
- Advocated and received donations for first aid equipments for remote schools and thus affected the establishment of first aid education hosted by the Ministry of Education.
- Take care of the students and community residents in the disaster areas
Actions and Contributions of SNAC

- Cooperate with individual school nurses to discover and solve the problems encountered at work.

- In case of restructuring of human resource in the government, make sure the schools maintain the position of school nurses.

- Succeeded in promoting the legislation of School Health Act, and laid the foundation for legalization of school nursing personnel employment.

- Blocked the outsourcing of school nursing service to medical corporations.

- Blocked the commercialization of students’ health (e.g. increasing dependence on medical intervention for vision and ADHD).
Practical Work Handbooks, Orientation Training Materials
Heart of School Nurses Periodicals, On-the-job training, First-Aid Training
White Paper on Health Policies, Petitions
Meeting with Minister of Education on school health care policies
Conference on International Nurses Day:
Pleading for students’ health and safety  （1999）
Conference against School Health Care Being Medicalized and National Health Insurance to be wasted: School Nurses Are The Health Care/Insurance Card. 2011
International Nurses Day: Skit in front of the Legislative Yuan

Against Students’ Vision Health Program being kidnapped by medical corporations; Take back Nurses’ and Students’ Health Care Autonomy
Orientation and On-the-job training
Urged the establishment of Emergency Care Management, equipment and training.
Community Health Education and Promoting School Nursing

► Praying for students with chronic diseases for a week in front of Culture Center in Kaohsiung, speaking to the public about the importance of school nurses and objecting to outsourcing.
Organized public hearings to urge the enactment of School Health Act
Presidential Election: Anti-outsourcing Demonstration
(Women’s Day, March 8th, 2004)
Asked presidential candidates to sign for anti-outsourcing.
Current Health Issues of Taiwanese Teenagers

- Increased ratio of unhealthy weight status (underweight and overweight):
  an increase of refined foods, consume too many snacks and lack of exercise.
  
  Primary school students - underweight 7.37%; overweight 28.93%
  Middle school students - underweight 6.59% overweight 29.43%

- The ratio of poor vision remained high; good habits of eye usage should be nurtured at a young age.
  
  Primary school students – 46.06%;
  middle school – 72.6%;
  high school – 82%
Current Health Issues of Taiwanese Teenagers

- The ratio of dental caries is up to 80%, and it is consuming the health of students.
  (1st grader-47.28%; 4th grader-42.57%; 7th grader-30.89%)

- Health issues for students who have chronic diseases.
SNAC will be working towards…

- School health assessment (as the basis for developing health promotion projects)
- Cooperating with individual school nurses to discover and solve the problems encountered at work
- Writing down practical knowledge of school nursing to publicize school nurses’ significance
- Stepping out of Taiwan and walking into the global village
Thank you

Please come and visit us in Taiwan.