



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at ethics@providence.org with any questions.

Name: Pantip Jormsri

Title/Degree: Ph.D. in Nursing

Institution: Faculty of Nursing , Chiang Mai University

Country: Thailand

Email: pantip@chiangmai.ac.th

Phone including country code (<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com>): 66 8 1960 0714

Proposed title of paper: WORK EXPERIENCES AND MORAL COMPETENCE IN NURSING PRACTICE AMONG NURSES IN NORTHERN REGION

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

The changes of environment and advances in medicine and nursing might involve an increase of ethical issues in nursing practice. Moral competence in nursing as one of the nursing qualifications needs to be enhanced in order that the clients receive quality of nursing.

This study aimed to survey moral competence using Moral Competence Scale developed by Jormsri (2004), its content validity index of 0.93 and reliability of 0.93. The scale was administered to 1,950 nurses working in five hospitals. The mean age of sample was 35.60 yr . (SD= 8.39) . The working time was about 11 yr. 3 mo. (= 135.78 mo., SD = 101.72). In the experiences of nursing ethics, 44.46 % of the sample studied; 51.79 % was trained; and 41.58 % experienced ethical issues in nursing practice. The result revealed that the mean moral competence was 337.62 (SD = 39.66) and there was no significant difference of moral competence among nurses with difference of work experiences in terms of working time, nursing units, study, training, and experiences of ethical issue. However, it was found that nurses who was trained in the area of nursing ethics and experienced ethical issues had moral competence mean higher than those who did not. In addition, there was slight correlation between moral competence and working time and between moral competence and age (Spearman's rho 0.03 and 0.01 respectively).

In this study, although moral competence may not be actually affected by work experiences, it can be developed in nurses through study, training, and working time. Consequently, nurses will be able to sense to ethical issues, to pursuit decision making, and finally to provide ethical nursing practice for quality of nursing.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

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