



Experiences and Perceptions of Foreign Nurses Working in a Super-aged Society: A Qualitative Descriptive Study



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Background

This study delves into the experiences of foreign male nurses from China working within Japan's super-aged society, a distinctive environment marked by unique healthcare and elderly care systems.

Purpose

Rather than focusing broadly on how different cultures approach elder care and gerontology, we directed our focus on the Chinese perspective, aiming to gain a detailed understanding of their experiences, challenges, and perceptions within this context.

Methods

- Design: a qualitative and inductive research design.
- Sample: convenience and snowball sampling. 16 male nurses who are licensed in Chinese and Japanese and worked in Japan for at least six months were interviewed via Zoom.
- Data Analysis: Semi-structured recorded interview raw data were transcribed using NVIVO; themes generated.

Results: Theme 3: Cultural Adaptation

Language Obstacles

"My biggest problem is not understanding the exact meaning of what the Japanese are saying. I'm still kind of guessing."

Cultural Disparities

"What I don't get is, once I leave the workplace, they (my colleagues) never contact me. The workplace isn't as friendly as in China."

Results

Participants Characteristics		N
Age (Mean±SD) in years		30±2.8
Years worked in China	0-1	15
	>2	1
Years worked in Japan	0.5-1	2
	>2	14
Experience in China	Hospitals	16
	Other Health Care Facilities	0
Experience in Japan	Hospitals	8
	Other Health Care facilities	8

Theme 1: Implications of an Aging Society

Working Experiences and Challenges in Japan's Aging Society

"Lots of elderly folks. People in their sixties and seventies are still working in hospitals."

Acknowledgment of Japan's Pension and Medical Systems

"The health insurance is really good, ensuring people don't become poor because of illnesses."

Critiques Regarding Japan's Pension and Medical Systems

"Although it benefits the elderly, it adds pressure on the younger generation"

Conclusion

The study provided insights into the challenges of Chinese male nurses facing in Japan's Super-aged Society, informed future policies for foreign healthcare professionals, and added a new perspective to discussions on cultural diversity in the global healthcare workforce.

Theme 2: Job Responsibilities and Challenges

Job Responsibilities and Daily Tasks

"My tasks are half caregiving and half medical care, but maybe slightly more on the caregiving side."

Shift Schedules and Long Working Hours

"In Japan, the shift schedules are more detailed. Night shifts from 4:30 pm to 9:00 am the next day are tough on the body."

Theme 4: Discrimination

Gender

"While Japanese society is more accepting of male nurses, some patients still question it. Some older patients even say things like, 'You're smart, you should go to medical school' or 'You should take the medical entrance exam.'"

Ethnic

"Hospitals with more foreign nurses seem to have worse attitudes. My previous hospital was the worst, maybe because of the many foreigners, especially Chinese. They prejudged us. I was really mad, feeling like they blamed us for their past mistakes."

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