

Research on the Caring Practices and Service Difficulties in Tribal Culture and Health Service Stations: A Practitioner's Reflections

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Abstract

This paper discusses the implementation and difficulties of caring services and practices in taking care of the elders in the Tribal Culture and Health Service Stations, as well as the Stations' possibilities in sustainable development. To achieve this goal, this research interviewed and gathered data from four nursing assistants in the Atayal Tribes around the Da'an River Region for further analysis. Research found that the medical and caring resources are scarce for a long time in aboriginal communities and aboriginals' medical rights have been neglected. At present, the Stations are aboriginal elders' main platform for health promotion and social interaction. Stations' performance, however, are affected by (a) the lack of young professionals, (b) the limited capacity of people to be served, (c) restrictions on ethnic groups' qualifications (aboriginals only; non-aboriginals are not qualified), and (d) the lack of medical and caring facilities. This article, therefore, depicts

several points in promoting the service momentum of the Stations, and in re-thinking the policies of a sustainable development: (1) increase the care resources for tribal disabled elders and they can receive adequate services; (2) provide more health professionals to reduce the workload of nursing assistants; (3) release of restriction on the number of people served at Tribal Culture and Health Service Stations as accelerated aging; (4) break the restrictions on ethnic groups' qualifications of service users in a multi-ethnic environment; (5) add more medical care equipment to Tribal Culture and Health Service Stations; (6) train nursing assistants to increase their professional ability in order to promote their career development; (7) create a salary grade chart and promotion channels for nursing assistants; (8) the government should encourage young aboriginal people to do tribal health care jobs, then they are able to learn and inherit aboriginal cultures from elders.

Keywords: Aboriginals, Community Care Service, Medical Care, Cultural Identity