

# The Current Situation and Influence Factors of Ophthalmic Nurses' Practice Environment

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**Abstract.** Objective: To investigate the current situation of ophthalmic nurses' practice environment, and analyze the influence factors. Methods: The practice environment scale and general demographic characteristics questionnaire were used to survey 185 ophthalmic nurses. Results: The scoring of ophthalmic nurses' practice environment was (2.85±0.51), its influence factors included working years, technical title and employment form. Conclusion: The ophthalmic nurses' practice environment was at medium level, nursing managers should take measures to improve ophthalmic nurses' practice environment on the basis of influence factors, enhance nurses' job satisfaction, and then enhance the nursing service quality.

## 1. Introduction

Some researchers showed that clinical nurses' practice environment was related to nurses' safety behaviors, work engagement and job satisfaction<sup>[1-3]</sup>. So improving the practice environment for nurses may increase the enthusiasm of nurses and enhance clinical nurses' job satisfaction, it was in favor of improving nursing service. The purpose of this research was to understand the current situation of ophthalmic nurses' working environment, and analyze its influence factors, so as to provide the basis for improving nursing service and promoting the development of nursing career.

## 2. Objects and Methods

### 2.1. Objects

We adopted convenient sampling method to survey 185 clinical ophthalmic nurses in four hospitals in Changchun of China. The inclusion criteria included: ① Had nurse practice certificate ② Voluntary participation. The exclusion criteria included: ① Nursing interns in the hospitals ② Not on duty during the investigation, such as taking a vacation, maternity leave, sick leave and so on.

### 2.2. Research Tools

**2.2.1. General Demographic Characteristics Questionnaire.** The questionnaire included sex, years old, working years, technical title, marital status, education level, employment form.

**2.2.2. Practice Environment Scale.** We selected the Chinese practice environment scale which was translated and revised by Li WANG and Le-Zhi LI<sup>[4]</sup>. It had twenty-eight items which divided into five dimensions. The dimensions were respectively nurses are involved in hospital affairs (eight items), ability and leadership style of nursing managers (four items), the basis of high quality nursing services (nine items), sufficient manpower and material resources (four items), cooperation between doctors and nurses (three items). Likert-four grade scoring method was used to score each item. Totally disagree scored one, disagree scored two, agree scored three, totally agree scored four. The total score was twenty-eight to one hundred and twelve, the higher score the better practice environment. Its Cronbach's  $\alpha$  was 0.91, its content validity was 0.94.

### 2.3. Investigation Method

We contacted the hospitals prior to the investigation, the questionnaires were issued with the consent of the hospitals' administrators. We tried our best to give out questionnaires when nurses were not very busy. The questionnaires were handed out and collected on the spot. We gave out 200 questionnaires, and they all were recycled. Among them, there were 185 valid questionnaires. The recycle efficiency was 92.50%

### 2.4. Statistical Method

The SPSS21.0 was used to statistic and analyze data. The measurement data were described by  $\bar{x} \pm S$ , the enumeration data were described by constituent ratio, F/t test was used to analyze practice environment' influence factors.  $P < 0.05$  was identified the difference had statistically significant.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. The Current Situation of Ophthalmic Nurses' Practice Environment

The scoring of ophthalmic nurses' practice environment was  $(2.85 \pm 0.51)$ , each dimension' scoring were shown in Table1.

**Table1.** The scoring of nursing practice environment ( $\bar{x} \pm S$ , n=185)

Dimension	Score
The basis of high quality nursing services	3.02 $\pm$ 0.48
Sufficient manpower and material resources	2.94 $\pm$ 0.51
Ability and leadership style of nursing managers	2.87 $\pm$ 0.49
Cooperation between doctors and nurses	2.83 $\pm$ 0.47
Nurses are involved in hospital affairs	2.59 $\pm$ 0.52

### 3.2. The Influence Factors of Ophthalmic Nurses' Practice Environment

The ophthalmic nurses' practice environment' influence factors included working years, technical title and employment form. The detailed results were shown in Table2.

**Table 2.** Comparison of practice environment' scoring among different demographic characteristics(  $\bar{x} \pm S$ , n=185)

Item	People number	Score	F/t	P
Sex				
Man	20	2.84 ±0.45	0.17	0.86
Women	165	2.86 ±0.49		
Years old(year)			0.04	0.99
20-29	88	2.83 ±0.51		
30-39	50	2.85 ±0.43		
40-49	31	2.86 ±0.52		
>50	16	2.86 ±0.49		
Working years(year)			3.34	0.03
1-3	51	2.71 ±0.47		
4-6	89	2.87 ±0.53		
≥7	45	2.97 ±0.48		
Technical title			4.85	0.01
Junior	84	2.69 ±0.41		
Medium-grade	82	2.84 ±0.49		
Sub-senior and senior	19	3.02 ±0.53		
Marital status			0.26	0.79
Married	114	2.86 ±0.52		
Not married	71	2.84 ±0.47		
Education level			0.10	0.91
College degree	50	2.88 ±0.51		
Bachelor degree	124	2.85 ±0.48		
Master degree	11	2.82 ±0.52		
Employment form			2.05	0.04
Contract employee	117	2.77 ±0.53		
Regular employee	68	2.93 ±0.48		

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Ophthalmic Nurses' Practice Environment was at Medium Level

The research' results showed that the scoring of ophthalmic nurses' practice environment was (2.85 ±0.51),it was at medium level, but its scoring was lower than operating room nurses(3.05 ±0.46)<sup>[5]</sup>,the difference had statistically significant(t=4.05,p<0.01),and lower than pediatric nurses(3.04 ±0.46)<sup>[6]</sup>,the difference also had statistically significant(t=4.13,p<0.01).It prompted that ophthalmic nurses' practice environment should be improved. As shown in Table1,in the five dimensions, the dimension of "The basis of high quality nursing services" acquired the highest scoring, it was similar to other finding<sup>[7]</sup>.That result explained that the ophthalmic nurses could be valued and cultivated in hospitals, they tried their best to seek high quality nursing service. The dimension of "Nurses are involved in hospital affairs" had the lowest scoring, it was similar to the results researched by Xi-Jun LIN and Chao SUN<sup>[8,9]</sup>.It revealed that ophthalmic nurses' participation in hospital affairs was insufficient, they were difficult to give opinions or advice to their organizations. So nursing managers should provide opportunity for ophthalmic nurses to participate in management job, encourage them to give some valuable suggestion, and enable ophthalmic nurses to give full play to their effect, then create a good nursing practice environment.

### 4.2. Analysis on Influence Factors of Ophthalmic Nurses' Practice Environment

As shown in Table2, the influence factors included working years, technical title and employment form. Our research showed that the nurses who had longer working years feel better practice environment than the nurses whose working years was shorter. This may be related to that the longer working years, the nurses better adapted in nursing job, so they were more satisfied with nursing practice environment. This result was similar to other research<sup>[10]</sup>.In addition, the nurses who had higher technical title acquired higher scoring, they filled better practice environment. Analysis of the reasons may be that nurses who had higher technical title often participated in nursing management job, they could make better use of manpower and material resources, so their

perception of nursing practice environment was better. The last influence factor was employment form. Nurses who were contract employee feel worse nursing practice environment, it may be because that contracted nurses' welfare treatment was not very good, they were not very satisfied with clinical nursing job and had low work enthusiasm, it was difficult for them to play a role in the organization, their relationship with others was not harmonious enough, so they feel nursing practice environment was not very good. Nursing managers should take measures to improve ophthalmic nurses' practice environment, especially the nurses who had shorter working years, lower technical title and were contract workers, so as to improve nursing service and promote the development of nursing career.

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