

TRACER STUDY OF CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY NURSING GRADUATE EDUCATION A.Y. 2006-2010

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ABSTRACT

It is one of the responsibilities of the educational institution to look for the welfare of the graduates in their respective institutions. Through this paper, the researchers were able to establish the whereabouts of the graduates after graduation. This study determines the current profile of the graduates in Cebu Normal University- Graduate Studies who took up Master of Arts in Nursing (M.A.N.)/Master / Master in Nursing (M.N.) in School Year 2006-2010.

This is a quantitative, descriptive normative, tracer study research design and Cebu Normal University Graduate Studies is considered as the main venue of this study. Self-administered questionnaire was used in seeking pertinent information which answers the basic purpose of this research. The questionnaire was formulated by the researchers themselves adopted from the Graduate Tracer Survey (GTS) of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The researchers included in this study 47% of the total graduates in Master of Arts in Nursing or Master in Nursing in Academic Year 2006-2010. The researchers adopted the mailed questionnaire strategy. The respondents were traced based on the Colleges of Nursing where they were employed at the time they were still studying in CNU Graduate Studies. Other data were obtained through telephone interviews and electronic mails.

This study utilized percentage in profiling the graduates.

From the findings presented, it is concluded that the graduates in the MAN/MN Degree Programs are successful in their respective field of work and have shown potential areas of development in their respective career. It is highly recommended that the graduate school should provide means to increase the number of graduates in other fields of specialization and a tracer study should be done which will include all the graduates.

INTRODUCTION

Graduate education is one field of educational endeavor for professionals who would like to continue pursuing formal education after a baccalaureate degree. This course is patterned for professionals who are studying and at the same time working. Per observation, only a few of these students pursued their graduate degree due to many reasons most of which is the need to balance work, studies and family responsibilities. Yet, graduate education is a necessary

venue for the continuation of learning and updating of knowledge related to ones profession.

On the contrary, there is also an observed number of graduate students who were able to finish the degree most especially on the last 2 years, despite the demands one has to fulfill. It is one of the rationale why this study was undertaken in order to determine profile of graduate students who successfully finished the degree particularly in nursing. It is also noted that no tracer study of the graduates in the Nursing

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Graduate Studies has been done yet which made the researchers address this assessment of the outcomes of the graduates in this graduate education program.

Furthermore, this study serves as a tracer study of students who graduated Master of Arts in Nursing or Master in Nursing. The tracer study is principally a quantitative research strategy designed to obtain findings which enhances the education provider's potential to maintain or indeed increase its present rates of government (*Canning, 2006*), although in this study, the researchers only aim to update the current profile in education and employment of the graduates. Through this paper, the researchers were able to establish the whereabouts of the graduates after graduation. It is said that the educational institutions' responsibility do not stop the day the students graduate but it is part of the responsibility of the institution to look for the welfare of the graduates in their respective institution.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study determines the current profile of the graduates in Cebu Normal University- Graduate Studies who took up Master of Arts in Nursing (M.A.N.)/Master / Master in Nursing (M.N.) in School Year 2006-2010.

This specifically answers the following queries;

1. What is the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 1.1 sex;
 - 1.2 marital status?
2. What is the previous educational background of MAN/MN graduates in terms of:
 - 2.1 degree program graduated in CNU;
 - 2.2 field of specialization;
 - 2.3 year of graduation;
 - 2.4 age upon graduation?
3. What is the current educational profile of the respondents?
4. What is the employment profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - 4.1 field or employment and designations;
 - 4.2. number of years in the job?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This part includes the research locale, design, respondents, sampling strategy, instrument, procedure and statistical treatment of data.

RESEARCH LOCALE

The Cebu Normal University Graduate Studies is considered as the main venue of this study. This focused on the graduates of Master of Arts in Nursing/ Masters in Nursing and Master of Nursing in the Academic Year 2006-2010.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This is a quantitative, descriptive normative, tracer study research design in which the researchers gathered data related to previous and current educational background of MAN/MSN and MN graduates of CNU and the current employment profile of the respondents.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

Self-administered questionnaire was used in seeking pertinent information which answers the basic purpose of this research. The questionnaire was formulated by the researchers themselves adopted from the Graduate Tracer Survey (GTS) of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The tool consisted of personal data of the respondents, their previous educational profile when they were still studying at Cebu Normal University Graduate Studies, the current educational profile and the employment profile.

RESEARCH SAMPLING

The researchers included in this study 47% of the total graduates in Master of Arts in Nursing or Master in Nursing in Academic Year 2006-2010. The total number of graduates from A.Y. 2006-2010 is one hundred twenty four (124). The researchers obtained 58 respondents of the expected total of respondents.

RESEARCH DATA GATHERING PROCEDURE

The researchers adopted the mailed questionnaire strategy. The respondents were traced based on the Colleges of Nursing where they were employed at the time they were still studying in CNU Graduate Studies. Referrals from previous employers were also utilized to locate the current address of the graduates. The researchers sent the questionnaire with a self-addressed envelope with postal stamp to allow the respondents

to return the questionnaire. After two weeks, filled up questionnaires were returned via mail and via fax, while others handed them personally to the researchers. Other data were obtained through telephone interviews and electronic mails.

STATISTICAL TREATMENT

This study utilized percentage in profiling the graduates.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the study are presented based on the statement of the problems formulated. For better interpretation of results, the researchers present graphs as necessary.

A. Demographic Profile

The data below show the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of sex and marital status.

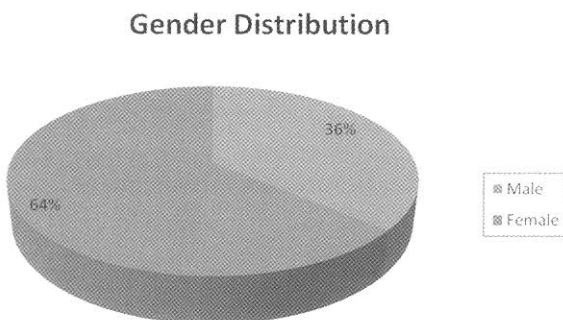


Figure 1. Gender of the Respondents

Based on the findings presented, more than half of the graduate students are females. This is supported by the fact that most students who took up nursing are females. Indeed, nursing is a female-dominated profession.

Respondents' Civil Status

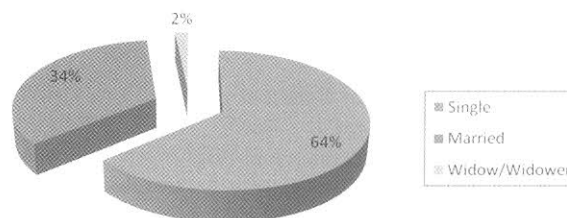


Figure 2. Civil Status of the Respondents

It is noticeable in the figure above that most of the graduate students are single. This finding implies that single women are more interested and more persistent in finishing their degrees among others because they don't have much difficulty in balancing their schedule as compared to the married ones.

B. Previous Educational Background

B.1. Degree Program Graduated in CNU

The researchers present the profile of the educational background of the respondents when they were still at CNU-Graduate Studies.

Degree Program Graduated in CNU

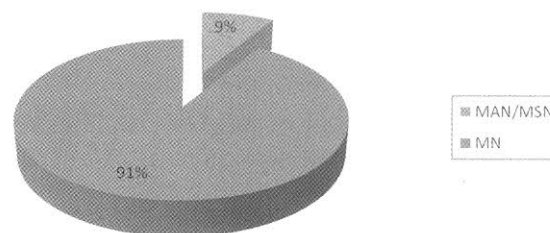


Figure 3. Degree Program Graduated in CNU

From the presentation, it can be gleaned that majority of the graduates were from the Master in Nursing Program. The higher number of graduates in the M.N. Program might be due to the fact that M.N. Program is a non-thesis program and the necessary requirement for graduation is a seminar paper only which can be done within one semester. In terms of the duration of the program, M.N. is shorter compared to M.A.N. /M.S.N.

B.2. Field of Specialization

Figure below presents the distribution of the respondents based on their field of specialization.

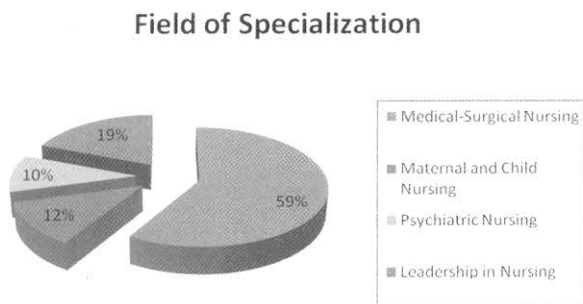


Figure 4. Field of Specialization

It is clearly observed from graph that majority of those who graduated from MAN/MN degrees were in the Medical-Surgical Nursing specialization. This specialization is most commonly taken up by nurses who wanted to have a clinical experience in preparation for going abroad. It was followed by Leadership in Nursing for the nurses whose inclination is more of administration and nursing supervision while Psychiatric and Maternal and Child Nursing were the least graduated fields of specialization. These results imply that most of the graduates were in the clinical level of which graduate degree is needed for qualification.

B.3. Respondents' Year of Graduation

Table 1 Respondents' Year of Graduation

Batch	Number of Graduates	Number of Respondents	Percentage
2006	10	3	5%
2007	19	4	7%
2008	17	7	12%
2009	28	13	22%
2010	50	31	54%

From among years of graduation, 2010 has the highest number of graduates at 54%. Two to three years ago, the demand for nurses abroad

was noticeably declining. This was the time when nurses were accumulating without enough working opportunity. Nurse applicants filed up everywhere and thus qualifications became more competitive. Others went on training and some others wanted to raise their qualification by continuing nursing education.

Furthermore, this increase could be due to the increasing number of Colleges of Nursing which led to an increase in the demand for clinical instructors which requires having Graduate Degrees. It is noted that most of these graduates were from the academe, thus such implication is supported.

B.4. Age Upon Graduation

It is noted that the mean age of the respondents was 28 with a minimum age of 22 years old and maximum of 57 years old. This implies that immediately after graduation, graduate students have continued with their master's degree and finished it within 2 to 3 years. Furthermore, most of the graduates were in the middle adult stage of which finishing graduate studies should be part of their developmental milestones.

C. Current Educational Background

Figure 5 show the current educational attainment of the respondents.

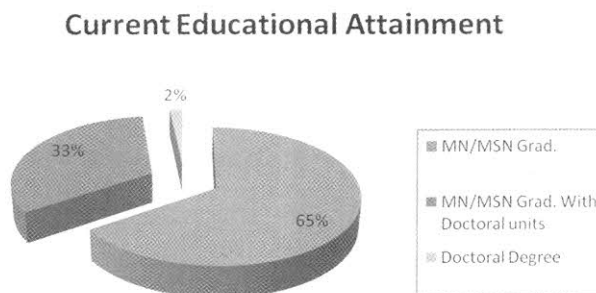


Figure 5. Current Educational Attainment

With the current survey undertaken, it is noted that majority of the respondents considered MAN/MN Degree as their terminal degree in as much as most of them did not pursue post-graduate education anymore. However, there is also a considerable number of graduates who are still pursuing their doctoral degree at 33% and 2% already finished Doctorate Degree.