State and Issues of Newly Trained Long-term Care Staffs with National License for the Long-term Care Insurances System in South Korea

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Introduction:
This research aims to show the current state and issues of the trained long-term care staffs with newly issued national licenses, for the foundation of the long-term care insurance system in South Korea on July, 2008. After the law related to trained long-term care staffs was revised, a part of the issues for their training was resolved. However, there are many new important issues and others that are still not resolved. For that reason, we would like to propose a solution to establishing the specialty of long-term care services.

Methods:
Literature and material reviews of current strategies in long-term care insurance in Korea.

Results and Discussion:
784,049 long-term care staffs have been trained in 1,557 training facilities, until March, 2010. There are still a lot of issues regarding their training course and specialty for quantitative maintenance of long-term care staffs. The 6 major issues could be pointed out with our research proceeding as follows.

1. Vague qualification division and work range of their licenses between 1st and 2nd level
2. Low qualification requirements and management in the training course for their licenses
3. Indispensable obligation with additional training courses to other national related-licenses
4. Insufficient educational program and course in the training facilities
5. Scarce standards and specialty of the lecturers in the training facilities
6. Low installation and management standard for the training facilities

Afterwards, some issues were resolved by revising "Elderly Welfare Law" on April 26, 2010 for (1) and (6), but (2), (3), (4) and (5) have not been revised. The improvement could be made for the trained long-term care staffs in the following through the comparison of certified care workers in Japan.

1. Total educational time should be increased from 240 hours in present to 480 hours.
2. Foundation of care managers like Japan who make long-term care plans based on the user's needs.

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