

Humanities and Social Sciences

Development of Analytic Framework for Extracting Significance from the Achievements of F. Nightingale for Today's Nursing Practices

Associate Professor, Center for Education and Research in Nursing Practice, Graduate School of Nursing

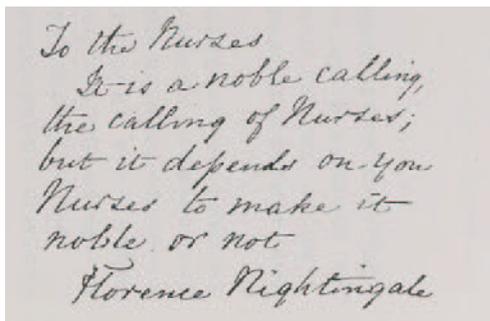
Yoshiko Wazumi



Background of Research

In this modern time when considerable environmental changes are taking place on a global scale and a variety of social security systems are showing signs of a deadlock situation, how to live a healthy life is once again a common issue of all mankind.

In the midst of radical social changes in Britain at that time, F. Nightingale (1820 – 1910), known as a founder of modern nursing, penned a huge volume of writings containing a number of noteworthy proposals which saw through mankind's future and established the basis for a broad scope of institutional reforms.



A piece of huge amounts of handwritten drafts by F. Nightingale

Some of her achievements are: (1) she reestablished a charity hospital that had gone bankrupt while focusing mainly on the health recovery of the patients, (2) realizing that the system of almshouses itself was slowing down the health recovery of patients and self-support awareness of the poor and needy, which was deteriorating the economic situation as a result, she made proposals on separation and segregation of the sick and poor people, streamlining and efficiency improvement of the system, and use of the general council tax as its financial source, and (3) in recognition that disease prevention is not a mutual support among the local community but a most highly advanced undertaking requiring specialized expertise, she proposed a human resources development and public health system that is capable of cultivating staff who can promote health education right among the community

life and evaluating the individual results in an integral manner.

Our research group is working on a study for extracting today's significance from her achievements in recognition that such outstanding achievements of F. Nightingale are very much relevant to the problems of health and medical welfare which we are facing today and therefore we can learn a lot from her way of problem solution thinking.

Achievements of Research

We selected 12 of the most important achievements of F. Nightingale, collected the existing theses in which modern-day nursing researchers mention those achievements, and critically examined how each of those researchers appreciates her achievements in those theses. As a result, it has become clear that an analytical framework that encompasses the following 3 elements is necessary.

- (1) F. Nightingale's method of grasping the component factors of a problem and relations between those factors for understanding the structure of the problem
- (2) Actual action taken against the grasped problem
- (3) Similarities and differences between the social conditions in our day and her day which represent the background of the obtained achievements

Prospect of Research

Currently, we are working on the analysis of the selected 12 achievements using the developed analytic framework. It is expected that our analysis can provide a clue for determining what kind of role today's nursing can play in solving such issues as poverty, disparity, collapse of local medical systems, etc.