

Summary of Survey

on Views of Hong Kong Public Hospital Staff towards Play in Hospital

2 August 2007

Survey Targets

Every existing medical staff or nursing staff working in the Pediatric Department in all 14 public hospitals

Survey Objectives

Through the survey, we would like to know

1. the awareness of the concept "Hospital Play" among the interviewees
2. the interviewees' recognition of the value of Hospital Play to children
3. the impact of the Hospital Play to the interviewees as health professionals
4. the interviewees' support level to provision of Hospital Play

Survey Method

Since the whole population of the survey is small and manageable, instead of doing sampling, we send the self-reported questionnaires to every medical staff or nursing staff falling into the survey target group. As a result, sending questionnaires were approved by 11 hospitals and reached about 75% of the population with 1227 questionnaires.

306 questionnaires were returned with a return rate of about 25%. Among, 65% has worked / has been working in wards with hospital play.

Key findings

The awareness of the concept "Hospital Play" among the interviewees

The result is positive and encouraging. More than 80% know what hospital play is. That is a 13% increase as compared with that of our survey in 10 years ago.

Interviewees' recognition of the value of Hospital Play to children

The result is consistent with the findings in some overseas survey, ie. recognize its positive value on emotional side of children, but not the medical nor child's life in hospital side. Moreover, it is consistent and same as the result in survey 10 years ago.

The impact of the Hospital Play to the interviewees as health professionals.

The result is reflective to us, as respondents tended to rate "No comments" to most of the questions regarding the ward operation, workflow and workload, etc here, which showed that the respondents considered hospital play is something distant and remote from what they are doing in the hospitals. Moreover, medical staff even did not comment or tends to disagree with the physiological effect of Hospital Play. Nevertheless, overall they strongly agree or agree with the positive impact of the hospital play to their own work in the hospitals.

Their support level to provision of Hospital Play

90% of the respondents support the provision of hospital play (only 76% in 10 years ago) and the reasons they speculated why no such provision now in hospitals are very consistent with those reasons found in overseas research results.

Recommendations

1. emphasize more on the therapeutic benefits of hospital play to children in hospital during the advocacy work
2. invite medical representatives to be our project partners to recognize the positive effect of hospital play to the medical and nursing work
3. advocate the value of hospital play to the public and medical staff including those in management to recognize that play should be part of the paediatric service
4. offer more hospital play training opportunities to deepen medical and nursing staffs' understanding to the service

Limitations of the survey

Limitations which may affect the representativeness of the result we tend to infer to the whole population of medical staff or nursing staff working in the Pediatric Department in all 14 public hospitals:

1. three of the 14 hospitals did not approve or no response to accept us to send out questionnaires to all their medical or nursing staff.
2. return rate is of 25%
3. the response from medical staff is as low as about 16%
4. those 35% of the respondents who has not encountered hospital play provision before, can only answer the survey based on rough ideas from the hospital play factsheet only.

(The full report is available from Kay for reference)