

Amal Attia Hussein*,
Mona H. Ahmed**

*Dept. of Community Health
Nursing, High Institute of
Nursing,
Menoufiya University

**Dept. of Biostatistics,
High Institute of Public
Health, Alexandria University.

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING MODELS:
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TWO INTERVENTIONS
FOR CHILD HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
In Menoufiya Governorate, Egypt**

Public health nursing is a priority health care system for reaching and developing community, aggregates and individual health. In public health practice, the community is the population of interest. The purpose of the present study was to evaluate the effectiveness of two models of nursing intervention in helping mothers to manage child health problems. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative research designs. The qualitative part of the study was used with the focus group to identify and prioritize child health problems. The quantitative part of the study was used to evaluate the effectiveness of two models of nursing intervention in helping mothers to manage child health problems. This part utilized a quasi-experimental design. The study was conducted in the Kebly Center for Mother and Child Health in Shebin-El Kom, Menoufiya. The study used two types of subjects: (A) The focus group, which consisted of 30 women, selected systematically from those attending the MCH. over two days (B) A systematically selected 90 mothers attending for vaccination or for medical reasons with their children. Among the ninety, 45 were randomly assigned to the partnership model, and 45 were randomly assigned to the traditional model. The results of the study showed that the two models were successful. However there was no significant differences between the two models, except in the areas of diaper rash and home accidents, where the traditional model was more effective. Nevertheless mothers of the community partnership were more empowered to attend the sessions compared to mothers at the traditional model. The study recommended integrating community partnership in public health nursing curriculum, and more research is needed to evaluate its effect in the long run.

INTRODUCTION

Public health nursing is a priority health care system for reaching and developing community, aggregates and individual health. In public health practice, the community is the population of interest. Public health nurses must build a trusting relation with communities to improve the health through community empowerment, leadership, community involvement, and provision of health related information that help in changing life style, and respecting cultural values (Primomo, 1995). Community participation is an important strategy in community health nursing. It received great attention from international and national movements. Primary Health Care, Health for All (WHO, 1978), the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (WHO, 1986) and Healthy Cities (Flynn, S. 1992) are examples that view community participation as both a mean and an end. Rains and Ray (1995) reported that communities are able to identify resources that are not yet tapped and prioritize their needs if they are actively involved in the care plan. To enhance community health, all health professionals, including students, must be challenged to use new skills and knowledge, in

creating, monitoring, implementing and evaluating interventions that prepare, build and maintain healthy communities (Barker et al., 1994).

Nursing interventions have been a focus of community health nurses since the time of Nightingale. She described numerous interventions that promote and maintain health and well-being of patients (Nightingale, 1859/1992). Also, all nursing theorists developed conceptual frame works for nursing intervention. Snyder et. al (1996), reported that the development of nursing models moved nursing practice from reliance on medical models to the use of nursing models. The International Council for Nurses (ICN, 1993) has funded several projects to develop community diagnoses and intervention. They defined nursing intervention as "a coming between" the needy (patient, or community), and the problem to modify or influence the problem.

Community partnership is one of these innovative models. Developing a partnership between health care providers and a community is vital for effective community health (Hildebrandt, 1996). In community partnership model, health profession-