

Comparison of Health Service and Management Curriculum: China and UK

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Abstract: Management education in health service industry is essential to enhance systems performance and should offer a broad curriculum that contain the context of practice, research awareness and skills of critical appraisal, a grounding in a range of disciplines and a reflective approach towards general management skill. With the improvement of living standard and significant growth of aging population, there is an obvious gap between health service coverage and the demand in China, especially the shortage of workforce with professional health service management knowledge. The objective of this essay is to compare the element of health service management education in China and British.

Keywords: Health Service and Management; Health Systems; Management Skills; Curriculum Design; Employment Status

Introduction

In the past decades, the developing model of China has transferred from focusing on rapid increases of economy to the higher-quality of living standard, while the medicine care system also have changing gradually from the treatment of severe illness to the health service management. However, due to the continuous growth in aging population, the society is facing a series of unavoidable problems, such as the shortage of labor force, the burden from medicine insurance, the high rate of Chronic disease, which affected seriously the process of society. Based on the successful social experience from home and broad, to implement the health service management is seen more effective and direct. Since the 1980s in China, health institutions are depending growing on educational course to ensure administrators who are equipped with management competencies. Obviously, the percentage of health service manager just account for a small part in the labor market of China, which is hard to satisfy the basic demand of market. Therefore, the colleges in China bear the responsibility to train the skill urgent talent.

Making a comprehensive survey, the job demand in health service management in UK market is mature and optimistic. With the emphasis now on providing quality and affordable health care for every British person, market for health service manager is extended continuously. The academic reputation of UK is world-renowned, owning the world-ranked university, systematic teaching structure and innovative teaching method. Therefore, the primary purpose of this essay is to compare the similarity and difference in major of health service management between China and UK, in order to further improve the quality of teaching by drawing lesson from successful experience and find out the merit and limitation of that in China. In this essay, the five common course of health service management will be introduced briefly at the beginning, and then discuss the curriculum in both countries, the comparisons from three different aspects will be summarized in the final part.

1. The five core courses in health service and management

As a new major, health service and management aim to maintain the hospital and doctor's office running, offering the supportive and directive service to make sure the patient receive the high-quality experience by cultivating both leadership and managerial competencies at various levels to satisfy the urgent demand for manager in health care system.

Generally speaking, every college student in this subject may encounter five key common courses: Medical terminology, human

resource, healthcare finance and accounting, epidemiology and healthcare management. The title of these courses may vary from college to college, but the overall core content will offer similarity effect regarding theory and practice. Compare with the general management theory framework, the health service management also highlight the vital impact of human resource, finance and accounting, and management, but also set up its characteristic courses. In detail, Medical terminology as the most essential content, must let the students learn to identify medical terms and understand the significance of various terms. Additionally, epidemiology is seen as the branch of medicine deal with the prevention and control of disease, and how it to be spread in various population or environment, which is indexed into the health service management education.

In both the China and the United Kingdom, the demand of graduate from health service management is increasing significantly. However, despite the similarities in health service need and common course, there are still some distinct differences in practical teaching.

2. The specialized courses in China

The majorities of courses focused on the undergraduate education in medical university and colleges. China's effort to develop nationwide system for standardized residency education began over decades ago. Referring to the personnel; cultivating program in university the students are expected to understand community common health service as an integrated system, consisting of prevention, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation and employment support. The curriculum is designed to equip the student with the skill needed for three aspects:

(1) The health service and management for aging people

In this part, the course mainly concentrates on the psychological communication skill of aging people, how to provide the nutrition and diet for aging and the operation and management of ageing facilities. This kind of graduate will service in community hospitals, ageing market, health promotion and maintenance of functional ability of the elder.

(2) The health service and management for sport

The learner should have a good command of knowledge on sport medicine, exercise measurement and evaluation, and the marking and management in sports industry.

(3) The health service and management for mental

The educator should teach the psychological cathartics technology and application, the health care of Chinese medicine and medical service marketing. The main contents include providing professional training in community mental health service, integration of primary case and mental health service, and management of common mental disorder.

3. The specialized courses in UK

The general curriculum in UK is designed to give the learner a clear understanding about the health service management issue and to develop basic management ability to run the facilities, implement specific partnership project activities and recognize the worker, resources and facilities, which ensuring them impact the appropriate skill to promote new dynamics in normal working.

To be more specific, the main content of health service management courses are as followed:

1. Health system and management: it focused on the operation of management process in health system, identify the significance of leadership and its vital influence on the organization, systematic managing and how to innovate.

2. Planning and implementing: it involves creating objective and setting goal for the health institution, based on the demand, economic trend, government policies and technological advancement.

3. Information management: the students master the skill of health data management, refer to record, stored, retrieve and process the relevant data, to improve the decision making.

4. Human resource: it contains the recruitment and selection of employee, pay and benefits, training and evaluation of staff's working performance.

5. Financial management: teacher should help the students to strategize and address these matters to maintain the viability of finance, recognize the cost factors and clarify the effective measure to achieve saving

Based on the teaching content mentioned before, the following will discuss the different of curriculum in both of China and UK from three aspects:

3.1 The difference in origin purpose of course design

Compared with UK, China clearly identifies the expected result of the education. The students should gain the clear career direction and have capacity for the given job when they have completed the curriculum, understanding the desired result and what the curriculum content, activities and approach.

Chinese government innovated for improved access of aging people to integrated care based on taking the advantage of community-based social and health care system, which could connect to the chronic disease control and prevention. There is a direct link between course setting and national development and strategies, promoting the health of the aging people in rural and urban area. According to the official data shown, the government has offered more 1600 training courses to medical personnel and delivered 1200 study courses to over 60000 trainees. This is the main reason why the health service management course in China tends to pay more attention on the theoretical framework of medical and care than that in UK.

3.2 The different emphasis in teaching process

In UK, the design of course targets at the management theories rather than medicine knowledge. Elements of theories and practices for profit-oriented sector management also can be applied to health service even if they are operated as non-profit enterprises. In a word, at each level, management theories have connectivity, including leadership, planning, implement, human resource and evaluation and so on. In detail, the management orientation education can ensure learner to understand well the wider implications of clinical decisions and their duty in assisting the health service system to achieve the target.

In China, the students major in this subject should realize that a health care system is more complex than the direct provision of individual service. In teaching process, the educators prefer to emphasize the medical terminology and epidemiology and healthcare management, which occupied more than one third of the total core curriculum, whereas the basic project management course tends to be categorized as the professional fundamental course.

3.3 The difference of employment status

In China, a majority of graduate work in the community and primary health institution, so the main working content includes in collecting the relevant health information of citizen in special community. For example, the main job responsibilities for them during the Covid-19 are to explore the resident's knowledge about epidemic, to sort out and record the situation of vaccination. In addition, the health service worker also needs to analyze and make a prediction of the potential risk of disease. Moreover, they also need to formulate the health planning and manage archives, especially the elderly, pregnant and lying-in woman, and the patient with chronic disease.

In contrast, the job responsibilities of the health service managers in UK refer to plan, direct, coordinate and supervise the normal delivery of health care in an entire facility or a single department, such as nursing home administrator, practice administrator or medical record managers. For instance, they have duty to oversee and manage the process of team, formulate and update departmental plans and priorities to address the business problem and deal with the running trouble. They work for the nursing, administrative staff and logistical personnel who encounter problems. Resolving the issue and provide technical guidance for them also could be defined as their job duties. Finally, staying abreast of latest and crucial law, policies, regulations and procedures governing assigned operations is health service managers' responsibilities as well.

Compared with them, the employment status and job responsibilities have significant differences, the former provide citizens and patients with the health service directly, but the latter mainly focus on the management and operation of the health institution, managing the finance and the budget of the institution, hiring, training and supervising staff and maintaining the facility's daily record.

In conclusion, the health service and management in UK aims to support students to develop strong leadership and effective management skills to provide high-quality care through effective organization and management. However, in China, conforming to the trend of times and the demand of society, the curriculum focuses on the medical knowledge and skill to serve the residents directly more than professional management skill training.

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