

Categorizations of Nurses' Uniforms based on 3 Major Garment Characteristics

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The purpose of this study are to investigate the present condition of nurses' uniform design and to categorize the image of nurses' uniform design.

To investigate the nurses' uniform design, total 241 data were collected from the pictures of nurses who work for private hospital and semi-general hospital in Deajeon and Seoul city and Chungnam province and the pictures of uniform for nurses in general hospital presented at nurses' uniform company web sites.

This data were evaluated by 3 major garment characteristics, -masculinity/femininity, casual/professional, and lightness/darkness- were used as criteria for categorizing the image of nurses' uniform design. Focus group consisting of 10 experts majored in Clothing and Textiles were evaluated by 7 point Likert type scales.

3 scattergrams were obtained from the data developed like masculinity/femininity · casual/professional, masculinity/femininity · lightness/darkness, casual/professional · lightness/darkness.

The results are as follows.

Nurses' uniform design at the present time showed equal distribution in terms of masculinity/femininity and casual/professional. However, in terms of lightness/darkness, nurses' uniform design were partial to light image. Therefore, dark image, specially dark and masculine image in nurses' uniform design was very rare.

Nurses' uniform design has some differences by type of hospital, department, and geographical area. The nurses' uniform in private hospital showed more feminine and dark image than those in general hospital. The nurses' uniform in Seoul area showed more masculine image, the nurses' uniform in Daejeon area showed more dark and casual image than those in other areas. The nurses' uniform worked in dentistry and surgery department showed more masculine image while the nurses' uniform worked in plastic surgery showed most feminine image than those in other department. The nurses' uniform worked in dentistry showed most dark image while the nurses' uniform worked in rehabilitation showed most light image. In addition, the nurses' uniform worked in dermatology and plastic surgery showed most casual image while the nurses' uniform

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worked in surgery, pediatrics, and urology department showed most professional image than those in any other department.

The most important meaning from the result through this study is that the nurse uniforms were classified into groups according to the present condition of nurses' uniform design.

This study was conducted with Deajeon and Seoul city and Chungnam province in Korea and thus has its limitations and should not generate to the situation of overall nurses' uniform. For the further studies, the survey on the satisfactoral level of nurses' uniform image in categorizing nurses' uniform design would be required.

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