

DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL OF CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN NURSING FOR NURSING COLLEGES UNDER PRABOROMARAJCHANOK INSTITUTES*

Supapen Panawatthanapisuit¹

Apipa Prachyapruit²

Pateep Methakunavuchi³

Abstract: The purpose of this research was to develop a model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institute. The data concerning the center for teaching excellence in nursing were retrieved from the Internet. In this regard, EDFR is applied in the development of a model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institute in consultation with 17 senior experts. The results found that a model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing consisted of: 1) vision: to be the leader and collaborator in developing teaching excellence in nursing; 2) mission: to be the mainstay in developing and enhancing instruction quality; 3) structure: to have functional structure; 4) administration: to be the independent agency; 5) objectives: to develop the instructors in light of online instructions; 6) duties: to develop the knowledge of teaching, to disseminate online instruction techniques, to give advice on instruction, and to arrange training programs on instruction; 7) budget: to urge for support from Praboromarajchanok Institute and to collect registration fee from training program participants; 8) collaboration with external agencies: to conduct researches on and to develop the innovation in the instruction in collaborative manner; 9) the characteristics of services provided by the center: to arrange meetings/seminars and opinion forums, to give advice on instruction, and to disseminate the data on instruction; and 10) required database: instruction techniques / methods, researches / innovation in instruction.

Keywords: Development of A Model, Teaching Excellence in Nursing, Nursing Colleges, Praboromarajchanok Institute

Introduction

In the midst of the current situation of competitions in the economic development, society, information technology and efficient communications in the globalization era, higher education institutes are required to modify their respective curriculums, instructions and assessments in the way that meets the needs of the present and future world. For efficient instruction, teachers need to have at least 4 knowledge areas: 1) subject matter content knowledge, 2) pedagogical content knowledge, 3) general pedagogical knowledge, and 4) knowledge on learners and their learning styles. (Eggen & Kauchak, 2001)

One can say that teacher development program aims to enhance the advancement of teachers in being administrators as well as their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, instructional process, learning design, use of new techniques and styles, classroom action research, and application of information technology in instruction. However, teacher development problems are, in spite of regularly attending academic conferences for self-development purpose, that the teachers are unable to apply such knowledge into actual instruction (Phaithoon Sinlarat, 2007). This agrees with the findings of Charan Suwanwela (2003) who argues that now Thailand's higher education quality is below the international standard. The creation of wisdom is incomprehensive; while the quest for knowledge is little. Also, synthesis and creation abilities are low with weak academic characteristics. Hence, it is an immediate need for all higher education institutes to engage in the development of teaching excellence.

There are 29 nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes, Ministry of Public Health, nationwide with a large number of teachers. However, teachers may not have sufficient time to attend academic conferences for continual development of knowledge due to their duties and responsibilities. The author, as a teacher of nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes, has, therefore, recognized the necessity of the development of a model of center for teaching excellence in nursing. This may then serve as a center for systematic development of teachers' potentials in nursing instruction in the long term.

* Dissertation, Doctor of Philosophy, Higher Education, Department of Education Policy, Management and Leadership, Faculty of education, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

¹ Ph.D. Candidate in Higher Education, Department of Educational Policy, Management and Leadership, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

² Asst. Prof., Ph.D., Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

³ Prof. Emeritus, Ph.D., Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Research Methodology

The research on the development of a model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes by EDFR consists of 7 steps as follows:

Step 1: the study on concepts, theories and principles – This involves the examination of concepts, theories, documents, textbooks and researches pertinent to the instruction. This includes the targets under 15-year Higher Education Framework No. 2 (2008-2022) (Higher Education Commission, 2008), teaching in nursing (Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council, 2008), theoretical concepts on assessment, assessment guidelines, teacher development concepts, importance of teacher development, teacher development objectives and teacher development guidelines.

Step 2: the analysis of centers for teaching excellence in nursing under other domestic and international educational institutes on the basis of internet-based documents – the author has retrieved the data on the centers for teaching excellence in nursing for educational institutes in 5 countries: the U.S. (5 of them), England (3 of them) and one each in Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the center for teaching excellence in nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University, has also been explored. Then, content analysis is made in order to be used as a guideline for the development of a model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes.

Step 3: the needs assessment on the establishment of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes – the teachers of nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes have been investigated via closed questionnaire on current situations of teacher development, problems and obstacles as well as the needs of nursing teacher development. In this regard, the needs assessment on the establishment of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes has been made through closed questionnaire distributed to a sample group of 301 nursing teachers who are from 15 nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes.

Step 4: the development of nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes – This Ethnographic Delphi Future Research (EDFR) aims at the development of a model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes. Thus, EDFR is applied in the data collection from 17 senior experts.

Step 5: a (draft) model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes – This has been developed on the basis of the data from content analysis (Step 2), needs assessment on the

establishment of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes (Step 3), and EDFR (Step 4).

Step 6: verification of a (draft) model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes – 7 senior experts have examined its suitability and viability.

Step 7: concerns the summary and recommendations on guidelines for the development of a model of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes in practice.

Research Results

The model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institute include:

Vision: being the leader in the development of teachers' nursing instruction and in the coordination for the development of teaching excellence in nursing

Mission: 1) supporting university's mission on teacher development through researches and dissemination of instruction-related research works; 2) coordinating with nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes in being the leader and enhancing instructional quality; 3) supporting and assisting nursing colleges in light of teachers' instructional development; and 4) taking the leading position in developing and enhancing instructional quality.

The Center's Structure: This is an independent agency under the supervision of Educational Development Group, Praboromarajchanok Institutes. Commission-style administration is used; while the director operates the center according to the specified vision, mission and objectives. The center has 3 divisions as follows:

1. General Administration Division – The assistant director of General Administration Division is responsible for the administration, personnel filing, planning, budget and coordination with external agencies. The staff in line of command is administration officer who is responsible for producing academic work documents for dissemination purpose.

2. The assistant director of Operation Division is responsible for arranging the conference / seminar and conference / seminar program on instructional development. The staffs in line of command are 1) the expert in instructional advice; 2) the expert in information technology who is responsible for the development and application of technologies into instruction; 3) media and audiovisual production / development officer who is responsible for the production of computer-assisted media / lessons or graphic media; and 4) VDO / movie designer / producer who is responsible for the production / design of motion pictures, VDO and other printing materials.

3. The assistant director of Research and Development Division is responsible for designing and developing learning materials and doing researches on instructional development. The staffs in line of command are 1) the expert in research/innovation development who is responsible for doing researches on instructional development and on producing instruction-related innovations; 2) the system analyst and programmer who are responsible for designing the instruction-related system and keep data updated.

The center's administration: the center is administrated as an independent agency under the auspices of Educational Development Group, Praboromarajchanok Institutes

The center's objectives/goals: 1) enhancing teachers' knowledge and skills on online nursing instructions; 2) being the nursing instruction knowledge development center; 3) being the center for the development of teachers' nursing instruction; 4) promoting and supporting the development of instructional techniques/methods; 5) promoting and supporting the establishment of forums for the exchange of knowledge on instructional techniques/methods, instructional innovations, and technologies for nursing instruction; 6) promoting and supporting the coordination in light of the researches for instructional development; 7) promoting and supporting the innovations in nursing instruction by arranging the forums and conferring awards to capable teachers in innovation production for the efficient instruction; 8) being the site for the researches and studies on nursing instruction; and 9) promoting and supporting the dissemination of instructional works

Mission and Responsibilities: 1) gathering and disseminating a range of online nursing instruction techniques / methods in order that teachers can enjoy easy access and utilization; 2) giving the instruction-related advice to nursing colleges' teachers; 3) developing the innovations and technologies that support instruction, instructional techniques/methods, teaching assessment, instructional design, learning materials, and online dissemination; 4) doing researches on instruction, and on educational measurement and assessment; 5) arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 6) arranging the conferences/seminars on the instruction and good practices for nursing instruction; 7) providing grants for development of teachers' nursing instruction; and 8) conferring awards/honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works

Budget and source of budget: 1) budget allotted from Praboromarajchanok Institutes; 2) budget received from conference / seminar registration fees; 3) budget received from the center's sale of documents and textbooks

Coordination with external agencies: 1) arranging the seminars for the exchange of knowledge on good instructional practices; 2) developing the innovations and technologies that support the instruction; 3) doing researches for instructional development; 4) producing instruction-related documents and textbooks; 5) development of teachers' nursing instruction; 6) enhancing the instructional quality of teachers in nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes

The center's services: 1) arranging the seminars for the exchange of knowledge on the instruction and good instructional practices; 2) arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 3) arranging the workshops on nursing instruction; 4) giving instruction-related advice to nursing colleges' teachers; 5) providing research grants for instructional development and innovation/learning material development; 6) disseminating online instructional techniques/methods; 7) conferring awards/ honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works

The center's necessary database: 1) a range of online instructional techniques / methods; 2) researches on nursing instruction development; 3) innovations for the development of nursing instruction; 4) documents, textbooks, articles, and researches on nursing instruction; and 5) the calendar on the development of teachers' nursing instruction

The center's location: Praboromarajchanok Institutes, Ministry of Public Health

Discussion

The model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes consist of:

Vision: "being the leader in the development of teachers' nursing instruction and in the coordination for the development of teaching excellence in nursing"; this vision is in line with the one of Australia's center for teaching excellence. It focuses on being the leader in educational development and coordination that build and maintain the excellence of personnel in the field of the instruction. In this regard, there are 29 nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes across the country. Each college has different instructional potentials; hence, the coordination among teachers of all nursing colleges for the development of teachers' teaching excellence is needed.

The center's mission: 1) supporting the colleges' mission on teachers' instructional development through researches and dissemination of instructional-related researches – this is similar to one of UK's center for teaching excellence (Oxford Brookes University, 2010: online); 2) coordinating with nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes

in being the leader and enhancing instructional quality – this is similar to one of the Australia's center for teaching excellence (Australian National University, 2010: online); 3) supporting and assisting nursing colleges in light of teachers' instructional development – this is similar to one of the U.S.'s center for teaching excellence 4) taking the leading position in developing and enhancing instructional quality – this is similar to one of the Australia's center for teaching excellence. The advantages are the emphasis on the coordination with 29 nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes in developing and standardized the quality of nursing instruction of those nursing colleges.

The center's structure: it is a center administrated by the director in the same way to the other domestic and overseas centers for teaching excellence. In particular, the center is divided into 3 Divisions, namely, 1) General Administration, 2) Operation Division, and 3) Research and Development Division. This structure is similar to one of the Australia's center for teaching excellence. For practitioner-level personnel, there are experts in the instruction, instructional design, research and innovation development, and technologies, system analysts and programmers, and general administration staffs. In this regard, such personnel resembles one of the U.S.'s center for teaching excellence, Hong Kong's center for teaching excellence and Thailand's center for teaching excellence in nursing (center for teaching excellence in nursing, 2551).

The center's administration: the administration is under the supervision of Educational Development. The characteristics of specialized or independent agency may render to the flexibility resulting in the efficient administration of the center for teaching excellence in nursing according to the desired objectives and goals.

The center's objectives/goals: 1) enhancing teachers' knowledge and skills on online nursing instructions; 2) being the nursing instruction knowledge development center; 3) being the center for the development of teachers' nursing instruction; 4) promoting and supporting the development of instructional techniques / methods; 5) promoting and supporting the establishment of forums for the exchange of knowledge on instructional techniques / methods, instructional innovations, and technologies for nursing instruction; 6) promoting and supporting the coordination in light of the researches for instructional development; 7) promoting and supporting the innovations in nursing instruction by arranging the forums and conferring awards to capable teachers in innovation production for the efficient instruction; 8) being the site for the researches and studies on nursing instruction – All these are in line with the center for teaching excellence in U.S. and UK and Thailand's center for teaching excellence in nursing. However, 9)

promoting and supporting the dissemination of instructional works' is the objective that is different from one of the domestic and overseas centers for teaching excellence because, at the present time, few works of teachers in nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes have been published and disseminated. This is an educational quality assurance indicator required by the Office for National Education Standards and Quality; therefore, higher education institutes are needed to support and encourage the teachers to produce and disseminate academic works (Educational Quality Assurance Manual, 2010).

The center's mission and responsibilities: 1) gathering and disseminating a range of online nursing instruction techniques/methods; 2) giving the instruction-related advices to nursing colleges' teachers; 3) developing the innovations and technologies that support instruction, instructional techniques/methods, teaching assessment, instructional design, learning materials, and online dissemination; 4) doing researches on instruction, and on educational measurement and assessment; 5) arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 6) arranging the conferences / seminars on instruction and good practices for nursing instruction; 7) providing fund for teachers for their development of nursing instruction; 8) conferring awards / honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works – all these resemble those of the center for teaching excellence in the U.S., Australia, and Hong Kong. These aspects of the mission may help reduce the restriction with respect to time, distance, and teaching load of teachers in Praboromarajchanok Institutes.

The center's budget and source of budget: budgets are from the allocation by Praboromarajchanok Institutes, conference / seminar registration fees, and center's sale of documents and textbooks. This is a difference of center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes from the domestic and overseas centers for teaching excellence. Indeed, it is a new agency so it has no budget yet. As a result, it needs the support from its original affiliation.

Coordination with external agencies: there are 29 nursing colleges under the auspices of Praboromarajchanok Institutes nationwide. Each of them has its own potentials. Thus, in order to enable them to perform their works according to the specified objectives, mission, and vision, it is required to determine the activities that they need to coordinate with all other nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes. These may include, for example, arranging the seminars for the exchange of knowledge on good instructional practices, developing the innovations and technologies that

support instruction, doing researches for instructional development producing instruction-related documents and textbooks, development of teachers' nursing instruction, and enhancing the acceptability of instructional quality of teachers in nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes.

The center's services: 1) arranging the seminars for the exchange of knowledge on the instruction and good instructional practices; 2) arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 3) arranging the workshops on nursing instruction; 4) giving instruction-related advice to nursing colleges' teachers; 5) providing research grants for instructional development and innovation / learning material development, disseminating online instructional techniques / methods; and 6) conferring awards/honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works – all these resemble the U.S.'s center for teaching excellence. This means that, for the U.S.'s center for teaching excellence, users are able to do self-study online or through the website. It is a way that reduces the budgetary load and teachers' travel time to the conference venue. In other words, teachers do not abandon their teaching tasks in classroom or in clinic to attend the conferences. Besides, when facing the instruction-related problem, teachers may resort to the advice of experts in instruction through knowledge-exchange boards. Meanwhile, the center may also arrange conferences or seminars for the exchange of knowledge on instruction or for the enhancement of instruction-related knowledge and skills itself. However, this kind of service may require the teachers to attend them in person as well.

The center's necessary database: 1) a range of online instructional techniques / methods; 2) researches on nursing instruction development; 3) innovations for the development of nursing instruction; 4) documents, textbooks, articles, and researches on nursing instruction and 5) the calendar on the development of teachers' nursing instruction - this is a difference from the domestic and overseas centers for teaching excellence. This is due to the fact the identification of necessary database may be integral for the initial development of the model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing. It can then be a guideline in translating such model into practice efficiently. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly determine the characteristics of services.

Conclusion

The research for the development of a model of the center for teaching excellence in nursing for nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes aims to benefit the development of teachers' nursing instruction. One can say that the center for teaching excellence in nursing is integral for the development of nursing instruction knowledge. It also serves as a

the center for the techniques/methods of nursing instruction, for the innovations, academic works and researches on the instruction as well as for the exchange of learning exchange/learning site for nursing instruction. In this regard, teachers can enjoy self-development at any time.

The availability of such center may render to the continual and diverse exchange of knowledge resulting in greater expertise among teachers. In particular, teachers may have the constant self-study and development along with the knowledge and skills in motivating learners to learn pleasantly and systematically. Teachers become more expert in their individual field of expertise and are able to teach efficient. All these may eventually render to the development of nursing profession and the promotion of the potentials of nursing colleges' teachers in the same to other university lecturers.

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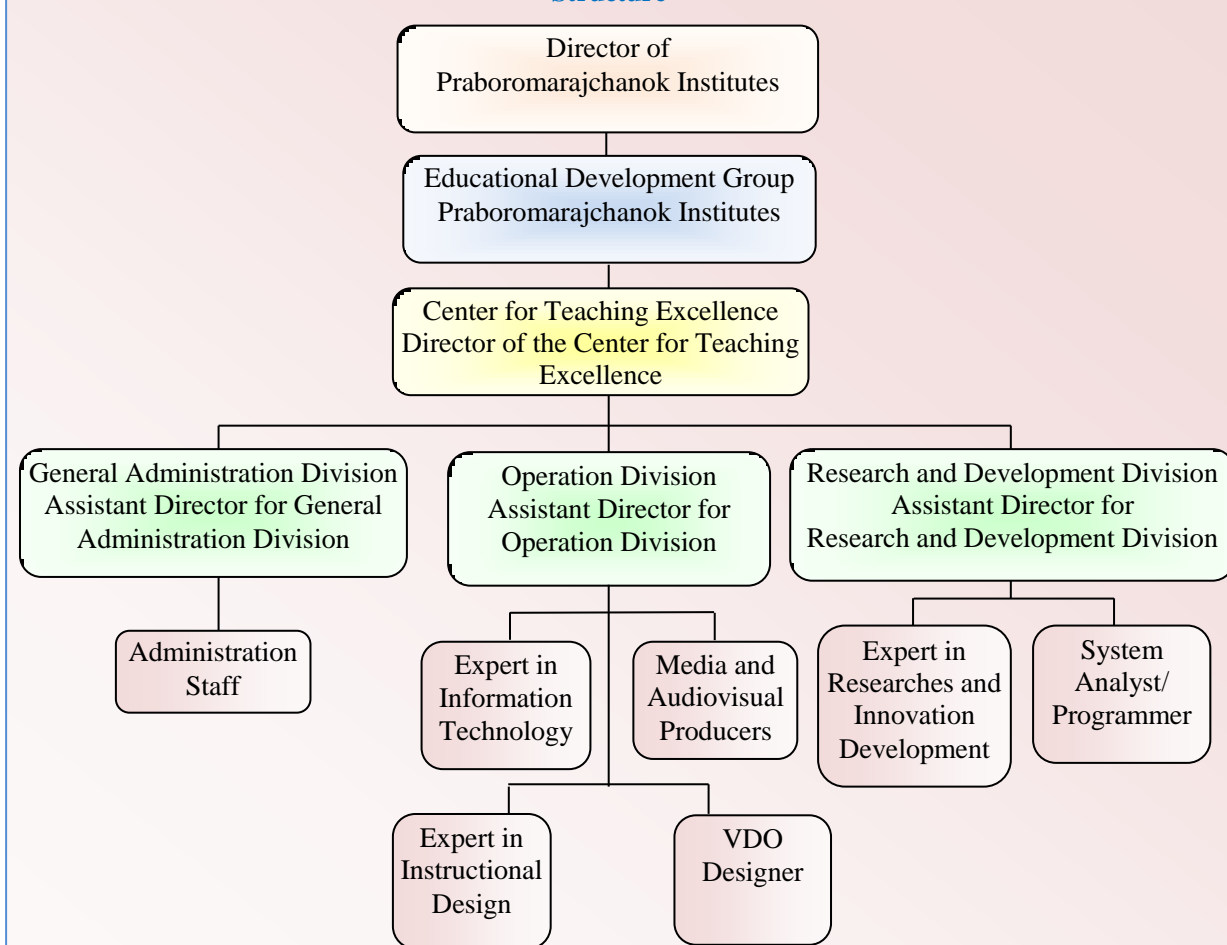
Vision

Being the leader in the development of teachers' nursing instruction and in the coordination for the development of teaching excellence in nursing

Missions

1) supporting university's missions on teacher development through researches and dissemination of instruction-related research works; 2) coordinating with nursing colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes in being the leader and enhancing instructional quality; 3) supporting and assisting nursing colleges in light of teachers' instructional development; and 4) taking the leading position in developing and enhancing instructional quality.

Structure





Administration

It is an independent agency under the supervision of Educational Development Group.
Praboromarajchanok Institutes

Objectives/Goals

1. enhancing teachers' knowledge and skills on online nursing instructions; 2. being the nursing instruction knowledge development center; 3. promoting and supporting the establishment of forums for the exchange of knowledge on instructional techniques/methods, instructional innovations, and technologies for nursing instruction; 4. promoting and supporting the coordination in light of the researches for instructional development; 5. promoting and supporting the innovations in nursing instruction by arranging the forums and conferring awards to capable teachers in innovation production for the efficient instruction; 6. being the knowledge asset on nursing instruction; and 7. promoting and supporting the dissemination of instructional works



Missions and Responsibilities

1. gathering and disseminating a range of online nursing instruction techniques/methods in order that teachers can enjoy easy access and utilization such as 1.1) online learning, 1.2) instructional design, 1.3) instructional techniques/methods, 1.4) measurement and assessment, 1.5) researches on nursing instruction development, 1.6) works on nursing instruction innovations, 1.7) documents, textbooks, and articles on nursing instruction; 2. giving the instruction-related advices to nursing colleges' teachers; 3. developing the innovations and technologies that support the instruction, instructional techniques/methods, teaching assessment, instruction design, learning materials, and online dissemination; 4. doing researches on the instruction, and on educational measurement and assessment; 5. arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 6. arranging the conferences/seminars on the instruction and good practices for nursing instruction; 7. providing fund for teachers for their development of nursing instruction; and 8. conferring awards/honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works

Budget

1. Budget allotted from Praboromarajchanok Institutes; 2. Budget received from conference/seminar registration fees; and 3. Budget received from the center's sale of documents and textbooks

Coordination with external agencies

1. seminars for the exchange of knowledge on good instructional practices; 2. developing the innovations and technologies that support the instruction; 3. doing researches for instructional development; 4. producing instruction-related documents and textbooks 5. development of teachers' nursing instruction; and 6. enhancing teachers' instructional quality



Services

1. arranging the seminars for the exchange of knowledge on the instruction and good instructional practices; 2. arranging teachers' forums for the exchange of instruction-related knowledge through knowledge-exchange boards; 3. arranging the workshops on nursing instruction; 4. giving the instruction-related advices to nursing colleges' teachers; 5. providing research grants for instructional development and innovation/learning material development; 6. disseminating online instructional techniques/methods; and 7. conferring awards/honorary certificates for teachers with distinguished instructional works

Necessary Database

1. a range of online instructional techniques/methods; 2. researches on nursing instruction development; 3. innovations for the development of nursing instruction; 4. documents, textbooks, articles, and researches on nursing instruction; and 5. the calendar on the development of teachers' nursing instruction

Location

Praboromarajchanok Institutes, Ministry of Public Health

Figure 1: The Model of the Center for Teaching Excellence in Nursing for Nursing Colleges under Praboromarajchanok Institutes