

Determinants of Attitudes and Abilities of Members in Community Health Development Center in Northern Taiwan

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Abstract

This study examined factors affecting attitudes and abilities of members in community building center in Northern Taiwan. Indicators of attitudes and abilities are member satisfaction, member participation and member ability building. Stratified random sampling was employed to obtain the study sample. The accessible population was defined as the 41 centers for community health development in Northern Taiwan. Study participants were members of 20 centers randomly selected from the 41 centers. A total of 565 structured questionnaires were mailed to participants of which 358 were returned, yielding a response rate of 63.4%, $\alpha = 0.5$, power > 0.8.

Principal study findings are as follows. (1) Most members of community health development centers in Taiwan are female and aged 41-50 years. The number of members is increasing. Furthermore, attitudes and abilities of voluntary members are positively associated with older age, low level of education, no formal jobs, and position held at the community center. (2) Predictors of member satisfaction and operational process are leadership, communication, benefits and costs of participation, paid staff hours, administrative operation of organization and organizational climate. Among these variables, organizational climate-the most important predicting variable-benefits and costs of participation and administrative operation of organization effectively predict member satisfaction. (3) Member participation is positively associated with leadership, communication, paid staff hours and organizational climate. Of these variables, organizational climate, paid staff hours, administrative operation of organization and costs of participation effectively predict member participation. (4) Member ability building is positively associated with leadership, benefits and costs of participation, paid staff hours, administrative operation of organization, and organizational climate. Organizational climate, costs of participation and administrative operation of organization effectively predict member ability building. Furthermore, organizational climate accounts for the largest proportion of variation in capacity building.

Nurturing a pleasant organizational climate is the most important factor for community health development center. Additionally, enhancing the benefits of participation, decreasing participation costs, and increasing paid staff hours can improve the sustainable management of community health development center.

Key words: Community health development center, attitudes and abilities of members

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