



Memories of Nursing in Singapore - an oral history approach

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INTRODUCTION

Documenting the nursing heritage is vital in preserving memories of the profession unique to the culture, while the knowledge of the past in nursing can also influence current and future practices.¹ The growth and educational development of the nursing profession in Singapore continued to advance over the years, playing an essential role in ensuring quality healthcare in Singapore.

AIM

To record nurses' experiences of journey of nursing profession in Singapore from the early days of formalization of nursing education to today's practice.

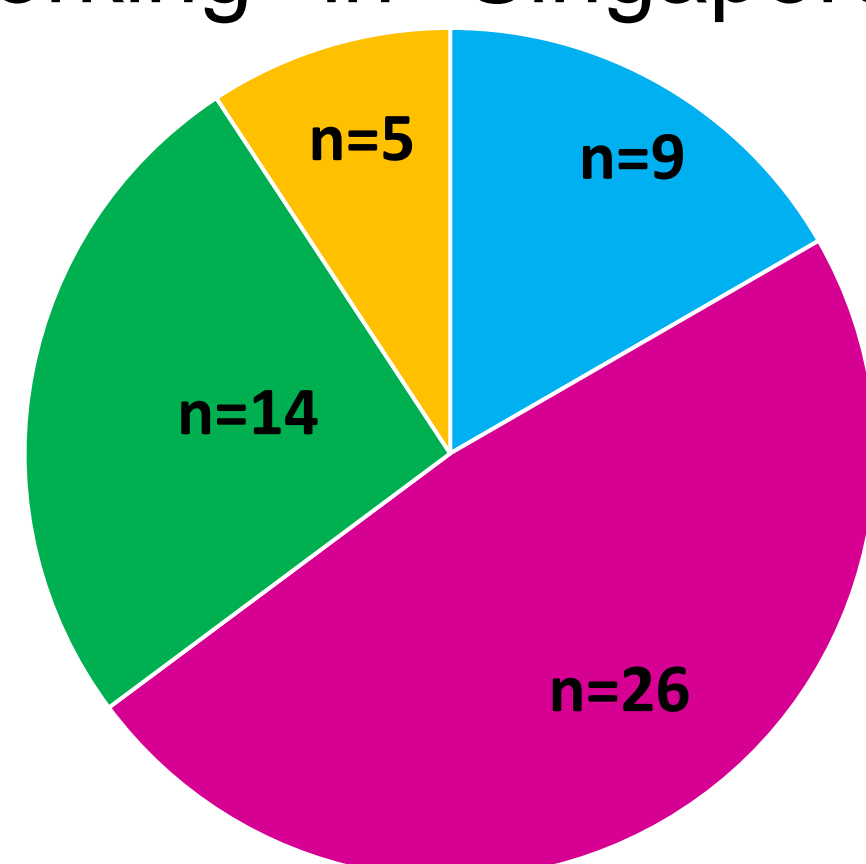
METHODOLOGY

Study sample

Nurses who received training in Singapore institutions from 1956 to 2008 and either worked or currently still working in Singapore hospitals (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Participant profile

- Silent Generation (born 1928-1945)
- Baby boomers (born 1946-1964)
- Gen X (born 1965-1980)
- Millennials (born 1981-1995)



METHODOLOGY

Study design

- Oral history research approach.
- In-depth interviews were conducted from December 2018 to December 2020, covering areas including: personal reactions to nursing, motivation to become a nurse, experiences in training school, experiences after graduating while in practice and pursuing further education, changes seen in nursing and with focus on memories and significant events.
- Interviews were audio-taped and transcribed verbatim.
- Thematic analysis was undertaken with 'open-coding' techniques.



RESULTS

Mean age of the participants was 63 years (Range 32 to 89 years) and completed their training between 1952 to 2006. Four main themes were generated (Figure 2).

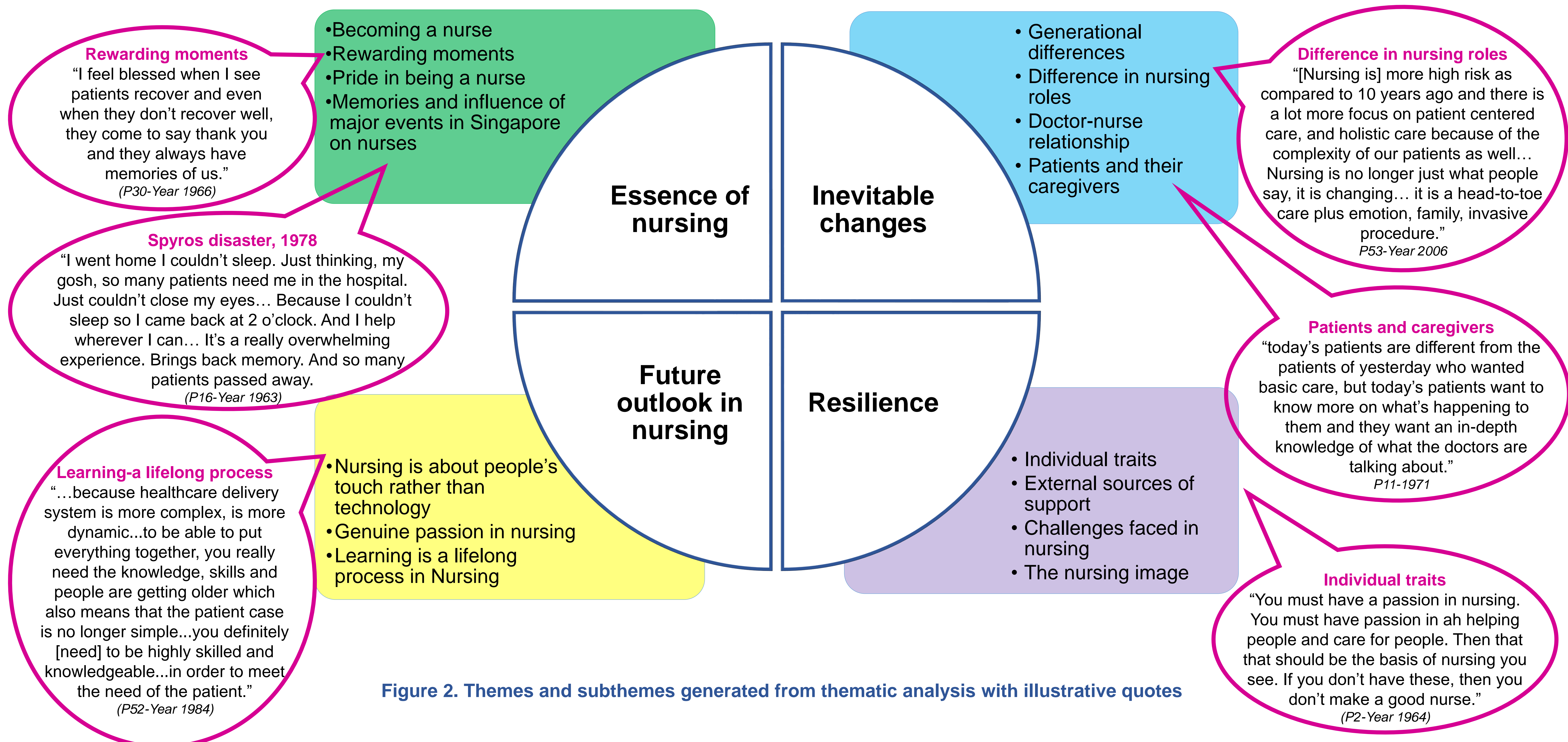


Figure 2. Themes and subthemes generated from thematic analysis with illustrative quotes

Conclusion

Documentation of nurses' voices using the oral history approach provided valuable insight and enabled preservation of the memories of the nursing experience. Nurses of the past continue to impact current nursing practices and attitudes. With the change in nursing roles, compassion in practice needs to be re-looked. Continuous learning is vital to accommodate the changing healthcare landscape.

REFERENCES

1. Yow VR (2014) Recording oral history: A guide for the humanities and social sciences (3rd edition ed.). United States of America: Rowman & Littlefield.