



### What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?

It may sound cliché, but I took up nursing because I wanted to take care of my grandmother when she grows old. I really felt the need that it requires special knowledge and skills to understand the health care needs of the older population. I was fortunate enough that when I was to enrol in a doctorate program, our university offers one with specialization in gerontology. The only university in the country which offers such. Through those exposures, as well as, the opportunities to come in contact with experts in gerontology nursing as well as actual care of the older persons that I was motivated to educate students on how to properly care for this unique and vulnerable population.

### Who is a key person who supported you in becoming a gerontological nurse educator?

A lot of people inspired me to become a gero nursing educator, for example, Dr. Amparo Florida, who exposed me to policy making opportunities and exposures on actual service for the poor older persons in Cebu City; Dr. Letty Kuan, who provided me the constant push to pursue my gerontological nursing career. But, it was through Dr. Daisy Palompon, when she was the Dean of Nursing in my early years as a faculty member, that I got exposed to being a gerontological nurse educator. She assigned the Elective Course Care of the Chronically Ill and the Older Person to me. It was then that I started exploring books and literatures to enhance my knowledge of the subject. I got full appreciation of the importance of teaching the students about this subject when I was given those opportunities.



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### Key words of wisdom for those nurses interested in becoming a distinguished educator in gerontological nursing education?

Growing old is a privilege denied to many. Therefore, it is a great honor to be teaching aspiring nurses the care of this unique and vulnerable population. If nursing education is very much fulfilling, it becomes more fulfilling as you educate nurses on the care of the old.

### Where would you like to see gerontological nursing education to be at in 5 years?

With the increase in the older population in the Philippines, I would like to see gerontological nursing as one of the major focus of nursing education. I would like to see nursing educators, lecturers and clinical instructors who are given proper education and training on how to educate the students on the important concepts in the care of the older persons. From being an elective, it has now become one of the major courses in the country's BSN curriculum. Therefore, there is a need to provide proper training on what concepts must be introduced, what skills and competencies should be looked into, and more importantly, how to inculcate the right attitude to the future nurses, knowing care of the older person is an exhausting task.

### Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?

My favorite experience was the time I started handling classes in the Doctorate Program. I loved teaching the major courses. But, what made it my favorite are the students under my mentorship. I learned a lot from them. The sharing during the classes and the new concepts they bring into our discussion. That is what I like most about it.