

Caring And Nursing: Explorations In Feminist Perspectives

Review Articles

Nursing Caring: Different Perspectives

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Abstract

Caring has emerged as a central paradigm in nursing and has become the essence and the core process of nursing practice that reflects the central mission of nursing. Caring has been related to the patient outcomes and satisfaction. This article examines the different perspectives of caring in nursing literature, as related to caring to nursing knowledge, anthropology of caring, Islamic perspective of caring and the philosophical inquiry that suites caring knowledge with emphasis on the utilization of both the empirical/ reductionism approach and the interpretive phenomenological approach to generate authentic scientific nursing knowledge. Throughout this paper, caring epistemology and ontology will be viewed as essential paradigm to nursing profession.

Keywords: Nursing, caring, phenomenology and empiricism.

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Introduction

The current explosion of biomedical information and advances in the medical and nursing technology and the push toward evidence-based practice tend to change the focus of nursing from a caring service-oriented profession to a technological cure-oriented one.¹ Nursing scholars have attempted to balance their care by reclaiming spirituality and caring as roots of nursing profession and hence moving toward humanizing aspects of nursing. Such movement is achieved through providing a compassionate care which involves serving the whole person physically, biologically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.¹

Watson² considered that the sense of caring which a nurse uniquely conceives is a healing environment for the patient. Watson views nursing as an energetic, vibrational field that should be integral with the patient environment since nursing, within the context of caring, will encourage a healing environment as well as facilitate the multidimensional response of a whole person in the direction of healing and interaction that reflect a dynamic symphonic care.

Serving the patients through clinical nursing practice within the context of caring involves spending time with them, talking in a dynamic interactive manner about what's important to them and being receptive and expressive, so patients will value these experiences with their nurses and become more satisfied.

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