**Literature Review: The Genre of Nursing**

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*In the genre of nursing there are certain issues that are always reoccurring, in this paper I hope to examine patient care, safe nursing staff, and gender discrimination in nursing. As a profession, as old as nursing there are always new studies on how to offer bettering patient and care, and innovational systems to ensure that all patients have a positive stay at the hospital.*

Structure

The format of most nursing journals has the title as first item on the page and in bold, then followed by the author with their degree next to their name. Finally before the article is started there is a belief summary about what the article is about and the goals of the article itself. This showed me that in the nursing profession that the title or subject of the article is the central item. The title is what will attract a nurse to the article, unlike other professions articles are not read based on who the author is. The degree followed by the authors name is a credential that they are educated about this topic and have experience in nursing. Of my three articles, every author use to being a working staff nurse. I think that means that nurses want to read about individuals who have been in their shoes. Finally, there is usually so type of introduction which is common in science related journals. These journals are not physically appealing and will only attract you if it is your nursing or something you interested in pursuing. All were four to eight pages long not including the extensive annotated bibliography. Nurses communicate with sharing similar experiences, or how to be a better nurse and this is why nurses read the journals. The structure helps them figure out before they read it, if this article will help improve them or a problem they already found a solution to.

How did I find the journals?

When I first began looking for nursing journal it seemed like it would be an easy task. I was very mistaken. The first article I found in the journal of professional nursing website. I was not asked to register, but the next time I went to search for more articles every journal site asked me to register as a member or buy the journal. In addition, most of the websites presented the monetary value of the journal it had an English pound sign next to it. For example, 14₤ (or $22.25 in American dollars) would show up. This seemed odd to me that some popular sites were England based, as my first article was about men in nursing in Europe. I did not acknowledge that nursing was as big in other countries. The journal sites were England based and you had to pay for the articles, so how did I find the needed journals? The only site that would let me print free nursing journals was, RN Journal. This site did not require a membership, because it was not as “glamorous” as these other sites or did not have popular authors. The conclusion I have drawn is that the second time I tried to print the articles was not on a UCF computer, so I am guessing that the University of Central Florida has paid membership to use these sites. This is a logical situation, there is a college of nursing that has three campuses and is becoming a premier nursing school.

What is the goal of this genre?

If you ask any nurse or nursing student what is they’re main focus, and they will all include “patient care”. The foundation of nursing is the patient. Think about it, the first medical professional you usually encounter at the hospital is the nurse. When you want an update or need help, who comes and assist you? Either an RN or lower ranking nurse, usually a LPN or CNA. (An LPN is a licensed practical nurse is an equivalent to an associate degree, and a CNA is a certified nursing assistant usually is done at a technical school and completed in a year). Nurses are the backbone of hospitals; they are the first face that you see and the last when you leave a floor. They job is centered on making you healthier and comfortable while you are sick. They are always more nurses in a hospital than any other staff members and most likely a shortage of them employed at a hospital. This can cause a stressful environment when you are one person trying to assist four to six individuals. Numerous articles I saw topics were about: Dealing with Stress on the job, coping with a patient death, Stress among Nurses, and The “unbearable” patient. These journals sites and writers know that stress can influence and effect the goal of offering superior patient care, so that is why there were so many articles about how to deal with pressure. Errors can be made when a person is stressed out. Nurses’ goal has never changed much and will always be the patient.

Article 1: Gender Discrimination and Nursing a Literature Review

Nursing is in my blood. My mom is a nurse; I am in school to be a nurse as well as my sister. I have never once seen a male charge nurse, which is a nursing supervisor and help RN’s assist patients. If you ever had a complaint at a hospital, the person you spoke with was probably a charge nurse. In a nursing journal that I read about gender discrimination in nursing, it examined the lack of men in the nursing profession and nurse management positions. Men usually become a nurse due to that they did not get into medical school or their previous career had failed. Also, men resign more often than females after four years following graduating from nursing school. This England- based study has showed that 3:4 supervisors are men and only ten percent of surgeons are females. Nursing has always been looked at as a “female” role, while a doctor was looked at as a “male” role. This is supported by the pervious statistic, women report having a hard time in the nursing, and women have a hard time becoming doctors and surgeons.

This article supported that gender bias and role stereotyping do still exist in educational programs. This article first presented the idea of few men entering the nursing profession or leaving soon after becoming a nurse. Then it cited references to authors who reported that there are gender bias against men in nursing, furthermore explored legal studies were male nurses felt that they were stereotyped in nursing or while on a job. Finally it offered ways to provide an equal opportunity work environment.

These authors were completely honest about the stereotypes in their profession, while most occupations would try to hide their barriers to enter. Nursing is a predominantly female profession; it has been that way for a very long time. Most patients feel comfortable with a woman nurse because women have always been nurses. In addition, the study showed women would not mind being examined by a male. Although men often do not want to enter into nursing field because it as seen as a women profession, or they want a more high ranking job. The article mentioned that men do not have the “soft touch” or compassion as women. I would have to agree. I do not mind being examined by either a male or female. If you have the credentials, then you are good by my standards. I was at the hospital in July; I had to be examined for abdominal pain. The physician was a male medical student who did realized how sensitive the virginal area of a woman was, especially when they have a cyst. I am sure he learned afterwards but as a man he did not understand my pain, either because he undermined it or he just did not know from lack of experience. I will say that the FEMALE nurse was more compassionate and helped him do 80% of the exam.

Men in nursing do not have the same biological makeup as a woman, but I do not think that means that they cannot be a compassionate and caring nurse. Nursing is not the right profession for everyone. You have to be dedicated to helping others, having a positive attitude, and most importantly good communicate skills. Those three foundations are what really matters when becoming a nurse; I hope that as the nursing profession look to improving their barriers to enter other medical fields will do the same.

Article 2: Do nurse really understand Advanced Health Care Directives?

End of life care is just as important has preparing the patient to leave the hospital. The reality of life is that at one point everyone dies. The nursing staff of a hospital carries the reasonability of providing the patient with the end of life care that they wish. The article opened with an introduction about the lack of proper education about AHCD. The article did not explain what AHCD is; due to this is a journal for individuals of the nursing profession. An advanced health care directive is written instructions to communicate the care & treatment you want if you can no longer make health care decisions. This document is extremely important if patient is in a position that they are unable to speak for themselves. The article reviewed a study performed in upstate New York about patients and nurses not understanding the AHCD form. The majority of the sample of nurses answered questions on the form wrong. This study shows that if they did not know how to answer the questions, then they could not help the patient answer the form. Also not only did they show inadequate knowledge about AHCD, they also did not always respect the wishes of the patient that filled out the AHCD. The conclusion was drawn to further educate nursing about the practices of AHCD through a supplementation course and incorporate it into nursing school programs. Nurses are bond ethically and required by law to respect a patient afterlife wishes and be knowledgeable. If a nurse failed to not comply they could face liability claims for medical battery.

This article showed that the nursing profession wants to ensure the proper care to patients not only for legal reasons but also to provide quality care to their patients. Some individuals find it hard to watch a patient die, because of religious beliefs. For example, individuals of the Amish community do not believe in blood transfusions. So if an Amish person needs a blood transfusion and turns it done, the nurse and doctor must respect that and let the person die. It is human nature, but a nurse’s nature to want to do everything to save the patient’s life, but that is where AHCD comes in to fulfill the patient’s wishes. AHCD is about twenty years old, when it becomes older and when nurses are more informed about it, and it will lead to a more knowledgeable staff and better patient end of life care.

Article 3: Literature Review: Safe Nurse Staffing

As I mentioned before a nurse’s job is extremely stressful and havoc, this journal supported my claim. With budget cuts and nurse to patient ratios being increasing low in hospitals, this has caused stressful nurses and nurses to quit/leave at a faster ratio. In understaffed hospitals proper patient protocol and care can be overlooked and errors can be made. The article explored UTI (urinary tract infections), pneumonia and other common acute care errors that have been made because of limited number of nurses. The article found that the cost of hiring more nurse personnel is more cost effective than the errors of a limited staff, which can lead to legal issues. The journal says there is not a “one size fits all” solution to the short staffing of nursing.

Dealing with a limited staff of nurse and providing proper care is a new problem facing nursing today. This journal offers nurses a way to help them deal with a large number of patients.

Conclusion

The nursing profession is based on patient care and satisfaction. All the journals that I mentioned explored other issues but always came back to how to better the nursing profession and how to improve patient care. They are honest about their weaknesses as a genre and do not try to cover up the flaws. Unlike most science journals, nursing journals do not use medical terminology. Anyone that is not in the nursing profession could read them and get a basic understanding. I do not know any nurses that read nursing journals, including my mom. Most nursing journals are used in nursing schools, as supplement material to expose students to problems facing the nursing communities. Most nurses work off of experiences and on site experience is extremely important in landing a job after nursing school. Consequently, the journals are used in nursing schools to prepare students before clinicals, so they can do a good job and get recommendation letters. In addition, nursing is a more of a customer service medical profession then a science based. Unlike surgeons they do not need to learn multiple sutures or how to close a surgical wound. You do need to be knowledgeable about medical conditions, but as a general nurse having a positive attitude and a good communicate is very important too. In addition all the journals talked about the stress associated with being a nurse. I think that if any nurse do read these journals it is new nurses that do not know how to deal with the pressure of handling multiple patients.

The nursing journal are written in lamens terms and are written about reoccurring and new problems facing the community. As a genre, nursing journals are not effective in reaching many nurses but they do succeed in educating new nurses. Older nursing communicate with nurse who work on the job about issues on the job. Commonly nurses are good communicators and mandatory meetings are held every month. In strict hospitals, if you miss two meetings they will take away your vacation days. These strict punishments show that communication between members is extremely important. As a genre, I think that the nursing journals are not effective in reaching the common nurse. They are not used enough in the nursing community to help nurses that have graduated and working. They are other forms of communication that would be more helpful in reaching such a large community.

Annotated Bibliography

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