

The concept of caring in Nursing. An international Comparative Study

Dr Evridiki Papastavrou et al.

Cyprus

Session 2B

12/3/2010

Background: A plethora of theoretical approaches in the nursing literature, attempt to define and analyze caring. Empirical evidence has revealed incongruence between patients and nurses perception on the importance of nursing behaviors that convey caring. Also, human caring might be a universal phenomenon but the expressions, process and patterns of caring vary among cultures .Therefore, this project, attempts to raise the awareness on how caring behaviors are perceived by patients and enable nurses to determine if they are meeting their expectations.

Aim: This is the first part of an international comparative study on the concept of nurse caring as this is perceived by nurses and the care receivers. The main objective of this project is to advance our knowledge of the concept of caring by defining the perceptions of caring in this dyadic relationship. It aims to examine and compare the concept of caring as perceived by nurses and patients in six different European countries (Cyprus, Greece, Finland, Hungary, Italy and the Check Republic) and to investigate the existence of differences or similarities among patients and nurses views. Furthermore, it aims to determine any correlation between the perception of caring and demographic variables.

Method: This is a descriptive, correlational study. All necessary data have been collected during a three months period time (1st of September - 30th November 2009) through the administration of a questionnaire, the Caring Behaviors Inventory (24 item version) among nurses and patients in all participating countries. The tool was translated and validated in the different languages.

Findings: Data analysis has commenced immediately after the end of the collection data period and is still going on. The results will be available for presentation during the conference.

Conclusions: The results of this study are expected to facilitate the understanding of the meaning of caring and provide the necessary information in developing a common approach that will be useful in practice, education and better management of human resources.