

STUDENT'S PROFILE AND SPIRITUAL CARE RENDERED TO
HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS



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ABSTRACT

This study determined if there is a significant relationship between the student's profile: age, year level and religion, and spiritual care rendered to hospitalized patients. The respondents were level 2, 3, and 4 student nurses of Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU). Jean Watson's "Philosophy and Science of Caring" is the theoretical framework of this study. This study utilized descriptive correlational method and convenience sampling with 63 respondents. This study was conducted at ADDU, Finster and Thibault buildings. Data were gathered by utilizing a 25-item self-made survey questionnaire validated by experts. Data analysis showed that spiritual care under prayer and religious rituals is satisfactory; however, unsatisfactory in pastoral care, devotional care and sacred music. Moreover, there was a significant relationship and difference between year level and spiritual care. The researchers recommended to emphasize spiritual care in the nursing practice through incorporating more the concept in the curriculum or learning area.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Spiritual care was defined as the care that nurses provide to meet the spiritual needs and/or problems of patients (Abbasi et al, 2014). It involves caring for the soul in a special kind of engagement that goes beyond seeing the physical patient in front; it is observation of the entire patient with the entire nurse. This has been described as holistic nursing (Dossey & Keegan, 2012; Watson, 2009).

However, spiritual care being a central element of holistic and multidisciplinary care, it is not often included into practice. Spiritual care is often neglected (Abbasi, et al, 2014). Of the four domains of a person: physical, mental, social and spiritual, the spiritual domain is the most neglected in daily nursing practice (Moon Fai Chan, 2010).

In an article written by Raven (2012), it shows that among 118 nurses who participated in the study, 31% had provided spiritual care. The 69 patients with advanced cancers who took the survey reported even lower rates, saying 14% of nurses had provided them spiritual care.

According to the descriptive study conducted by Hubbell, Woodard, Barksdale-Brown, and Parker (2006), spiritual care provided by 100 nursing practitioners working in a federally designated nonmetropolitan area of North

Carolina, participants in this study believed spiritual care was important to nursing and should be provided as part of a holistic approach to client care. However, 73% of the sample rarely or occasionally provided spiritual care interventions.

Over the years, the provision of spiritual care has been a primary aspect of holistic nursing care, but many principal medical educational systems have not yet encompassed spiritual care as part of their comprehensive or core curricula (Abbasi, et al, 2014). McEwen (2005) contends that if the nurse educators and researchers do not attempt to make the existence and importance of spiritual nursing care explicit in the domain of holistic nursing care, the nurse practitioner who is directly involved in the delivery of patient care, will not do so either.

In this study, the researchers determined if there was a significant relationship between student's profile which include age, year level and religion, and spiritual care rendered to hospitalized patients during clinical exposure.

Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on the theory of Jean Watson.

Jean Watson, a nurse theorist, emphasized in her theory of the "Philosophy and Science of Caring" the unity of a person's mind-body-spirit. The spirit relates to a person's soul, the inner self, the essence of the person, the spiritual self. It is the spirit that allows the person to transcend the "here and now" coexisting with the past, present, and future, all at once through, creative imagination and visualization (Bautista, 2008). Watson warns that the spiritual dimension is the

most important dimension of nursing in that it provides life to all other aspects of the profession. If health care fails to restore the spiritual dimension to its central position, then it is in danger of being replaced by something dehumanizing and cold (McSherry, 2006). The theory holds that spirituality upholds a foremost importance in the nursing profession. In fact, Watson ascertains that the care of the soul remains the most powerful aspect of the art of caring in nursing (Bautista, 2008).

Watson's theory holds a clear basis on spiritual care. Watson's theory focused on the importance of unity of a person's mind-body-spirit and "care of the soul". It emphasizes the importance of spiritual care in the nursing profession since the care of one's soul is the most powerful aspect in art of nursing care. Thus, spiritual care is part of the nursing holistic care. Watson's theory is essential to the study since her theory can be considered as a ground basis for spiritual care in which she emphasized that caring for one's soul is a vital aspect of care in the nursing profession. Watson also emphasized that the goal of spiritual care corresponds to protecting, enhancing, and preserving the person's dignity, humanity, wholeness, and inner harmony hence emphasizing the need and importance of the application of spiritual care by the student nurses to their hospitalized patients.

Conceptual Framework

The figure below illustrates the conceptual paradigm of the study which shows the independent and dependent variables. The independent variable is represented by the student's profile which includes age, religion and year level. The dependent variable is represented by the spiritual care which includes prayer, religious rituals, pastoral care, devotional articles and sacred music rendered to hospitalized patients. Based on the conceptual framework that is shown, the researchers aim to determine if there is a significant relationship between the two variables.

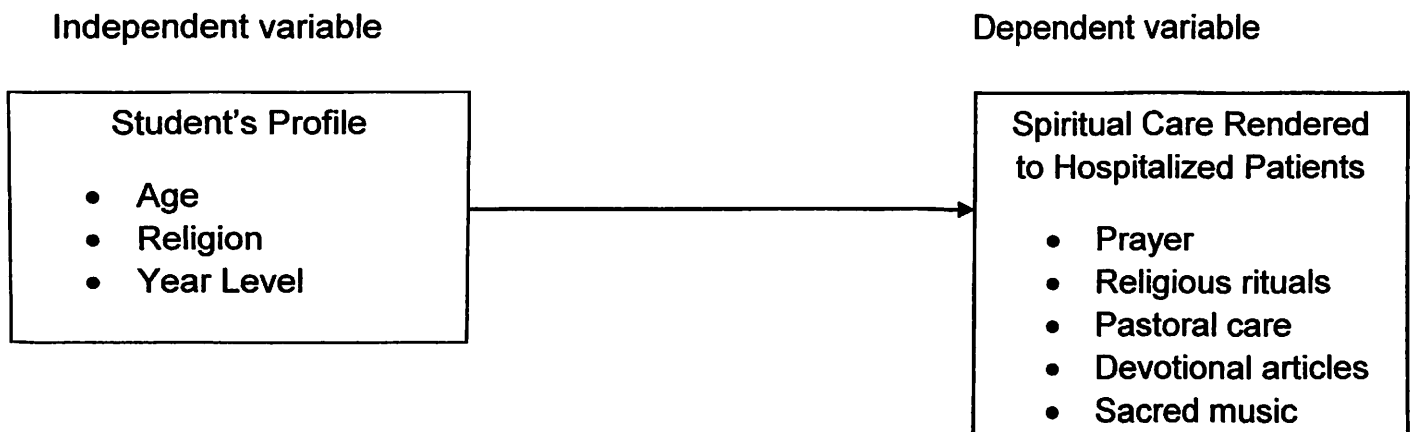


Figure 1. Conceptual Paradigm of the Study

Statement of the Problem

The study aimed to determine if there is a significant relationship between student's profile and spiritual care rendered to hospitalized patients during clinical exposure.

Specifically, it answered the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Year level;
 - c. Religion?

2. What is the level of spiritual care rendered by the student nurses to their hospitalized patients according to:
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Religious rituals
 - c. Pastoral care
 - d. Devotional articles
 - e. Sacred music

3. Is there a significant relationship between the profile of student nurses and the spiritual care rendered to their hospitalized patients when grouped according to:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Year level;
 - c. Religion?

4. Is there a significant difference between the profile of student nurses and the spiritual care rendered to their hospitalized patients when grouped according to:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Year level;
 - c. Religion?

Hypothesis

Statement problems number one and two were hypotheses free. For statement problem number three and four, the following hypotheses had been derived:

H₀. There is no significant relationship between the profile of student nurses and the spiritual care rendered to their hospitalized patients when grouped according to:

- a. Age
- b. Year level
- c. Religion

H₀. There is no significant difference between the profile of student nurses and the spiritual care rendered to their hospitalized patients when grouped according to:

- a. Age
- b. Year level
- c. Religion

Scope and Limitation

The study was focused to determine if there is a significant relationship between student's profile which includes age, religion and year level and the spiritual care rendered to hospitalized patients during clinical exposure. The respondents were the second year, third year and fourth year student nurses of

the ADDU School of Nursing (SON) enrolled in S.Y. 2015-2016. The study was covered within the first semester of S.Y. 2015-2016 from July to August at a specific time during school days ideal for the availability of the respondents in coordination with their respective academic schedules, and was conducted at Finster and Thibault buildings of ADDU.

Significance of the Study

The importance of this study is to determine if there is a significant relationship between student's profile and the spiritual care rendered to hospitalized patients during clinical exposure.

The results of the study will benefit the following:

Ateneo de Davao University. The university will be able to emphasize spiritual care in the nursing curriculum.

Clinical Instructors. The clinical instructors will be able to assess and evaluate the spiritual care given by their students during clinical exposure.

Student Nurses. The student nurses will be mindful to include spiritual care in rendering care to their patients.

The Hospitalized Patients. The hospitalized patients will be able to experience comfort and recovery through spiritual care.

The Future Researchers. The future researchers will be able to use this study as a guide for their research and for comparison of data.

Definition of Terms

The following terms were defined conceptually and operationally:

Age. According to Merriam-Webster (2015), age refers to the amount of time during which a person has lived.

In this study, the term refers to the actual age of the respondents.

Devotional Articles. A book or journal or article that helps you grow in your relationship with God. (About.com, 2015)

In this study, the term refers to books, writings and journals about God or relating to spirituality.

Hospitalized patient. According to Dictionary of English Language (2011), hospitalized patient is a patient that is placed in a hospital for treatment, care, or observation.

In this study, the term refers to the patients admitted and cared by ADDU students in the hospital.

Pastoral Care. The term that apply to a ministry of compassion, encouragement and transformation within the Christian life. (Van Der Hart, 2011)

In this study, the term refers to the referral of student nurses on spiritual care to pastors, priests, imam, or spiritual advisor.

Prayer. According to Merriam-Webster (2015), prayer is a silent or spoken petition made to God or a god. It may involve confessions of sin, requests, thanks, praise, offerings of sacrifice, or promises of future acts of devotion.

In this study, the term refers to an act of communicating to God in a form of praise, thanksgiving and requests.

Religion. According to Merriam-Webster (2015), religion refers to an organized system of beliefs, ceremonies, and rules used to worship a god or a group of gods.

In this study, the term refers to a belief of a group.

Religious Rituals. A ceremony having religious meaning (Farlex, 2015).

In this study, the term refers to the religious or spiritual practices.

Sacred Music. Genre of music composed for performance as part of religious ceremonies. (Farlex, 2015)

In this study, the term refers to songs or chants relating to God or a higher being.

Spiritual Care. That care which recognizes and responds to the needs of the human spirit when faced with trauma, ill health or sadness and can include the need for meaning, for self-worth, to express oneself, for faith support, perhaps for rites or prayer or sacrament, or simply for a sensitive listener. NHS Education for Scotland (2009)

In this study, the term refers to the act of care that the student nurses may have rendered towards their patients during clinical exposure specifically prayer, religious rituals, pastoral care, devotional articles and sacred music.

Student Nurse. According to Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (2006), student nurse refers to a student in program leading to certification in a form of nursing; usually applied to students in an RN or practical nurse program.

In this study, the term refers to the second year, third year and fourth year students of Ateneo de Davao University School of Nursing enrolled in S.Y. 2015-2016.

Student's Profile. Student's profile refers to the information about a student (wisegeek.com, 2015).

In this study, the term refers to the student's age, year level and religion.