

"Nature alone cures... and what nursing has to do... is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him", and "nursing components include all things but it is unknown" she wrote in 1859, which is still true in the 21st century (3).

Osborn (4) described nursing as caring based on nursing knowledge, which is directed by the ethical and spiritual principles and responsibility. Clark (3) defined it as a physical job for patient safety, comfort, feeding and cleaning, or as doctors' assistant for medication administration. However, all of them are parts of nursing function.

There is a lack of clarity in nursing definition that results in some problems in determining and defining some aspects of nursing including roles and duties. Therefore, the initial phase to recognition of nursing is clarification of the concept (5). Paley (1996) stated that concept clarification could help operationalizing and measuring concept; clarifying the attributes and scope of a concept also results in function improvement.

Although multiple approaches have been used for concept development, the purpose of these approaches is different; the results are also not similar (6, 7). Concept analysis as a research method helps to expand the body of knowledge, especially regarding concepts. It also provides knowledge base for performance through clarifying and understanding of a concept. According to Walker and Avant (2004), the main purpose of analysis is to distinguish between the defined and other characteristics.

Several methods have been developed for concept analysis with different philosophical foundations such as Pragmatism and Existentialism (6, 8). As "Nursing" is a concept that has meaning in the context of underlying factors, Rodgers' evolutionary concept analysis approach is appropriate to reduce the semantic vagueness and clarify nursing concept. Rodgers has studied the process of change and evolution of concept over time with an inductive and rigorous approach. This analysis involves determining the association of words and relevant surrogates, history, attributes, examples and consequences. The purpose of the analysis is to describe the concept and common application that will be the basis for further development (9). These characteristics make Rodgers' method appropriate for clarifying complex concepts, such as nursing. Since some clarification is helpful toward understanding,

this study was carried out to analyze the concept of nursing.

Methods

Concept analysis is part of the cycle of concept development, and Rodgers asserts that this cycle involves the application, significance, and use of a concept (10). According to Rodgers (2000), clarification is an important phase in the development of useful and meaningful concepts in nursing; however, it is not the final step in the process. Indeed, it is an essential step in knowledge development of concepts in nursing. Seven steps of Rogers' method can be categorized as follow: defining the concept and related statements; proper scoping (location and sample) for data collection; data collection and selection of texts; data analysis to explain related concepts; using examples, antecedents and consequences; providing an example for clarifying concept in the context; interpreting results and determining implications; assumptions and mentions for further development of the concept, which aims to perform further analysis in order to get closer to the concept and reduce the semantic vagueness (9).

After determining the significance of concept in the discipline context, a range of domains and literature were assessed in the next phase (8). We searched databases including: Google book, Springer, CINAHL, PubMed, Medline, Science direct, Google scholar, and Ovid. The keywords were 'nursing', 'nursing concept', 'nursing care', 'nursing practice', 'nursing history', which were used separately or in combination with each other.

Later, to achieve more precise results, inclusion criteria were identified. The main inclusion criteria in the final analysis were the literature published in English or Persian within the context of nursing. There was no time limitation. Preliminary result of the search led to 6706 articles which considered the inclusion and exclusion criteria and duplicated items decreased to 286 cases. At this stage, articles which were not in English or Persian and were in letter, editorial or commentary format excluded from the study, as a result the number decreased to 83. Then 35 articles which did not have extra information about nursing concept or were not accessible in full text excluded from the gained mass of information. At the final stage, 43 articles and 6 relevant book were included in the concept analysis (Figure 1). Two investigators reviewed the literature vigorously.

Deductive content analysis of the information on nursing concept was performed by two researchers, then themes were identified. Information units consisted of related words, sentences, information and responses to the following questions: What are the specific attributes of nursing? What is the definition of nursing? Which concept is associated with nursing? What are the antecedent, consequences or outcomes of nursing. All the textual data were coded to answer these questions. Next, the codes be arranged into categories and sub-categories based on Rodgers methods (definition, attributes, related and interchangeable concepts, antecedents and consequences of the concept). The first and correspond authors performed data coding, and other authors supervised the analysis process. Where there is conflict during analysis, the authors discussed about it until they come to agreement. Microsoft office word (2013) was used for management of data.

Results

The result of study explained based on Rodgers evolutionary concept analysis steps.

1. Concept definition

The initial phase was to determine the concept and its position. The most important feature of the concept is 'Significance'. Position in the context refers to the meaning of a concept in a desired discipline (9). In order to understand the significance of the concept, the definitions which used should be specified; therefore the various definitions of nursing were provided.

A variety of definitions of nursing were provided which include: nursing is a conscious, physical, emotional and moral process that includes identification of nursing needs, interventions and personal care, information, training, advice and support, and emotional, physical, and spiritual support (3). According to Dorland dictionary, nursing is "the provision of essential or helpful services for promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health and well-being or prevention of illness among infants, sick and injured people, or people who are unable to provide such services for themselves due to any reason" (11). According to the International Council of Nursing (2010), nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care for individuals of all ages,

families, groups, communities, sick or well in all centers" (12). Nursing is also known as an "interactional process" that emphasize interpersonal relationships and share experiences related to health (13). According to Thresyamma (2005), nursing is a profession, art and science of providing services to human beings to help them to restore or maintain normal state of the body and mind. When nurses are not able to reach such goals, they help people to relieve pain, anxiety, mental or spiritual distress.

2. Attributes

Properties are a series of characteristics that help to identify situations of a concept (9). According to the studies, nursing properties can be classified into the following dimensions:

2.1. The goal of nursing

Different purposes of nursing have been mentioned in the literature. The most important purposes are caring; promoting and maintaining health; welfare and quality of life; empowerment to restore health and comply with problems; protecting people and preventing disease (3, 4, 12).

2.2. Nursing scope

Nursing is responsible for defining the roles and scopes of practice. On the other hand, the scope of nursing practice is related to a range of responsibility, accountability and competencies. The general areas of nursing practice can be summarized as the following: providing safe nursing care in collaboration with other colleagues, supervising others, leading, managing, teaching, researching and developing health care policy. Some authorities consider specific domains of nursing as an individuals' unique response and experiences about health, illness, instability, disability and health-related events in all situations (3, 12, 14-16).

2.3. Nursing dimensions

Nursing as a science and an art: Nursing is both science and art (17, 18) which have a synergistic relationship with each other; the sum of these two dimensions are much larger than either one alone. Art is manifested in

caring; however, compassionate care would not be provided without the scientific knowledge base that accredited nursing practice (17). Some authors focus on either science or art alone (19). Wainwright (1999) suggested an assumption that nursing is an art; art in the sense is sometimes beautiful, sometimes a skill or craft. On the other hand, nursing is not a fine art, but it is an art in which skill or craft is done by individuals. Many features of nursing are distinguished from the fine arts and performing arts (drama). Emphasis on nursing as an art can make many aspects of nursing out of this format (20). Gavin (2008) stated that nursing specialty is a combination of objectivity (technical specialty) and subjectivity (interpersonal specialty). "Good nursing" is defined as a combination of both of these dimensions. However, physical component of nursing (care for the body) is in the field of nursing, and "emotional" engagement completes nursing process (21).

Nursing as a profession: Some authors believed that nursing is science, art, or profession; nursing profession specialized services to enhance human beings health and social welfare. Thresyamma (2005) quoted American Nurses Association that nursing profession is considered as a combination of intellectual accomplishments, attitude and subjective skills based on the principles of medical science achieved through educational courses in nursing colleges under supervision of hospitals, which aims to be recognized by government and operated by persons authorized and undertaken in relation to preventive and curative health(22). Grace, et al (2016) wrote that nursing remained what Windt (1989) expressed; Nursing is a critical service profession which would not function correctly without society(23).

2.4. Nursing functions and obligations

- Nursing functions and obligations can be categorized as follows:
- Using knowledge, training and experience and developing nursing practice based on creative thinking and research
- Teaching and providing information
- Using nursing process to provide care to diagnose and treat patient responses,

environment and dimensions of health and illness, physical, emotional, mental, social, spiritual and support, activate and empower patients, clients and health care workers.

- Using communication skills (listening and consultation)
- Team working and interacting between the concept including person, health, environment and nursing
- Using nurses' individual attributes such as kindness, respect, integrity and non-judgmental approach (3, 4, 13, 24-28).

2.5. Nursing roles

Nursing roles are described in the context of nursing functions. New nursing roles have evolved slightly from performance-based to holistic and from task-orientated to patient-centered (27). Nursing interventions may be associated with other health care professionals or independent activities (13). Henderson (1955) defines nursing roles in three areas: the substitutive (do for person), supplementary (helping people) and complementary (practice to help the patient)(29). College and Association of Registered Nurses in Alberta (2005) identified four primary roles for nursing profession including: practitioner, teacher, manager, and researcher. One or more of these roles is the main focus of nursing practice, depending on the level of functional and specialty care. Although practitioner role is fundamental, other roles have arisen for preservation and promotion of the practitioner role (28).

Osborn, Wraa & Watson (2013) believed that nurses' roles include acute and non-acute care practice, advanced practice, and acting in a number of new and evolving fields including: acute care nurse, nurse providing direct patient care, nurse educators, nursing manager, nursing administrator, non-acute care nurse, community health nurse, researcher, church nurse, school nurse, long term care nurse, life care centers nurse, clinics nurse, hospice nurse, geriatric nurse, industrial and occupational health nurse. Advanced practice roles include clinical nurse specialist, practitioner nurse, nurse midwife, licensed anesthetic nurse, and nursing lecturer. They also emphasized that all of the functional roles of nurses rely on the nursing process as a framework for providing care to patients (4). Horton, Tschudin & Forget (2007) suggested that nursing roles are always rooted in the moral

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