Civility as a Nursing Concept in the Classroom Setting

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Overview

- A culture of civility in nursing education is crucial for a healthy learning environment to thrive.
- This ethnographic qualitative study sought to understand the lived experiences of nursing students, and learn if using student-led interviews increased the authenticity of participant responses. This study was done over a 10 week period.
- The study comprised two arms, with this arm focusing on the classroom aspect of nursing education, and the other arm focusing on the clinical aspect of nursing education.
- Civility: "the intention to seek common ground and inherently requires an authentic degree of respect for one another and the relationship." (Clark, 2017, p. 11)
- Authentic: "the truthful and honest expression of one's internal beliefs, values, and emotions without external pressures" (Merriam Webster, n.d.; Mind Tools Content Team, n.d.; Schrage, M., 2015).

Methods

- Anonymous one-on-one student-led phone interviews were conducted and recorded by the student researcher.
- The interview consisted of 11 open-ended questions (see QR code), with pertinent follow-up questions being asked as needed.
- Otter.ai was used to transcribe the audio recordings, and de-identify them to preserve the anonymity of the participants.
- The SAMMSA model was utilized for analyzing the data. This model consists of the following steps:
  - 1. S&A: Summary and Analysis coding
  - 2. M1: Development of Micro themes
  - 3. M2: Development of Meso themes
  - 4. S: Generation of Narrative Syntheses
  - 5. A: Cross-syntheses Analysis and Interpretation
- The short time frame was the greatest limitation to this study. The nature of the SAMMSA model is time-intensive. Due to time constraints, the researchers selected a single data unit per arm of the study to analyze with this method. Both arms met and engaged in robust discussion to complete steps 4 & 5.

Results

- The student researcher and their mentor separately coded the summary and analysis to reduce any bias. They then worked together to compare their codes, creating 12 micro themes (see QR code).
- The analysis of the classroom data unit found four Meso themes.
  - Factors that Create a Healthy Learning Environment
  - Student Desires Mutual Understanding and Open Communication
  - Importance of Professionalism and Respect in the College of Nursing
  - Impact of Civility and Incivility on Learning Outcomes
- The analysis of both the classroom and clinical data unit found three synthesized themes.
  - The role of the instructor is to lead student learning
  - Students will use real world experiences to define civility unless it's taught in the nursing curriculum
  - Students desire their instructors to value them as individuals capable of becoming competent nurses

Conclusion

- What can we learn from this research?
  - Civility plays a crucial role in creating a healthy learning environment in nursing education.
  - Anonymous student-led interviews allowed for participants to openly express their feelings to the student researcher.
  - Nursing curriculum should contain civility as a concept, or else the students will have to rely on their real world experiences for their definition and perception of civility.
- Where does this research lead?
  - Quality improvement measures
  - Further analysis of the unused interview transcripts.
  - Further research on the topic of civility in the college of nursing.

References

3. See this QR code for all sources used in this study.

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