Caring is central to the lives of all people and is essential to the delivery of healthcare. The concept, however, means different things to different people and even to the same people at different times. Therefore, a concept analysis is designed to describe and clarify a concept in terms meaningful to the healthcare professional. This process involves defining the concept, exploring the antecedents and consequences of that concept, and identifying empirical referents of the concept. The Walker and Avant methodology of a concept analysis is used to explore the concept of caring within the context of homeless healthcare. Research includes selecting the concept, defining the concept, identifying the defining attributes of that concept, and determining the antecedents and consequences of that concept and its empirical referents.

Key terms: caring, homelessness, health, concept analysis

Method

Within the context of a concept analysis, the following steps are taken:

1. Concept selection
2. Concept definition
3. Identifying the antecedents of the concept
4. Identifying the consequences of the concept
5. Identifying empirical referents of the concept

OBJECTIVES

1. Caring is central to and represents the true spirit of nursing.
2. Caring for the homeless is a vital response to the health and wellbeing of the individuals affected by homeless and society at large.
3. The aim of this presentation is to explore the inner matrix of the concept caring to gain more insight which can in turn affect nurses’ caring behaviors and eliminate the perception of unworthiness by the homeless population.

Results

Retrieval of Caring

1. Stavenhagen-Schulze (2011) implemented a study where the concept caring is defined as “caring, concern and empathy to another.”
2. Walker and Avant (2005) defines a concept as “an aggregation of all the things that have to do with a phenomenon.”
3. A definition of caring is “the act of helping others without expecting anything in return.”

Identifying the antecedents of the concept caring

1. Antecedents of the concept caring include: experiences, values, and beliefs. These factors influence the way individuals perceive and interact with others.
2. Personalized care is essential to meeting the needs of people who are homeless. Nurses can use the concept caring to guide their interactions with these individuals.

Identifying the consequences of the concept caring

1. Consequences of the concept caring include: increased patient satisfaction, decreased patient anxiety, and improved patient outcomes.

Identifying empirical referents of the concept caring

1. Empirical referents are ways of measuring concepts to help demonstrate the occurrence of the concept caring. Examples include: The Caring Professional Scale (Swanson, 2002), Attitudes Towards Homeless People Scale (Zrinyi & Balogh, 2004), and the Agreeable to Others Scale (Denham, 2005).

Discussion

This study discusses the concept of caring within the context of homeless healthcare. The research involved selecting the concept, defining the concept, identifying the defining attributes of the concept, and determining the antecedents and consequences of the concept and its empirical referents.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the concept of caring is central to the delivery of healthcare, especially for the homeless population. Through the implementation of the Walker and Avant methodology, nurses can gain a deeper understanding of the concept caring and use this knowledge to improve the care they provide to their patients.

References


Conclusion

Empirical referents are ways of measuring concepts to help demonstrate the occurrence of the concept caring within the homeless population. This study has shown that the concept caring is central to the delivery of healthcare, especially for the homeless population. Through the implementation of the Walker and Avant methodology, nurses can gain a deeper understanding of the concept caring and use this knowledge to improve the care they provide to their patients.