Incivility Between Nursing Students in the Classroom: A Review of the Literature

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**Problem Statement**
- Very little has been reported on civility between students.
- Nearly 62% of students and faculty in nursing education have reported incivility in an academic setting (Clark & Springer, 2007).
- This gap in the literature is detrimental young professional nurses.
- Identifying student:student incivility during nursing school is important to acknowledge and intervene to help students understand that this behavior is unacceptable.

**Purpose Statement**
The purpose of this literature review is to identify and synthesize the available evidence on student:student incivility between undergraduate nursing students in the classroom.

**Method**
- A comprehensive review of the literature was conducted in Medline, Pubmed, CINAHL, ERIC, and PsycInfo using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) to guide the literature review.
- Terms used in the search included: nursing, nursing education, nursing students, incivility, bullying, micro-aggressions (utilizing Boolean terms).
- The search was conducted in June/July 2016. The literature search was conducted in several phases.

**Research Question**
*Does incivility occur between students in undergraduate nursing programs?*

**Incivility Defined**
- Incivility is difficult to define, often reciprocal and nourished by disrespect between two people.
- Tiberius and Flak (1999) defined incivility as any type of speech or action that is rude or disrespectful. Behaviors of incivility include, but are not limited to, disrespectful behaviors, condescending statements, negative attitudes, and bullying.

**Discussion**
- Three overarching themes emerged: perceived student stressors, lack of coping abilities, and self-concept issues.
- Perceived student stressors include the following: 1) role strain, 2) financial burdens, 3) time-management constraints, 4) lack of faculty support, 5) faculty incivility, and 6) mental health issues.
- The lack of coping abilities plays a significant role in promoting incivility.

**Results**
- 146 articles were identified in the literature review.
- 54 abstracts were reviewed.
- 29 articles were reviewed and of those, 23 articles were excluded due to the articles not addressing student:student incivility.
- Ultimately, six articles were selected for this literature review.