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Spirituality in Nursing: Faculty-Student Collaboration

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Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to describe the faculty-student collaboration in identifying strategies to help address spirituality in nursing, in order to promote holistic concept of nursing through a sense of personhood and individuality among nursing students and faculty.

Methods:

Faculty and nursing students collaborated to identify ways to address spirituality in nursing to promote holistic concept of nursing among nursing students and faculty. Literature review was performed on the spirituality in nursing. Nursing faculty and nursing students including undergraduate and graduate nursing students, were interviewed to identify the need for an on-campus student-body fellowship to: (a) address spirituality in nursing, (b) and promote holistic concept in nursing. Recognizing that nursing students face challenging, life-and-death situations in the clinical settings, the need for the Nurses Christian Fellowship was identified as a support group. Nurses Christian Fellowship yearns to help bring insight and training for nursing students to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals. In addition, Nurses Christian Fellowship seeks to provide safe spaces for students to ask and consider spiritual questions that arise. Proposal to establish Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter was submitted to the School of Nursing. Upon receipt of the permission from the School of Nursing, proposal for Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter was submitted to the university's Student Association Senate. Networking was established with the Intervarsity Nurses Christian Fellowship ministry to receive guidance in launching the Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter. Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter launching was approved by the Student Association Senate and the Chapter was fully recognized by the university's Student Association Senate, under Senate Bill No. 02: Forty-Ninth Session.

Results:

Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter monthly meetings were initiated. Chapter leaders were able to recruit undergraduate and graduate nursing students as well as nursing faculty, for the monthly meetings. The fellowship meetings have been designed to promote integration of Christian faith and professional nursing, to engage in evangelism and service, to practice spiritual formation in the context of community, and to be empowered to share faith with other nursing students and faculty. The chapter welcomed all nursing students and faculty members at the School of Nursing regardless of their religious or spiritual background. Faculty and students expressed the Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter as a tool to be encouraged, to grow in faith in the context of nursing school, and be equipped to integrate faith with nursing through Bible study and spiritual care resource. Member participants also expressed the chapter preparing them to meet holistic needs of their patients.

Conclusion:

Faculty-student collaborative efforts are vital to identify strategies necessary for addressing spirituality in nursing efficiently in order to promote holistic concept in nursing through a sense of personhood and individuality. Both undergraduate and graduate nursing students need to be competent in addressing their own needs for spirituality in nursing in order to extend this competency to meet the holistic needs of their patients. Having Nursing Christian Fellowship as a support group within a school of nursing, is a powerful

way for students to find community with like-minded people in a safe environment, to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals. Aside from having a place to feel safe in sharing nursing experiences faced with clinical and spiritual battles, it also serves as a means to build friendships with those reaching for the same goal, and accountability partners with good Christian foundation.

Title:

Spirituality in Nursing: Faculty-Student Collaboration

Keywords:

Faculty-student collaboration, Spirituality and Spirituality in nursing

References:

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Abstract Summary:

Recognizing that nursing students face challenging, life-and-death situations in the clinical settings, it is important for faculty and nursing students to collaborate to identify ways to address spirituality in order to promote holistic concept in nursing. The Nurses Christian Fellowship group has been identified as a support group.

Content Outline:

Learning objectives:

1. The learner will be able to describe the faculty-student collaboration to address spirituality in nursing to promote holistic concept in nursing among nursing students and faculty.
2. The learner will be able to discuss the impact of Nurses Christian Fellowship as a support group to help bring insight and training for nursing students to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation.

Introduction:

Holistic nursing focuses on healing the whole person and addresses the interconnectedness of the mind, body, spirit, social/cultural, emotions, relationships, context, and environment. Holistic care in nursing embraces the concept of spirituality in day-to-day nursing practice. Patients in acute and primary care settings face stress and often need effective spiritual coping strategies to help them cope in a meaningful way. Nursing students face challenging, life-and-death situations in the clinical settings. Further, there is an evidence that patient's spiritual needs are not being met and nurses are often ill equipped to provide this care. In addition to be competent in technical skills, knowledge, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice, a professional nurse needs to be competent in the spiritual dimensions of care as well. Lack of competency for spirituality in nursing profession, could lead to uncertainty and lack of confidence in provision of holistic care. Therefore, interventions leading to development of competency in spirituality in nursing profession is important to provide guidance to nursing students as well as trained professional nurses and faculty to identify their own needs of spirituality in order to meet their patients' spiritual needs in a non-judgmental way. Nurses, nursing students, and patients may belong to diverse religious and faith backgrounds but they all need to have their spirituality addressed in a meaningful way, which focuses on a broader holistic concept. Spirituality in nursing is to be understood and practiced within a meaningful paradigm, which includes religious and non-religious system of beliefs and values and understanding of what gives life meaning, purpose, and connection with others. Thus, faculty-student collaboration is necessary to identify ways to address spirituality in nursing in a practical way to promote holistic concept in nursing among nursing students and faculty. Nurses Christian Fellowship has been identified as one of the ways to build competency for addressing spirituality in nursing. Nurses Christian Fellowship is a support group, which yearns to help bring insight and training for nursing students, nurses, and faculty to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals. In addition, Nurses Christian Fellowship seeks to provide safe spaces for students to ask and consider spiritual questions that arise. The spiritual questions that nursing students face are unique to nursing school, so creating a specific space for them is especially important for their well-being and professional development. The Nurses Christian Fellowship aims to help nursing students and faculty to be encouraged to grow in faith in the context of nursing school, become equipped to integrate faith with nursing through Bible study and spiritual care resources, and be empowered to share faith with each other.

Body:

Main point #1: Concept of holistic nursing, spiritual needs of patients, nursing students, nurses, and nursing faculty, importance of competency for spirituality in nursing profession.

Main point #2: Faculty-student collaboration in identifying strategies to efficiently address spirituality in nursing in order to promote holistic concept of nursing

Main point #3: Nurses Christian Fellowship as a support group to build competency for addressing spirituality in nursing and to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals

Main point #4: Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter as a tool to practice spiritual formation in the context of community, to empower for sharing faith with other nursing students and faculty in the context of nursing school and to equip for integrating faith with nursing through spiritual care resources.

Conclusion: Faculty-student collaborative efforts are vital to identify ways to build competency for spirituality in nursing and address holistic concept in nursing through a sense of personhood and individuality. Both undergraduate and graduate nursing students need to be competent in addressing their own need for spirituality in nursing in order to extend this competency to meet the holistic needs of their patients. Having Nursing Christian Fellowship as a support group within a school of nursing, is a powerful way for students to find community with like-minded people in a safe environment to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals. Aside from having a place to feel safe in sharing nursing experiences faced with clinical and spiritual battles, it also serves as a means to build friendships with those reaching for the same goal, and accountability partners with good Christian foundation.

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