

N302.
Theory
Building:
concepts
and
principles



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OUTLINE

- DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS OF NURSING THEORY

- Notion or an idea that explains experience, interprets observations, describes relationships, and project outcomes.
- Mental patterns or frameworks created to help understand and create meaning from our own experience, organize and articulate our knowing, and ask questions leading to new insights.
- Not discovered in nature, but are human inventions
- Organizing structures of our reflections, observations, projections, inferences
- Seen as lenses, they shape and color what is seen
- Reflections of understanding, guide our actions, help us set forth desired actions, give evidence to what has been achieved.
- Parker & Smith 2010

EARLY WRITERS and definitions

- Dickoff and James (1968) – “conceptual system or framework invented for some purpose”
- Ellis (1968) – “coherent set of hypothetical, conceptual system, and pragmatic principles forming a general frame of reference for a field of inquiry”
- Mckay (1969) – “ capstone of scientific work”, “logically interconnected sets of confirmed hypotheses”
- Barnum (1998) – “ a construct that accounts for or organizes some phenomenon” , ” describes and explains nursing”

DEFINITIONS CONSISTENT WITH IDEAS OF THEORY IN NURSING PRACTICE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ADMINISTRATION₁

- “ set of concepts, definitions, and propositions that project a systematic view of a phenomenon by designating specific interrelationships among concepts for the purpose of describing, explaining, predicting, and/ or controlling phenomena” (Chinn & Jacobs, 1987).
- “ a creative and rigorous structuring of ideas that projects a tentative, purposeful, and systematic view of phenomena” (Chinn & Kramer, 2004).
- “ a conceptualization of some aspect of reality (invented or discovered) that pertains to nursing”; “for the purpose of describing, explaining, predicting, or prescribing nursing care” (Meleis, 1997).

DEFINITIONS CONSISTENT WITH IDEAS OF THEORY IN NURSING PRACTICE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, ADMINISTRATION₂

- “ an inductively or deductively derived of collage of coherent, creative, and focused nursing phenomena, that frame, give meaning to, and help explain specific and selective aspects of nursing research and practice” (Silva, 1997).
- “ an imaginative grouping of knowledge, ideas, and experience that are represented symbolically and seek to illuminate a given phenomenon” (Watson, 1985).

PURPOSE OF THEORY IN PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

- Organize knowledge, guide practice, enhance the care of patients, and guide inquiry to advance science.
- Patterns that guide the thinking about, being, and doing nursing.
- Provide concepts and designs that define the place of nursing in health care.
- To further the development and understanding of nursing practice.
- The major reason for structuring and advancing nursing knowledge is for the sake of nursing practice.
- Nursing practice is both the source and goal of nursing theory.

PARADIGMS

- From the work of Kuhn (1970, 1977) who used the term to describe models that guide scientific activity and knowledge development; that science is a work of scholars in the context of society.
- “ a global , general framework made up of assumptions about aspects of the discipline essential for its development”
- Worldviews of nursing – reflect different values and beliefs about the nature of
 - human beings (the patient),
 - human-environment relationships,
 - health,
 - caring

PARADIGMS OR WORDVIEWS

○ TOTALITY PARADIGM

- **That humans are integrated beings with biological, psychological, sociocultural, and spiritual dimensions. (Parse, 1987)**
- **Humans adapt to their environment, and health and illness are states in a continuum**

○ SIMULTANEITY PARADIGM

- **Humans are unitary, irreducible, and in continuous mutual process with the environment (Rogers, 1970, 1992)**
- **Health reflects the process of becoming or evolving.**

NURSING PARADIGMS (Newman, et al (1991)

- PARTICULATE- DETERMINISTIC –
 - **humans are known through parts, health is the absence of disease, and predictability and control are essential for its management.**
- INTERACTIVE- INTEGRATIVE –
 - **humans are viewed as systems with interrelated dimensions, interacting with the environment, and change is probabilistic.**
- UNITARY- TRANSFORMATIVE –
 - **humans are patterned , self-organizing fields within larger patterned, self-organizing fields.**
- ❖ Fawcett (1995, 2000) - paradigm: reaction (humans are the sum of its parts), reciprocal interaction (with the environment), and simultaneous action (that humans are known by patterns and are in open-ever exchanging process with the environment).

REFERENCES

- Parker, M.E., & Smith, M.C. (2010). Nursing Theories and Nursing Practice, 3rd Ed. F.A. Davis Company