



AN INTEGRATIVE MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF NURSING STUDENTS

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Abstract

Developing moral integrity in nursing students is crucial for their professional growth and for providing compassionate and ethical care in the healthcare setting. This abstract outline strategy, to foster moral development in nursing students in the modern era. The methods discussed include: Incorporating ethics education into the nursing curriculum, utilizing ethical case studies, encouraging teamwork and collaboration, emphasizing continual professional development, and Facilitating reflection on personal experiences. By employing these strategies, educators and mentors can help nursing students develop a solid moral foundation, enabling them to navigate ethical challenges, make sound moral decisions, and provide patient-centered care. Implementing these strategies contributes to cultivating morally competent and compassionate nursing professionals who can effectively meet the complex demands of the contemporary healthcare environment.

Keywords: Integrative Moral Development; Nursing Students

Introduction

Moral integrity is a fundamental attribute of nursing professionals underpinning ethical and compassionate care delivery. Nursing students must develop solid moral integrity as future caregivers to ensure high-quality, patient-centered care. However, in recent years there have been concerns about the ethical readiness of nursing students and their ability to deal with complex moral dilemmas in practice (Nunthawong, J. et al, 2020)

Moral integrity is a fundamental of morality that represents the ability of nurses to face an ethical situation and provide direction for nursing practice. Professional nursing refers to adhering to the Code of Professional Conduct, expressing action according to the Code of Professional, continuing to act on the Code of Professional, and having the courage to work on the Code of Professional (Ibid., 2020). Moreover, moral integrity attributes to nursing student integrity were honesty, ethical behavior, and professionalism. Antecedents to integrity included an academic culture of respect, characterized by student-faculty relationships derived from mutual respect, trust, and a shared learning goal. (Devine, C. A., & Chin, E. D., 2018).

Recognizing the significance of moral integrity in nursing education, researchers and educators have started exploring strategies to foster and enhance this essential trait among nursing students. This research paper critically analyzes existing approaches and proposes practical strategies for developing moral integrity in nursing students. (Rest J., 1979).

Ethical Principles, Values, and Standards of Conduct in Nursing

Adherence to ethical principles, values, and standards of conduct in nursing. It involves the nurse's commitment to acting ethically, upholding patient rights, and providing care based on moral principles. Here are some critical aspects of moral integrity in professional nursing: Ethical Principles: Nurses are expected to uphold ethical principles such as autonomy (respecting patients' right to make decisions about their care), beneficence (promoting the well-being of patients), non-maleficence (avoiding harm to patients), and justice (fair distribution of healthcare resources) (Olson, L. 2002; Butler, A. M., & Strouse, S. M., 2022). Patient Advocacy: Nurses are advocates for their patients, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights are protected. They strive to promote the



best interests of their patients and act as a liaison between patients, their families, and other healthcare professionals. Ethical principles that should be added and developed in teaching and learning to nurse students (Thailand Nursing & Midwifery Council, 2007/B.E.2550; Schmidt, B. J., & McArthur, E. C.,2018) are as follows:

1. Confidentiality and Privacy: Nurses are responsible for maintaining patient confidentiality and privacy. They should safeguard patients' personal health information and only disclose it to authorized individuals for appropriate reasons.

2. Honesty and Trustworthiness: Nurses should be honest and truthful in their interactions with patients, colleagues, and other healthcare professionals. They should provide accurate information, acknowledge their limitations, and seek assistance when necessary.

Nursing Professionalship

1. Professional Boundaries: Nurses must establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with patients, avoiding inappropriate relationships or conflicts of interest.

2. Cultural Sensitivity: Nurses should respect and value their patients' diverse cultural backgrounds, beliefs, and values. They should provide culturally sensitive care that considers the individual needs and preferences of each patient.

3. Continuous Learning: Nurses are responsible for engaging in lifelong learning, keeping up with advancements in healthcare, and enhancing their knowledge and skills to provide the best possible care. By embodying these principles and values, nurses demonstrate moral integrity and contribute to the ethical practice of nursing. (Arpananthikul, M., et al.,2014; Jahromi, M. K, et al, 2018)

Moral Development

Moral development is a complex and multifaceted process influenced by various factors, including personal values, ethical principles, cultural influences, role modeling, and educational experiences. Understanding nursing students' unique needs and challenges is crucial in designing targeted interventions to

nurture their moral integrity. By equipping nursing students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes, educational institutions can foster an ethical foundation that will guide their professional practice throughout their careers (Kohlberg L., 1931).

Developing moral integrity in nursing students in the modern era is essential to their education and professional growth. Here are some strategies to help foster moral development in nursing students (Carter S., 1996; Association AN., 2015):

1. Incorporate ethics education: Integrate ethics courses or modules into the nursing curriculum to introduce students to ethical principles, moral decision-making frameworks, and the ethical challenges they may encounter in practice. Provide case studies and discussions to promote critical thinking and reflection.

2. Role modeling: Faculty members and experienced nurses should demonstrate ethical behavior and professionalism as student role models. Encourage open discussions about ethical dilemmas and the values and virtues that underpin ethical nursing practice.

3. Encourage reflection: Foster a culture of reflection and self-awareness. Please encourage students to reflect on their values, beliefs, and biases and how these may influence their nursing practice. Reflective writing exercises or group discussions can help students explore ethical issues and better understand their moral compass.

4. Expose students to diverse perspectives: Encourage students to explore different ethical frameworks and cultural perspectives to enhance their understanding of moral diversity. Expose them to diverse patient populations, cultural practices, and belief systems to foster cultural competence and sensitivity.

5. Use ethical case studies: Present students with realistic ethical scenarios and case studies commonly encountered in nursing practice. Please encourage them to analyze the moral dimensions of each case, consider potential solutions, and discuss the implications of their decisions.

6. Foster empathy and compassion: Emphasize the importance of kindness and compassion in nursing practice. Help students develop skills to understand and respond to patients' physical, emotional, and psychosocial needs.



Engage in activities that promote empathy, such as role-playing, simulation exercises, and volunteer opportunities.

7. Encourage teamwork and collaboration: Emphasize the value of collaboration and cooperation in ethical decision-making. Teach students effective communication and collaboration skills to work with interdisciplinary teams and engage in honest discussions with colleagues.

8. Provide mentorship: Pair students with experienced nurses or mentors who can guide them in ethical decision-making, moral development, and professional growth. Mentors can offer support, share their experiences, and provide valuable insights into navigating ethical challenges.

9. Continual professional development: Encourage students to learn lifelong and stay updated with evolving ethical issues in nursing practice. Provide resources such as journals, books, and workshops to help them develop their moral knowledge and skills.

10. Reflect on personal experiences: Encourage students to reflect on their clinical experiences and encounters with ethical dilemmas. Discuss these experiences in a supportive environment, allowing for self-reflection, learning, and growth.

Remember that moral development is an ongoing process that requires a combination of educational strategies, self-reflection, and real-world experiences. By incorporating these approaches into nursing education, you can help foster the moral development of nursing students in the modern era.

A Critical Approach to Developing Moral Integrity in Nursing Students

A critical approach to developing moral integrity in nursing students is incorporating ethics education within the nursing curriculum. Ethics courses and modules can give students a theoretical foundation in ethical principles and frameworks, enabling them to analyze ethical dilemmas and make informed decisions. These educational interventions can encourage self-reflection, critical thinking, and moral reasoning skills, enhancing students' ability to navigate ethical challenges they may encounter in their clinical practice. (Notarnicola, I., et al., 2016).

Furthermore, clinical experiences play a vital role in shaping the moral integrity of nursing students. Clinical placements provide opportunities for students to witness and engage in real-life ethical situations, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in practice. Proper supervision and mentoring by experienced nurse educators and clinical preceptors can guide students in developing ethical decision-making skills and ethical comportment. (ibid.2016)

Another crucial aspect of fostering moral integrity in nursing students is cultivating professional values and attitudes. Role modeling by nursing faculty and experienced professionals in clinical settings can positively influence students' ethical development. Exemplary behaviors, such as demonstrating respect for patient autonomy, promoting patient advocacy, and maintaining confidentiality, can be powerful lessons for students, inspiring them to embody these values in their practice. (ibid).

In addition to formal education and clinical experiences, an ethical learning environment is essential for developing moral integrity. Nursing programs should encourage open dialogue, reflective practice, and respectful, ethical debate. Creating opportunities for students to engage in honest discussions, case studies, and ethical dilemmas can foster their moral sensitivity and ability to identify and address ethical concerns.

Knowledges Remark

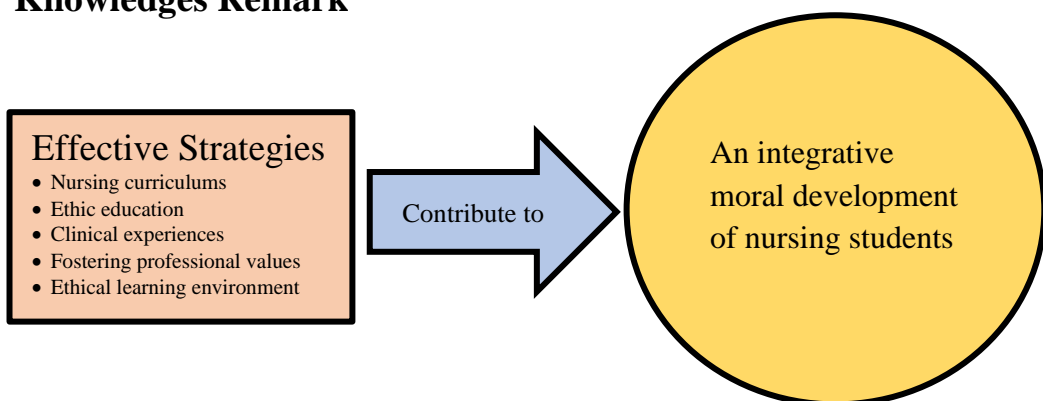


Figure 1: Knowledges Remark of Moral Development of Nursing Students



Conclusions

In conclusion, ethics is essential to the nursing profession. Because human beings must deal with the nursing profession, nursing students must be prepared academically and developed to be moral, ethical, and capable of making ethical decisions in uncomplicated situations. Development of moral integrity in nursing students is critical to nursing education. By implementing effective strategies within the nursing curriculum, incorporating ethics education, providing meaningful clinical experiences, fostering professional values, and establishing an ethical learning environment, educators can nurture the moral integrity of nursing students. This research paper will explore and evaluate these strategies, ultimately contributing to enhancing ethical practice and patient care in nursing.

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