So, You Need A Peer Reviewed Article!

Nursing Leadership and Health Policy: A Dialogue with Nurses

Scholarly Dialogue

The leaders in this dialogue participated in the process by sharing their disciplinary knowledge and experience. They were selected to work with bureaucrats to design healthcare for the future. This dialogue among two nurse leaders demonstrates a path to top leadership in the United States. Swider and Bigley here share their stories of how they moved beyond clinical practice to involvement in their communities and the nation. Through public health and policy initiatives, both nurse leaders have helped shape healthcare to provide better patient-centered care at all levels. This dialogue not only shares their successes, but also sets the stage for others in nursing to use policy to transform healthcare for the future.
What is it?

- Peer review is the act of carefully evaluating a work by one or more experts of the same field as the work, to determine its credibility, research methodology, accuracy, relevance to the literature. This review is done prior to accepting an article for publication in a journal. The journals are often called peer-reviewed *journals*. This process is done to add integrity to the discipline.

What are the characteristics?

Abstract provided that gives an overview of the article.

ABSTRACT

Background: Moral distress is associated with job dissatisfaction, turnover and early retirement. Because of these negative consequences moral distress should be reduced. Little research has been done on what job factors contribute to whether or not a situation causes moral distress.

Objective: To identify individual and job characteristics associated with moral distress in nursing staff.

Design: This is a cross sectional correlational study. Nursing staff members completed two survey questionnaires with a time-interval of 3 months. In the first survey questions were asked about job characteristics and job satisfaction. Three months afterwards the respondents answered questions on moral distress.

Participants: 365 nursing staff members employed in nursing homes, homes for the elderly, home care and acute care hospitals completed both questionnaires.

Results: High moral distress levels were related to lower job satisfaction. Moral distress is higher when nurses perceive less time available to give care to patients. If satisfaction with the consultation possibilities within the team is low and when an instrumental leadership style exists, nursing staff members are also more likely to experience moral distress. Nursing staff members working 30–40 h per week experience less moral distress than colleagues working fewer hours per week. Multivariate analyses showed no relations with other individual characteristics measured.

Conclusion: Job characteristics that contribute to moral distress should be an issue for managers because it is related to job satisfaction. Interventions to reduce moral distress should target at organisational issues. The way a team is supported can raise or decrease moral distress levels.

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What are the characteristics?

TIP: These are great for your own further research!
What are the characteristics?

Determinants of moral distress in daily nursing practice: A cross sectional correlational questionnaire survey

Anke J.E. de Veer\textsuperscript{a,*}, Anneke L. Francke\textsuperscript{a,b}, Alies Struijs\textsuperscript{c,d}, Dick I. Willems\textsuperscript{d,e}

\textsuperscript{a}The Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (NIVEL), P.O. Box 1568, 3500 BN Utrecht, The Netherlands
\textsuperscript{b}Department of Public and Occupational Health, EMGO Institute for Health and Care Research (EMGO+) of the VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, The Netherlands
\textsuperscript{c}Centre for Ethics and Health (CEG), P.O. Box 19404, 2500 CK The Hague, The Netherlands
\textsuperscript{d}Council for Public Health and Health Care, P.O. Box 19404, 2500 CK The Hague, The Netherlands
\textsuperscript{e}Academic Medical Center University of Amsterdam, Department of General Practice/Family Medicine, P.O. Box 22650, 1100 DD Amsterdam, The Netherlands
What are the characteristics?

whereas the relationship with age, years of experience and educational level is still not clear. However, most research on moral distress is descriptive, and still limited knowledge exists about determinants of moral distress.

1.3. Job characteristics and their relationship to moral distress

There are indications that some health care settings more easily trigger moral distress than other settings. Corley et al. (2001) did not find differences in moral distress levels between different kinds of hospitals, but there are some studies that did find a relationship between health care setting and moral distress. Within a hospital, nurses who cared for oncology and transplant patients experienced more moral distress than other nurses (Rice et al., 2008). Community nurses were found to report less moral distress than hospital nurses (Eizenberg et al., 2009) or nurses in psychiatric hospitals (Van der Arend and Remmers–Van den Hurk, 1999).

Few researchers also looked at possible influences of the work environment. Based on a literature review of moral problems experienced by nurses in terminal care, Georges and Grypdonck (2002) concluded that because of

2. Methods

2.1. Design and setting

This cross sectional correlational study was based on two datasets:

(1) a dataset on individual characteristics and job characteristics of nurses, gathered in the Netherlands in June 2009;
(2) a dataset on the frequency and intensity of moral distress, gathered in September 2009.

It was a secondary analysis since the data on individual and job characteristics were originally not gathered to explain moral distress.

2.2. Sample

A total of 365 Dutch nursing staff members completed the questionnaires of both datasets. All respondents were members of the Nursing Staff Panel, consisting of a nationally representative group of nursing staff members who gave direct patient care and were willing to answer questions about their job on a regular basis. Selection of
What are the characteristics?

• Organization may include sections such as:
  – Introduction
  – Background
  – Literature Review
  – Discussion
  – Methodology
  – Subjects
  – Results
  – Conclusions or areas for future research
What are the characteristics?

The journal title may include words like Journal of; Quarterly; Archives; Annals; Review; Studies; Society, etc.
What are the characteristics?

Topics are focused and narrow in scope. Peer reviewed articles are not good sources for overviews or introductions to a topic.
Let’s get practical…

How do I find a peer reviewed article?
How to find it?

• Use library provided databases, that include peer reviewed articles. Here are examples from some disciplines:
  – Nursing: CINAHL; ProQuest Nursing; MEDLINE
  – Business: Business Source Complete; ABI/INFORM Complete; Emerald
  – Education: ERIC; ProQuest Education Journal
  – General or Cross Disciplinary: Academic Search Complete
  – Psychology: PsycINFO
  – Religion: ATLA
How to find it?

Use the limiting option in the database.
How can I be sure – I don’t want to lose points!

- Limiting in the database is helpful but not 100% correct.
- Some of the database vendors’ definition of peer review is generous! Remember it is a marketing tool for them.
How can I be sure – I don’t want to lose points!

1. The journal will state in the paper issue that it is peer reviewed.
How can I be sure – I don’t want to lose points!

2. At the journal publisher’s web site, look for information for authors who want to submit articles or information about the journal.
How can I be sure – I don’t want to lose points!

3. Use ULRICHSWEB Global Serials Directory, available from the OCLS home page:
   – Click on: General, under Article Databases
   – Click on: Ulrich’s…
   – Authenticate
   – Click on: Advanced Search
   – Type the *journal* title.
   – Look for the referee symbol.
Look for the referee’s shirt. If you see it, then consider it a peer-reviewed journal. This is the authority that librarians use!
So, I have a peer reviewed article!

• I used a library database and limited my search to peer reviewed!
• I examined the article and determined it had the characteristics highlighted in this presentation.
• I verified that it was peer reviewed by checking it against Ulrich’s!
Success! That wasn’t so bad!