



Journal of Nursing

Revista de Enfermagem

UFPE On Line

ISSN: 1981-8963

NOTE PREVIEW ARTICLE

COMPREHENSIVENESS AS A WAY OF THINKING AND DOING IN NURSING: A QUALITATIVE META-ANALYSIS

A INTEGRALIDADE COMO MODO DE PENSAR E FAZER ENFERMAGEM: METASSÍNTESE QUALITATIVA

INTEGRALIDAD COMO MODO DE PENSAR Y HACER ENFERMERÍA: METASÍNTESIS CUALITATIVA

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: to describe the theoretical and conceptual theories of health comprehensiveness that support nursing practice, according to Brazilian studies; analyze nurses' *praxis* regarding comprehensiveness; discuss on the contributions and the theoretical and practical advancements involving comprehensiveness that were developed by nurses during the studied period. **Method:** this is a Qualitative Meta-Analysis in which qualitative research findings will be integrated, summarized or compiled. A search will be performed on online scientific databases to select studies that assess comprehensiveness, written in Portuguese, English, or Spanish, and performed in Brazil between 1990 and 2013. **Expected results:** in-depth findings in the research fields that address comprehensiveness, thus contributing to the construction of further knowledge and encouraging new practices. **Descriptors:** Comprehensive Health Care; Nursing Care; Nursing; Comprehensiveness in Health Care.

RESUMO

Objetivos: descrever as estruturas teóricas e conceituais sobre integralidade que fundamentam a prática profissional dos enfermeiros, a partir de seus estudos desenvolvidos no Brasil; analisar a *praxis* do enfermeiro no que tange à Integralidade; discutir sobre as contribuições e avanços teóricos e práticos relativos à integralidade desenvolvidos pelos enfermeiros, no período estudado. **Método:** trata-se de uma Metassíntese Qualitativa, onde os achados de pesquisas qualitativas serão integrados, resumidos ou reunidos. Os estudos serão selecionados pelas bases de dados científicas de referência, na WEB, relacionados com a temática da integralidade nos idiomas português, inglês e espanhol, desenvolvidos no Brasil por enfermeiros, entre 1990 e 2013. **Resultados esperados:** aprofundamentos no campo das pesquisas que tratam da integralidade, contribuindo para a construção de outros conhecimentos e incentivando novas práticas. **Descritores:** Assistência Integral à Saúde; Cuidados de Enfermagem; Enfermagem; Integralidade em Saúde.

RESUMEN

Objetivos: describir las estructuras teóricas y conceptuales sobre integralidad que fundamentan la práctica profesional de los enfermeros a partir de sus estudios desarrollados en Brasil; analizar la *praxis* del enfermero en lo referente a Integralidad; discutir sobre las contribuciones y avances teóricos y prácticos relativos a la integralidad desarrollados por los enfermeros, en el período estudiado. **Método:** Se trata de una Metasíntesis Cualitativa, en la cual los hallazgos de investigaciones cualitativas habrán de integrarse, resumirse o reunirse. Los estudios serán seleccionados por las bases de datos científicas de referencia, en la WEB, relacionados con la temática de la integralidad, en idioma portugués, inglés y español, desarrollados en Brasil por enfermeros, entre 1990 y 2013. **Resultados esperados:** profundización en el campo de las investigaciones que tratan sobre la Integralidad, contribuyendo a la construcción de otros conocimientos e incentivando nuevas prácticas. **Descriptores:** Atención Integral de Salud; Atención de Enfermería; Enfermería; Integralidad en Salud.

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INTRODUCTION

Health is a concept that is constantly being broadened. Today, in order to truly understand the meaning of health a dialogue must be established among many different sectors. In Brazil, since the 1970's, several movements have been created to redefine the public policies in the health setting by incorporating values to this discussion, which include: solidarity, equity, democracy, citizenship, development, participation and partnership. The combination of strategies involve the State, community, family and individual.¹

In 1988, The Federal Constitution of Brazil made deep changes to the Brazilian health legislation. Health became a Constitutional right to every citizen. In 1990, the Unified Health System (better known by the acronym SUS) was instituted by Law 8080 based on the principles of universality, equity and comprehensiveness. Health changed from the association of a lack of disease to the guarantee of life.²

Comprehensiveness, as described in the Organic Health Law as a system of continuous and connected set of preventive and curative, individual and collective services, required for each situation and in all levels of complexity³, has been the basis, over the years, for developing policies that aim at steering and orienting the implementation of actions to meet the population's demands and needs, in the many different levels of health care and complexity.

The guiding principles of the SUS are yet to become a reality in the everyday health care setting, even after over 20 years of its existence. Comprehensiveness is, perhaps, the less visible principle in the trajectory of the SUS and its practices. The changes made to this system, in regards to comprehensiveness, have not been much evident. Subtle changes have taken place, but they lack the necessary presence and are yet to be generalized.⁴

The materialization of health care comprehensiveness takes place in live health care settings, where several social players develop their practices and generate different perceptions about health demands and supplies.⁵ Nurses have play an active part in those live settings. This study addressed the *concepts and practices of comprehensiveness revealed in Brazilian nursing studies performed between 1990 and 2013*, i.e., since the establishment of the Organic Law, which made effective the utilization and need to implement comprehensiveness as a principle.

To do this, the following objectives were outlined:

- To describe the concepts of comprehensiveness grounding nursing practice, according to studies performed between 1990 and 2013.
- To analyze the nursing *praxis* regarding comprehensiveness.
- To discuss on the contributions and the theoretical and practical advancements involving comprehensiveness that were developed by nurses during the studied period.

METHOD

This is a Qualitative Meta-Analysis, which is a type of study in which the qualitative study findings of one given field are combined. This study refers to an "interpretative product as well as to the analytical processes to which those studies are connected, integrated, summarized, or complied".⁶

The studies will be identified through a search on databases such as LILACS, MEDLINE, CINAHL, the CAPES database for theses and dissertations, and *BVS Integralidade*. These are all databases for health studies, in which nursing was included, as it is our field of interest.

To select the studies, the following inclusion criteria were outlined:

1. Studies will be accepted if published between 1990 and 2013;
2. Languages: Portuguese, English and Spanish;
3. Studies performed in Brazil.

The following exclusion criteria were outlined:

1. Reflection papers and integrative and systematic reviews, as we are interested in understanding the relationships of concept attributions in nursing settings;
2. Studies that appear repeatedly in different databases;
3. Papers that do not fully address the theme of comprehensiveness.

The period of 1990 to 2013 was chosen because 1990 was the year when comprehensiveness gained a legal status with the implementation of the Organic Health Law, becoming a principle of the Unified Health System, which aims at guaranteeing health as a right to every citizen. Thus, the aim is to understand how comprehensiveness, as a health practice, has been understood and implemented by nurses throughout these

twenty years of the SUS implementation process.

EXPECTED RESULTS

To promote in-depth advancements in research fields that address health care comprehensiveness, collaborating to the dissemination of what has already been developed, as well as encouraging the social and scientific discussion on the intention to contribute to developing new knowledge and supporting new practices, which in a comprehensive-centered critical and reflexive approach, point to possibilities beyond what is merely theoretical.

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Submission: 2014/06/07

Accepted: 2014/06/26

Publishing: 2014/08/01

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