HISTORICAL AND DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM IN NURSING CARE: INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

O MATERIALISMO HISTÓRICO E DIALÉTICO NA ASSISTÊNCIA DE ENFERMAGEM: REVISÃO INTEGRATIVA

EL MATERIALISMO DIALÉCTICO Y HISTÓRICO EN EL CUIDADO DE ENFERMERÍA: EXAMEN INTEGRADOR

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ABSTRACT
Objective: to analyze the national and international scientific production about the contributions of the Historical and Dialectical Materialism Theory in the field of Nursing. Method: integrative review which guiding question is << What has been published in national and international level regarding the historical and dialectical materialism in the field of nursing? >> Searching occurred in the MEDLINE, LILACS, IBECS, BDENF databases and in SciELO virtual library. These descriptors were used: "historical and dialectical materialism" AND "nursing". Articles in Portuguese, Spanish and English languages were included, published in the period from 2004 to 2014. Theses and/or dissertations were excluded. Results: of 134 found, 8 articles were included. Predominance of qualitative research and Portuguese language. Conclusion: the national and international production analysis pointed out the shortage of articles referring to the use of historical and dialectical materialism in nursing. Studies have shown how theory can contribute to the work process in nursing. Descriptors: Nursing Team; Qualitative Research; Historical and Dialectical Materialism.

RESUMO

RESUMEN
INTRODUCTION

Nursing, in its social and historical context, have suffered various transformations over time, caused mainly by technological innovations and the emergence of new diseases, where, on the one hand there is the advancement of the profession and on the other, new challenges are launched for training and for caring.

It emphasizes the need for scientific involvement in the changes that occur in the nursing universe, in order to offer pipelines based on best scientific evidence, since nursing is a healthcare profession present around the world and from it are expected responses to several health problems, including those belonging to multidisciplinary team.

This is on the assumption that the complexity of the work process in nursing requires critical and profound approach to the professional context. In this sense and in order to offer contributions to strengthening the nursing work process the Historical and Dialectical Materialism Theory (MHD) can bring mechanisms to elucidate the tensions arising from the historical evolution of the profession, and understand that its totality is a relationship of interaction and connection.

The MHD has its roots in Karl Marx that characterized the historical materialist theory as the interpretation of the historical and social reality, emphasizing the importance of a particular investigation in the problems' joints and developments, as at the trace on the phenomena that involve them.

Dialectic was handled by various philosophers in addition to Marx, as Hegel, which stated the possibility of understanding reality as contradictory and in permanent transformation through dialogue, yet of how man reacts in relation to what he relates to and on his needs.

Marx, in the epistemology construction, pointed out that scientific research is the basic principle of the historical and dialectical materialism theory, enabling approach to the object of study by understanding all mediations and correlations; however, it is important to note that the work organization is not just the way the work is developed, but it depends on the hierarchical model and power relations that are established. So, even if nursing uses the scientific means as a working tool, it takes participation in decision making in order to transform reality.

Considering the need of nurses to be constantly in search of scientific knowledge in order to promote safe care, from the evidence-based practice through the use of knowledge, from research involving the most different levels of care to human being, it proposes to carry out an integrative review addressing the use of MHD in nursing. In this context, the objective of the study is:

- To analyze the national and international scientific production about the contributions of the Historical and Dialectical Materialism Theory in the field of Nursing.

METHOD

This study integrates the masters research << Actions developed by nursing teams of the Family Health Strategy in Mato Grosso do Sul >>, approved by the Ethics Committee of the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, as Opinion n° 1.232.483, of 17 September 2015. It is inserted in the study entitled “Analysis of the actions developed by Family Healthcare teams according to the National Policy of Basic Attention”, and funded by the Foundation to Support the Development of Education, Science and Technology of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul (FUNDECT), register number 59/300.197/2015.

Integrative review study conducted from July to November 2015, according to the method proposed by Whittemore and Knafli. Research was developed in six stages; in the first one it featured the theme in form of guiding question: how the Historical and Dialectical Materialism theory has been used in studies related to nursing care?

The sample selection constituted the second phase of the research, being used as criteria for inclusion the complete texts in English, Portuguese and Spanish, published between 2004 and 2014. Were excluded theses and dissertations, literature reviews, items not available in full, letters to the reader, chapters of books, newspaper articles without purpose and methodology used, repeated articles in more than one data base - that were considered once - and articles that didn't address the guiding question.

It performed literature search in databases of Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS), Índice Bibliográfico Espanhol de Ciências da Saúde (IBECS), Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE), Biblioteca Cochrane e Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO), Base de Dados de Enfermagem (BDENF).

The descriptors used were controlled associated with Boolean operators: “materialismo histórico e dialético” AND
“enfermagem”, “el materialismo histórico y dialéctico” AND “enfermería” e “historical and dialectical materialism” AND nursing”. The PubMed search terms were based on MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) and in the other bases used the terms given in the DeCS (Descriptors in Health Sciences).

In the third phase was carried out a summary of selected articles by researchers, in the step in which they prepared the articles categorization instrument with the systematization of information. Variables were considered: author, year of publication, objective of the study, methodology, subject or sample and main results, which allowed the data evaluation regarding originality, methodology, interventions, recommendations and results, as well as the levels of evidence: (I) systematic reviews or meta-analysis of relevant clinical trials; (II) randomized trial; (III) clinical trial without randomization; (IV) cohort studies and case-control; (V) systematic review of descriptive and qualitative studies; (VI) a single descriptive or qualitative study; (VII) the opinion of a Committee of experts. 15

The data synthesis analysis and articles categorization included the fourth phase of the study that aimed to preparation of database created by the authors and to identify the similarity in the type of applied research and study environment.

On the research’s fifth stage was held a discussion of the results, noting similarity between the methodologies employed in the studies and the use of historical and dialectical materialism in nursing, as well as whether the studies were directed towards the hospital area or referred to public health.

Results were arranged in Figures and faced in the light of scientific production conveyed in periodicals, becoming the sixth methodological phase of this study.

**RESULTS**

134 studies were identified, of these 49 in the database of BDENF, 44 on LILACS, 24 on SciELO, 17 on MEDLINE and none on IBECs; however, 67 were not within the studied period, 17 were repeated in more than one database, 4 were not available in full, 26 were out of the issue and other 12 did not meet other criteria for inclusion, illustrated as shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Categorization of database and selection of articles.](image)

After reading the selected articles, eight of them were included in this study, illustrated in Figure 2.

![Figure 2. Characterization of the studies, according to origin, language, year of publication and authors.](image)

The research site is characterized by six studies in hospital care and two in public health.

Of the selected articles predominated the type of qualitative research used in seven studies, followed by descriptive research used in three studies, and the others being related to case study (two studies) and exploratory type (one study), as shown in Figure 3, which describes the study data.
Nursing workers opinion on a program of continuous improvement of the quality in a university hospital.\textsuperscript{15}  
Notifications of accidents with biological material in a teaching hospital of Curitiba/PR.\textsuperscript{17}  
Working conditions and renormalizations in the activities of nurses in family healthcare.\textsuperscript{18}  
Skills to educational action of the nurse.\textsuperscript{15}  
The professional training process of intensive care nurses.\textsuperscript{20}  
Nursing work at the Dia Hospital in the context of psychiatric reform in João Pessoa.\textsuperscript{19}  
Mental health in the PSF and the nursing work.\textsuperscript{22}  
Prospects for a new organizational model of nursing work.\textsuperscript{22}  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Title</th>
<th>Type of Research</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing workers opinion on a program of continuous improvement of the quality in a university hospital.\textsuperscript{15}</td>
<td>Descriptive Case study</td>
<td>To analyze the nursing workers opinion on a program of continuous improvement of the quality in a University Hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications of accidents with biological material in a teaching hospital of Curitiba/PR.\textsuperscript{17}</td>
<td>Qualitative Descriptive Case study</td>
<td>Knowing the reality of notification of occupational accidents with biological material of a hospital in Curitiba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working conditions and renormalizations in the activities of nurses in family healthcare.\textsuperscript{18}</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>To analyze the influence of nurses working conditions in Family Healthcare and renormalizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills to educational action of the nurse.\textsuperscript{15}</td>
<td>Exploratory Qualitative</td>
<td>Building skills profile for nursing education action from the perspective of those involved in a university hospital and nursing school at USP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The professional training process of intensive care nurses.\textsuperscript{20}</td>
<td>Qualitative Descriptive</td>
<td>To analyze the conformation of the professional training process of ICU nurses in a hospital in Salvador.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing work at the Dia Hospital in the context of psychiatric reform in João Pessoa.\textsuperscript{19}</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>To learn subjects that qualify the nursing worker process in mental health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health in the PSF and the nursing work.\textsuperscript{22}</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>To understand the limits of mental health actions implementation in the basic health network of Cabeceio-PB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospects for a new organizational model of nursing work.\textsuperscript{22}</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>Reflection on new forms of work organization aiming at minimizing the professional wear in a public hospital and private hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Distribution of the studies (n=8) according to title, research type and purpose.

Among the methods used, it was observed that seven studies used the interview as their primary data collection method, followed by speech analysis or observation in five studies and database/documentary analysis also used in five studies. Considering the methodologies employed, the evidence levels\textsuperscript{15} were: (I) systematic reviews or meta-analysis of relevant clinical trials; (II) randomized trial; (III) clinical trial without randomization; (IV) two cohort studies and case-control; (V) systematic review of descriptive and qualitative studies; (VI) a single descriptive or qualitative study; (VII) the opinion of a committee of experts, as demonstrated in Figure 4.

The contribution of the dialectical and historical materialism philosophy was used in all studies in the data analysis phase for understanding the scientific findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Title</th>
<th>Subjects Studied</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Level of Evidence</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing workers opinion on a program of continuous improvement of the quality in a university hospital.\textsuperscript{16}</td>
<td>278 nursing professionals</td>
<td>Analysis through questionnaires</td>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Most showed no opinion for not knowing the program, but believe that the program interferes positively on working conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications of accidents with biological material in a teaching hospital of Curitiba/PR.\textsuperscript{17}</td>
<td>10 nurses</td>
<td>Database analysis and interview.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>63 accidents at work, of which 49 have been with women and 14 with men. It follows three dimensions that affect reporting and under-reporting: structural (working conditions), private (information, training, particular feeling - fatigue, stress) and singular (fear and interrelation with others).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working conditions and renormalizations in the activities of nurses in family healthcare.\textsuperscript{18}</td>
<td>10 nurses</td>
<td>Documentary study, observational and interview.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Inadequate working conditions hinder the achievement of the goals of health promotion and the principle of completeness required by Family Healthcare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills of the professional action of the nurse.  
Skilled professional nurses. The professional training process of intensive care nurses.  
Prospects for a new organizational model of nursing work.  
Mental health in the PSF and the nursing work.  
Nursing work at the Dia Hospital in the context of psychiatric reform in Joao Pessoa.

| Skills to educational action of the nurse.  
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| Mental health in the PSF and the nursing work.  
| Nursing work at the Dia Hospital in the context of psychiatric reform in Joao Pessoa.  

Figure 4. Distribution of the studies (n=8) according to subjects studied, methodology, level of scientific evidence and conclusion.

DISCUSSION

Working conditions of nursing staff were highlighted as similar to mechanized working, marked by low participation of nursing in political processes necessary for changes in the work process. The emphasis on tasks fragments the nursing staff work and the non-participation of professionals in decision-making processes undermines the comprehensive care.

Going on through nursing activities during its history can also be viewed in a study carried out in Spain, which emphasized that the development of technical rationality of the profession is related to changes in dominant thinking each season, and reflective practice and critical thinking are needed to understand the socio-critical nursing.

Data call attention to unfavorable conditions hindering the political process, because the emphasis is to produce a non-reflexive making, which collaborates to a cycle of non-critical role and transformer of the world, as the worldview of each professional, the low ability to deal with stressful situations, the oscillations in the relation with other professionals and the fear of losing the job. Such reasons can lead to unhealthy situations that handicaps the nursing work.

Results stressed that MHD recognizes the political power of human being to transform reality, because we live in society and knowledge is what changes the world. In this context is nursing, being a profession inserted in the scientific community and taking care of human being as an object of work, however, the practice of nursing requires the development of skills able to follow the historical moment and the global transformations.

Regarding competence in nursing, the literature pointed out the immersion in the work universe must occur from initial training in order to stimulate the creation of professional identity, so the nurse is able to act as an reality transformation agent, recognizing and respecting the autonomy of the subjects in relation to their life, among others fundamental issues for the transformation of the working process.

The scientific activity in nursing grows from the studies revelation and it is clear that their excellence promotes the formation of new highly qualified researchers, as well as consumption and dissemination of knowledge, as well as the appointment of objective and
subjective factors on the complexity of profession enablers and hindrances. It is recommended that MHD as theoretical framework to be used by nursing because it analyzes the social phenomena in transformation and contributes to the elucidation of important gaps that interfere both in the mode of production and the social recognition of nursing work.

The problems in nursing practice is intrinsically related to the social, political, cultural and health transformations that have occurred in society during its historical trajectory, and other theories, such as Michel Foucault, which deals with the power and knowledge and how they are used as a form of social control through social institutions, it can be used to analyze the speech of participants in researches related to nursing, getting cultural findings.

Were evident influences of working conditions in nursing mode of production, as well as the institutional philosophy and administrative policy may hinder the work process. In this sense, the MHD is constituted in a guiding action feature, because it allows the historical analysis of nursing work process (historical materialism), it also presents the philosophical aspect (dialectical materialism), given that Marx and Engels used the method to explain the world from the historical evolution of humanity and, as nursing is a secular profession, it can benefit from the theory proposed by the mentioned authors.

It is noteworthy that the evidence-based practice on studies in nursing has become prominent in the integrative review researches. The concern to make real and consolidated knowledge increased consubstantially and using this categorization can be seen as a decision-making process in the literature choice to support decision-making and improvement of clinical practice.

So, the results not only showed the possibility of reality interpretation from MHD, as they constituted resources for appropriation by nursing, by presenting flexible and reality dependent resources which it seeks to be an expression of, as reality is not statistical but historical.

CONCLUSION

The national and international publications analysis revealed a shortage of studies indicating the use of Dialectical and Historical Materialism in the field of nursing. This reality constitutes a motivation for further studies, since many challenges imposed to the profession refer to situations from historical study and philosophical elucidation. Especially with regard to the work fragmentation, professional devaluation, the social (in)visibility, among so many other gaps that Social Sciences are able to unravel.

Authors alike have referenced MHD both to bring the proposed objectives of the studied object, as to relate the data found with the phenomena in transformations in nursing. In addition, the theory helped in the discovery of causes and consequences of the problems encountered.

The relationship of nursing work process with MHD theory is gradually justified by the researchers, as it is an area that faces many challenges and is constantly changing.

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Historical and dialectical materialism...
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