O OBJETO DE INVESTIGACIÓN

La City of Santa Maria, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The informants will be nurses working in prenatal care activities in these units. The construction of data will be carried out through the ethnonursing method, guided by the following key enablers: observation-participation-reflection; and by a semi-structured interview. Data analysis will follow the method proposed by Leininger. The research project was approved by the Research Ethics Committee, CAEE 12161913.8.0000.5346.

RESULTADOS ESPERADOS: to promote the discussion of cultural issues essential for the nursing care provided to pregnant women and to contribute to the daily practice of nurses. Descriptores: Nursing; Prenatal Care; Culture.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: conocer desde la perspectiva cultural las prácticas de cuidado y los valores culturales de enfermeros que atienden mujeres gestantes. Método: investigación cualitativa, con enfoque etnográfico y con referencial teórico-metodológico respaldado por la teoría de la Diversidad y Universalidad del Cuidado Cultural, de Madeleine Leininger. Los escenarios serán cinco unidades urbanas de salud de la ciudad de Santa Maria, estado de Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil. Los informantes serán enfermeros que trabajan en las actividades de atención prenatal, en estas unidades. La construcción de los datos se realizará por medio del método etnoenfermería, guiado por los factores clave de observación-participación-reflexión y por entrevista semiestructurada. El análisis de datos seguirá el método propuesto por Leininger. El proyecto de investigación fue aprobado por el Comité de Ética de la Investigación, CAEE 12161913.8.0000.5346. Resultados esperados: promover la discusión de temas culturales esenciales para la atención de enfermería a las mujeres embarazadas y para contribuir a la práctica diaria de los enfermeros. Descriptores: Enfermería; Cuidado Prematuro; Cultura.

ABSTRACT

Objective: to know the care practices and the cultural values of nurses that care for pregnant women from the cultural perspective. Method: qualitative research, with ethnographic approach and theoretical-methodological background supported by Madeleine Leininger’s Cultural Care Diversity and Universality theory. The scenarios will be five urban health units of the City of Santa Maria, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The informants will be nurses working in prenatal care activities in these units. The construction of data will be carried out through the ethnonursing method, guided by the following key enablers: observation-participation-reflection; and by a semi-structured interview. Data analysis will follow the method proposed by Leininger. The research project was approved by the Research Ethics Committee, CAEE 12161913.8.0000.5346. Expected results: to promote the discussion of cultural issues essential for the nursing care provided to pregnant women and to contribute to the daily practice of nurses. Descriptors: Nursing; Prenatal Care; Culture.
INTRODUCTION

Pregnancy is a physiological event that can produce physical, emotional, economic and social changes in the life of the woman and her family. Care practices and knowledge built during this phase are culturally interwoven and define values and beliefs. Therefore, it is important to consider the cultural factors that permeate pregnancy, because these may influence care provided to women during the prenatal consultation and determine care actions to be developed.

In this way, care involves a full look to humans, including the cultural context of who is being cared, considering their previous knowledge, values, beliefs, and individual or family health practices. It is understandable that care means valuing the human being in its entirety, caring for with compassion, interest and affection. It is an attitude of concern for others, through which the human being is looked, listened and understood. In addition, care encompasses actions and activities intended to the assistance, support or training provided to another individual or group with health support needs.

From this perspective, prenatal care is an appropriate moment for the practice of nursing, because it creates conditions for the expectant mother to participate in care, acting through a shared way in the creation of a link so that actions are consistent with the way of life, highlighting the peculiarities, beliefs and cultural habits of each pregnant woman. When nursing recognizes pregnancy as a complex and unique phenomenon for the woman and her family—which involves several changes—it shows that prenatal care should exceed the biological dimension. In this direction, taking into consideration the cultural context and the meanings for the individual, subject of our care, becomes crucial in nursing. Moreover, we highlight that nursing care provided to women must be performed throughout lifecycles, valuing their beliefs, practices and ways of life.

With this regard, Leininger reinforces the importance of nurses recognizing that people have different cultures with respect to their own experiences, values and beliefs. According to the author, this fact gives importance to the theory of Cultural Care Diversity and Universality, in the sense of recognizing the meanings, usages and functions of human care, using this knowledge to obtain beneficial care.

In addition, according to the words of Leininger, nursing is a cultural phenomenon, which involves the context and the process of help to individuals of diverse cultures, in which people are not separated from their cultural context and have their values and beliefs valued. This way, it is believed that the relationships between nurses and pregnant women can occur horizontally, sharing experiences, being present, listening, reflecting and acting in line with cultural values singularized in the care provided.

OBJECTIVE

- The aim of this study is to know, from the cultural perspective, the care practices and the cultural values of nurses while caring for pregnant women.

METHOD

- Type of study
This is a field research with qualitative approach and ethnographic methodology. In the investigative field of nursing, the joint between ethnography and anthropology brought the ethnonursing method. The term ‘ethnonursing’ was developed by Leininger in the 1980s, in order to assist researchers studying the Cultural Care theory.

The method focuses on obtaining data from documentation, description and interpretation of worldview, thoughts, life experiences of informants, and how these factors potentially influence nursing care. It is intended to help nursing to document information in a systematic manner and obtain greater understanding and meaning of the everyday experiences of individuals, relating them to care provided in any cultural context. This way, ethnonursing is indicated for studies aimed at investigating practices related to care, health, welfare, experiments in life cycles, and other areas involving the phenomenon of cultural care.

- Scenario of the research
The scenario of the research will consist of two Family Health Strategies (Program proposed by the federal government to municipalities in order to implement basic care, having the family as object of assistance) and three Basic Health Units, which belong to the network of Basic Health Care in the City of Santa Maria, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. In these units, there are nurses working directly in care provided to pregnant women.

- Subjects of the research
The subjects of the study are nurses who work in the basic health care of that city and who develop systematized actions of care provided to pregnant women. For the
selection of the subjects—called key-informants in ethnornursing—research method— we followed Leininger’s guidelines, who considers to be between six and eight the ideal number of informants for master degree studies. Key-informants are considered those who experience the phenomenon studied in this project, i.e., the nurses who work in maternity care.

The criteria adopted for inclusion of informants in this study are: nurses who perform systematized actions for providing care to pregnant women, as consultations and groups of pregnant women; and nurses working in the units located in the urban region. As exclusion criteria, we adopted: nurses who work in the health units of the city, but who do not carry out systematized activities with pregnant women; and nurses that are out of service at the time of the research.

◆ Procedures for collection and recording of data
Since the study will be developed on the basis of the ethnornursing proposal, in order to consolidate it, we will use the ‘enabler guides’ (term used by Leininger to replace the term ‘instrument’), which will help the researcher at the entrance and permanence in the search field, in addition to guide the reflection about the phenomena studied, lifestyles and nursing care.

In that direction, we will use: the Observation-Participation-Reflection (OPR) enabler method (Leininger, 1985, 1991a), composed of four phases that help the researcher to penetrate gradually into the environment in which the subjects are inserted, and stay at the natural context of their informants; a semi-structured interview, which will be recorded; in addition to written notes in a field diary.

◆ Analysis of the data
The analysis will be carried out in the course of the survey, together with the collection stage. It should be noted that the field diary and the interviews transcribed permeate the analysis times, reinforcing the importance of dense description in ethnographic work.

The guide of data analysis suggested by Leininger offers four sequential phases: 1) collection, description and documentation of raw data (using the field diary); 2) identification and categorization of descriptors and components; 3) standard and contextual analysis; and 4) main topics, search results, theoretical formulations, and recommendations.

◆ Ethical considerations
The research will be in compliance with the provisions of Resolution No. 196/96 of the National Council of Health - Ministry of Health, which provides for regulatory standards and guidelines of research involving the participation of human beings (Brazil, 1996). The thesis project of the Graduate Program in Nursing of the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) was approved by the Research Ethics Committee (UFSM) in March 2nd, 2013, case No. 12161913.8.0000.5346.

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