Cultural End Of Life

NURS458-Standard Professional Nursing –Palliative Care

Purpose of Assignment

To increase student awareness of cultural difference with the End of Life by investigating a cultural/religious group other than their own views aging, grieving, death, and dying.

Student Approach to Assignment

This cultural end of life paper helped me to learn about another culture’s beliefs. This paper focused on the end of life beliefs of a culture or religion different than my own. Composing this paper opened my eyes to the fact that there are other cultures and religions that have beliefs extremely different than my own. It made me realize that some patients need different types of care based on their cultural and religious beliefs. I used the Muslim culture for my paper. This was because I was always curious about this culture being born in Saudi Arabia. Also, I wanted to learn about a culture that I assumed would be vastly different than my own.

Reasons for Inclusion of this Assignment in the Portfolio

I chose to include this assignment in my portfolio because it discusses different cultural beliefs and the importance of respecting a patient’s cultural beliefs.

Curricular Outcomes

❖ Research

• Applies research-based knowledge from nursing as the basis for culturally sensitive practice
  
  o Example: This paper shows that nursing is a culturally sensitive practice. This is apparent by the different health care needs that are required by different cultures. This assignment explains how there are many beliefs that may differ from one’s own. It explains how important these beliefs are to the patient, and emphasizes that they must be adhered to so that the patient is receiving the best care.

• Applies research-based knowledge from the arts, humanities, and sciences to complement nursing practice
  
  o Example: This paper was put together utilizing research that dealt with the arts and humanities in that I needed to research a culture to address the needs of a Muslim patient facing the end of their life. Some of the needs that I addressed in this paper are how Muslims believe in a Muslim
reading from the Koran o the dying Muslim in their last hours of life and preparing the Muslim body for burial as soon as possible while wearing gloves if you are not a Muslim. In this paper I discussed the argument of whether or not organ donation is acceptable in the Muslim culture. The research was completed by using humanities to complement the nursing practice.

❖ **Professionalism**

  - Applies an ethical decision-making framework and legal guidelines to clinical situations that incorporate moral concepts, professional ethics, and advocacy for patient well-being and preferences.

    o Example: This assignment describes how there are different cultural and religious beliefs among patients. This paper illustrated how important it is for nurses to accommodate these beliefs as long as they are safe and permissible by the health care team and company policy.

❖ **Culture**

  - Articulates an understanding of how human behavior is affected by culture, race religion, gender, lifestyle, and age

    o Example: This paper illustrates that certain cultural and religious beliefs need to be strictly adhered to with patients. A nurse that does not respect a patient’s beliefs can seriously offend, disrespect, and harm their patient. I discussed that for the Muslim culture it is imperative that a Muslim patient’s body, upon death, be prepared for burial right away, and that a non-Muslim nurse wear gloves when touching the deceased body of a Muslim patient. Both of those beliefs are simple to follow and make for the best care for the patient and the patient’s family.

    - Demonstrates sensitivity to personal and cultural definitions of health, and how these beliefs influence an individual’s reactions to the illness experience and end of life

    o Example: This assignment explains how cultural beliefs, different than my own, direct the way a patient feels about aging and the end of life experience. This paper covers the cultural needs of patients during end of life care. This paper discusses specifically how a Muslim is not upset about death, nor are they angry. I expressed how Muslims believe that death is part of Allah’s will, and therefore should be embraced. I explained how Muslims also believe that readings from the Koran should be read out
loud during the dying Muslim's final hours. I then explained that this is so Muslims can answer questions from two angels, after they die, which will then allow them to cross a bridge into Heaven. I discussed how these beliefs may differ from one’s own but need to be respected and allowed in a hospital or hospice environment. I would imagine that not following patient’s cultural beliefs could be quite distressing for the patient and the patient’s family.

- Integrates knowledge of cultural diversity in performing nursing interventions

  - Example: In this paper different Muslim cultural customs are described, such as rituals in preparing the dead Muslim’s body and time frame for those rituals. I explained how nurses should allow the loved ones of the deceased to carry out their customs, rituals, and beliefs. This is as long as safety is maintained, and they do not interfere with company policy along with the current health regimen ordered by the patient’s physician. I discussed how there is usually a way to incorporate the patient’s cultural and religious beliefs in his or her care. I expressed how it is disrespectful and uncaring to not follow a patient’s cultural needs when able.

- Considers impact of research outcomes and, the effects of health and social policies, on persons from diverse backgrounds

  - Example: For this assignment the Muslim culture was addressed. I learned that when dealing with a Muslim patient it is important to incorporate their cultural beliefs when providing care, such as same sex health care workers providing care for the Muslim patient, and how non-Muslim health care workers must wear gloves when touching a deceased Muslim patient’s body. Also, I learned that health care workers should allow as many visitors as possible for the dying Muslim patient and patient’s family. This is because it is encouraged in the Muslim culture. Organ donation should be discussed with the Muslim patient because the feelings about organ donation are different among Muslims.