Nursing Care Practices & Workplace Relations in a Thai Surgical Ward: An Exploration of Clinical Decision-Making

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Objective of the Study

- To understand the culture of the Thai surgical nurse, including the influences of culture on actions in a patterned way
- To see the example and benefit in conducting ethnographic study to uncover the influence of local nursing culture
This study offers a study of how a local ward culture underpins nursing actions of Thai surgical nurses in order to account for issues such as lack of sustainability, and failure to use research, including evidence-based nursing practice as well as to see a room for improvements.
The fieldwork setting
The study was conducted at a Thai surgical ward to illuminate and describe the culture of the Thai surgical nurse, including the ways in which the organizational culture influences or guides their thinking, decision-making, and actions in a patterned way.
An ethnographic approach based on fieldwork

- The knowledge about how the Thai surgical nurses allocate care, and make clinical decisions in the surgical ward in the context of social relations and staff culture is constructed through 8-month participant observations.
An ethnographic approach based on fieldwork

- A better understanding of the diversity of Thai surgical nursing practice is then enacted from a typical day in the life of the Thai surgical nurses, which consists of the realities, ritualised practices, relations, and integration both within their group and with others.
The study results
The study results

- Represent the way that nursing organizational culture informs the practices, decision-making, and the predictions of the nurses’ possible response to change.
The study results

- The pre- and post-operative cares allocated by the nurses of the TSW are routinised, almost ritualised, and reflect fixed assumptions about the way cares ought to be delivered, including those reflecting the lack of commitment to implement new multimodal models of care as well as research utilization and evidence-based practice (EBP)
The study Conclusion
The study raises significant concerns about the status of professional nursing in Thailand in terms of professional autonomy and the status of the nurses within the Thai hospital context.
The study Conclusion

- The ritualised practices, task-oriented working system, and the dominance of the medical model in the Thai nursing culture further reflect the need to establish an evidence-based nursing culture to create professional identity and improve the quality of care.
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“Khob Khun Kha”