



Nursing Research: Qualitative Study
A Focus Ethnography: Registered Nurses Transitioning to the Operating Room
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Purpose

The purpose of this study was to explore nurses' experiences as they transitioned to a new area of nursing practice, the operating room.

Statement of the Problem

- To meet the future Operating Room (OR) workforce, it is essential to understand transitioning to a new area.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment may be a challenge for the nurse transitioning to the OR.

Assumptions of the Study

- ❖ Lack of perioperative nursing experience in undergraduate nursing programs hinders the new nurses' preparation for the OR experience.
- ❖ Many nurses new to the OR are not aware of the multiple responsibilities that are required to render safe patient care to the surgical patient.
- ❖ Nurses may come to the OR with an unrealistic idea of OR nursing.
- ❖ Generational issues between experienced OR nurses and nurses new to the OR may hinder the transition to the OR.

Research Questions

1. What is the process of transitioning to the operating room for registered nurses who are new to the setting?
2. What are the experiences of registered nurses new to the operating room as they transition to the setting?
3. What are the influences that facilitate the transition of the registered nurse to the operating room?
4. What are the influences that hinder the transition of registered nurse to the operating room?

QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

A focused ethnography was conducted. The researcher was committed to study new nurses transitioning to the OR as a participant observer within the OR culture.

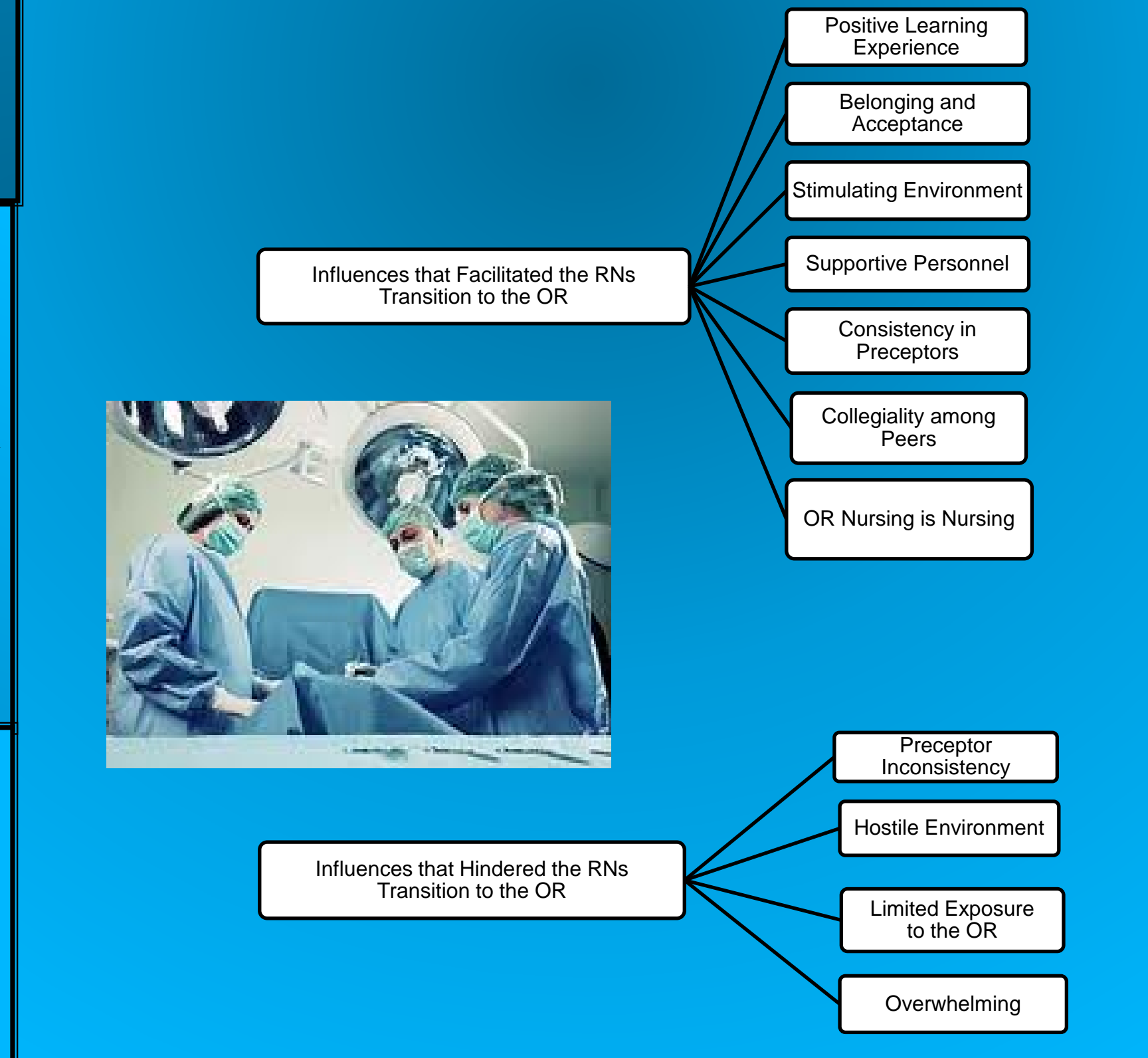
- ❖ Leininger's Ethnoscience is "a formalized and systemic study of peoples' viewpoint to obtain an accurate account how they know, classify, and interpret their way of life" (Leininger, 1985, p.237). Culture is a way life for a particular group of people (Leininger, 1978).
- ❖ Meleis (2012) described transitioning as a situational and developmental change where one adapts to new culture or environment.

This researcher was committed to study nurses who were new to the OR by observing their orientation and educational process. Individual interviews were conducted and the thoughts and experiences were revealed as the nurses transitioned becoming OR nurses.

Sample

- 14 RNs transitioning to the OR agreed to participate in this study
- All were new to the OR
 - 12 were recent graduates from a nursing program
 - 2 had previous nursing experience as RNs
 - All were within a two year criteria orienting to the OR
 - All had a least one day observational experience in the OR as student nurses
 - Mean age was 28.8 years old

Influences and Hindrances Transitioning to the OR



Findings from Study

1. Importance of a structured Program to Educate nurses to a new area of nursing practice.
2. The need for an Advanced Practice Nurse Educator is essential in coordinating and mentoring new nurses to the OR.
3. Consistent and engaging preceptors are essential to the successful transition of nurses transitioning to a new area of nursing practice.