Multiple Ways of Knowing and Multiculturalism in Psychiatric Nursing: A case study in Boromarajonani College of Nursing Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Somporn Sitthisongkram, PhD Nursing student, MSN, RN
College of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Boston, MA

Waraporn Wanchaitananawong, MS, RN
Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Chiang Mai, Thailand
## Faculty Disclosure

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<tr>
<th>Faculty Name:</th>
<th>Somporn Sitthisongkram, PhD nursing student, MSN, RN,</th>
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<td>Conflicts of Interest:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Employer:</td>
<td>UMASS Boston, USA</td>
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Goals and Objectives

Session Goal:
➢ To improve nursing education by using multiple ways of knowing in multicultural perspectives for teaching nursing students.

Session Objectives:
➢ To describe the issue that is related with nursing education in terms of different cultures, lifestyles, and religions.
➢ To apply the concept of multiple ways of knowing in multicultural perspective for teaching nursing students in different areas of study.
Introduction

➢ Reductionism was a framework that nurses used to take care of patients in the past.

➢ Because there has been a paradigm shift in nursing practices, nurses now use a new holistic framework to take care of patients.

➢ A philosophical tension may occur because the two perspectives have different views.
**Reductionism** (Ahn, Tewari, Poon, & Phillips, 2006): An approach that can be described as one of “divide and conquer.” Complex problems can be solved by dividing them into smaller, simpler, and thus more tractable pieces.

**Holism:** a concept that is concerned with the patient as a whole; including the body, the mind, the spirit, and the surrounding environment (Owen & Holmes, 1993).

**Multiculturalism:** “focus on understanding and living with cultural and social difference” (Fay, 1996).
How to Integrate Multiple Ways of Knowing and Multiculturalism in Psychiatric Nursing
Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Chiang Mai Thailand is located in Northern Thailand.

Provided a Bachelor of Nursing Science Program.

Designed to produce registered nurses who are of a strong moral character and possess a caring perspective.
In 2010, the Thai Government created a new program named

“The Project for Developing Nurses to Solve the Problem Concerning Ethic and Religious Conflict Occurring in Thailand’s Southernmost Three Provinces.”

**Purposes:**

- To provide nurses with the skills to meet the needs of local communities and to improve the quality of life of the youth who live in these areas.
Background

- Most student nurses, who came from Southern Thailand were Muslim.

- Southern students have a different culture and religion from Northern Thai people.

- Nursing instructors have a responsibility to deal with any potential problems and to develop the students’ nursing knowledge.

- Especially in psychiatric nursing, students tend to take care of patients who have mental health problems.
Buddhists and Muslims are different in terms of religion – based belief.

- Buddhist believes in the consequences of their behavior.
- Muslims believe in God named Allah. Allah decides about every person’s life.
Case study: Psychiatric Hospital

- Male student from the South was assigned to take care of a female patient who had a major depressive disorder.

- She was treated with unmodified electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

- During the ECT, student took care of patient by using hands to support the patient’s hands, legs, hips and head.

- Student felt guilty with the nursing practices because it conflicted with his Islamic practices.
The student had thought that ECT and anti-depression medication had been enough for his patient’s treatment program.

Some students thought treatment with medicine was more important than taking a holistic approach, demonstrated the limitations of taking a reductionist approach.

Discussing the issue by comparing a patient with physical illness and a patient with mental health illness.
Using a holistic approach to take care of psychiatric patients is more likely to help nurses and student nurses to understand the patients.

Nursing instructor discussed how different cultures, beliefs and religions may influence students’ perspectives.

As a result of the conferences the student nurse had a better understanding of his patient and adopted more holistic approach to take care of his patient.
Case study: Community mental health nursing

- One female student nurse from the south of Thailand had an assignment to care for a male with alcohol dependence and his family.

- Visiting the patient: the patient was a labourer and his wife was a pork seller, two daughters, and two dogs running around the house.

- The patient drank alcohol after work.

- After he got drunk, he could not control himself and then he had hallucinations.
The patient’s wife and the people in the community believed that hallucinations are caused by ghosts.

People in the community treated him by using holy water and then they restrained him in his house.

The student nurse advised his wife to bring the patient to the psychiatric hospital but his wife did not believe her.

Student felt like she was a stranger, unable to assess the patient’s health information and did not understand some of the unfamiliar cultural behaviours of the patient and his wife.

The student wanted to change her assignment of her case study.
The problem occurred from multicultural perspectives on nursing care.

Using multi-perspectives would be appropriate for taking care of patients.

Maintaining open-mindedness to gain a broad understanding of patients in terms of cultures, beliefs, religions, occupations, and their behaviors.

In this case study, the nursing instructor and nursing student could have counselled the family to help them understand the psychiatric symptoms and treat them holistically by integrating the community treatment plan with medicine.
Conclusion

- Nurses should be aware that different cultures, lifestyles, and beliefs of patients can affect their care of the patient.

- Applying reductive and holistic theory according to patients’ behaviors, cultures, and religions is very important for nurses to take care of patients.
Thank you