INTRODUCTION

Dignity is a word used frequently throughout nursing literature. It describes fundamental practices in nursing and directs nurses how to care for individuals and communities. The use of the concept of dignity in nursing is vast and well accepted. Yet, the meaning of dignity by the nursing profession remains unclear through obscure and vague definitions and understandings.

RESULTS – DIGNITY DEFINITION

Dignity is a quality unique to all humans, and includes two inseparable components of inherent dignity & personal dignity.

- Inherent dignity is inviolable and unchangeable.
- Personal dignity reflects dignity as related to the person, and the social aspect of dignity through relations to other.
  - Personal dignity is dynamic, exists with broad conditions, and can be affected by processes that will lead to positive or negative consequences.

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

Dignity can be understood by nurses to include both inherent and personal components and that personal dignity can be affected by actions and lead to consequences. Future work on exploring dignity may center on the expansion of validated dignity screens and develop evidence based interventions that promote and protect dignity.

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