

Dimensional Analysis of Dignity

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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.

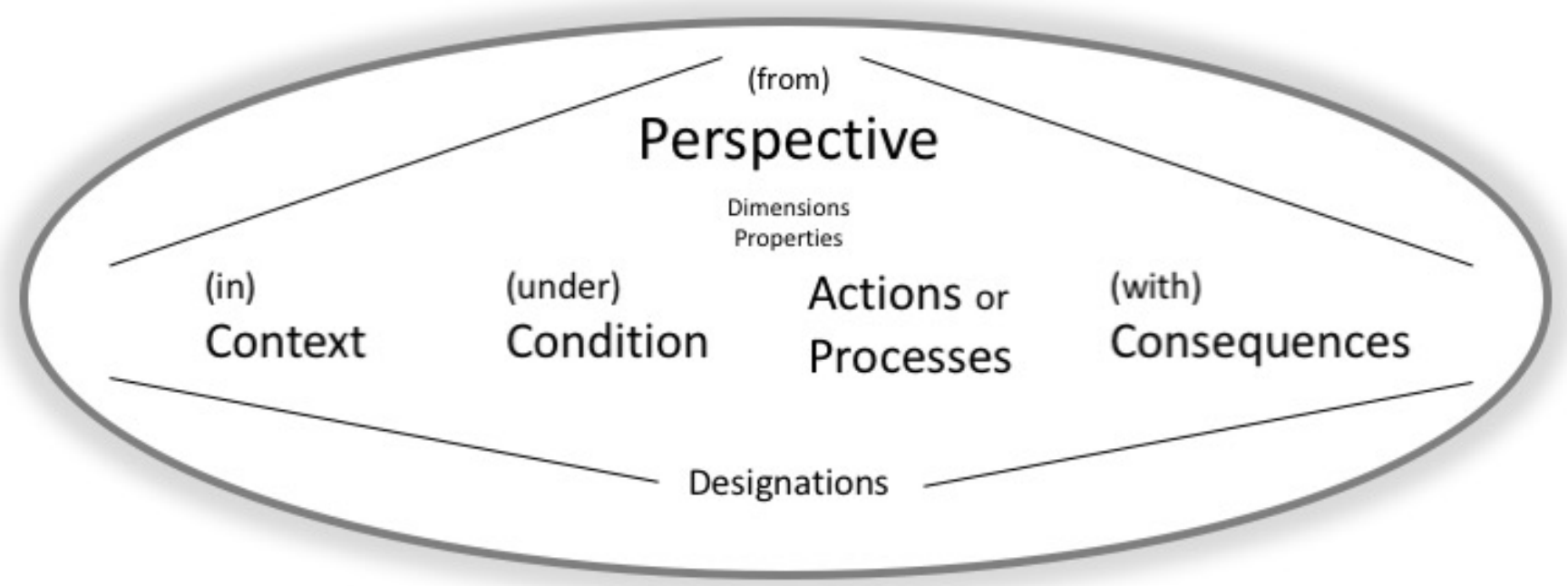
PURPOSE

The aim of this concept analysis is to provide a dimensional analysis of dignity as a fundamental value in nursing practice, for the purpose of furthering nursing's understanding of dignity. This analysis was supported through categorization of data obtained through a literature review of nursing's understanding and use of dignity, and also of other related fields including medicine, education, and human rights organizations.

METHODS

The method used is *dimensional analysis*, originally developed by Leonard Schatzman (1991), which provides structure and explanatory power to communicate findings. Research findings, obtained through a literature review, are categorized through:

- *Perspective*- organizes integration of findings within other dimensions
- *Context*- situation in which dimensions occur, and sets boundaries
- *Condition*- facilitate, block, or shape actions and interactions
- *Processes*- moved by specific conditions; include actions and interactions
- *Consequences*- outcomes of specific actions and interactions



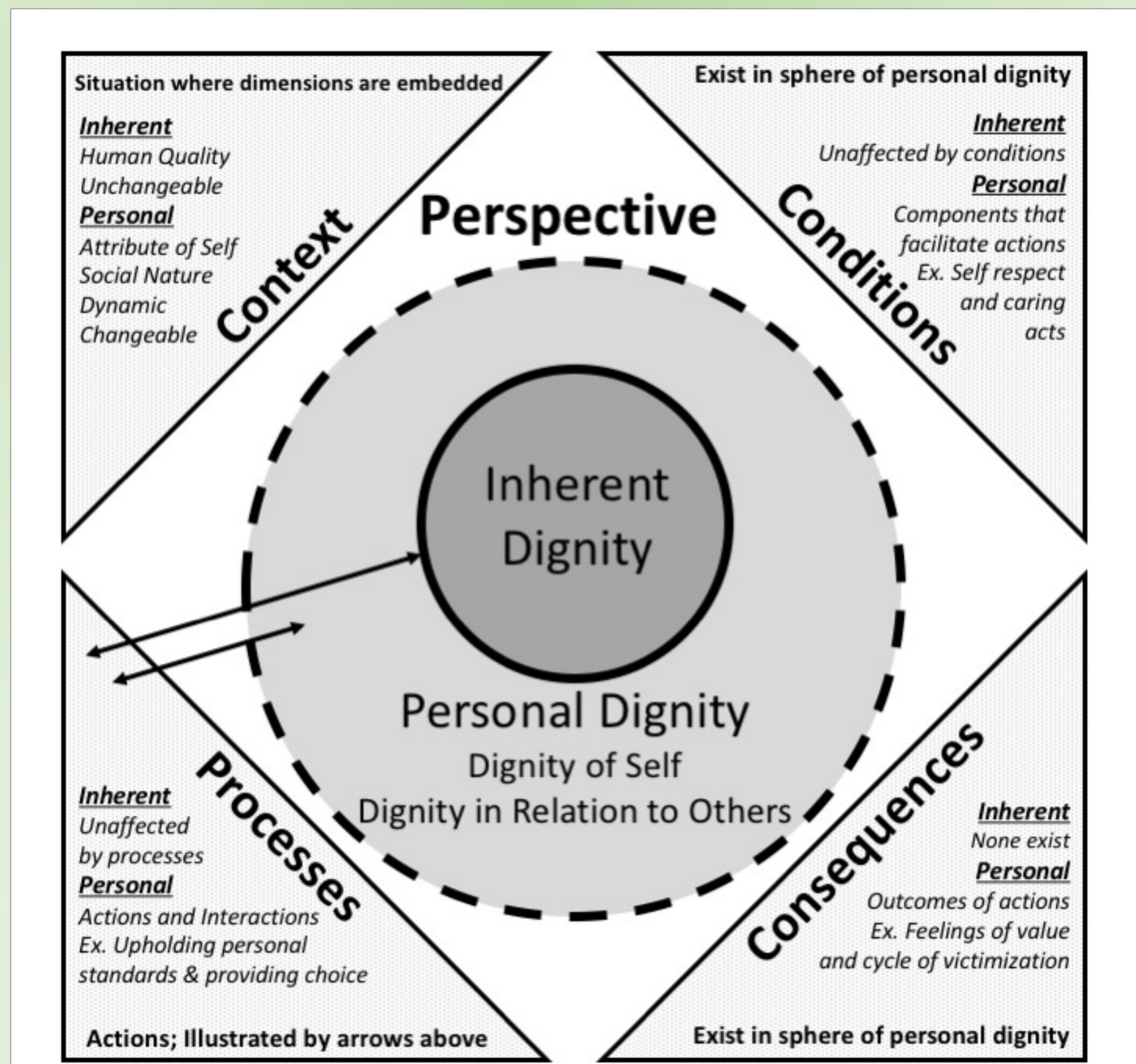
Dimensional Analysis Explanatory Matrix; Adapted from Schatzman (1991)

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.

CONCEPT MAP



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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES

Schatzman, L. (1991). Dimensional analysis: Notes on an alternate approach to the grounding theory in qualitative research. In D.R. Maines (Ed.), *Social organization and social process* (pp.303-314).