

Spirituality in Nursing: Faculty-student collaboration

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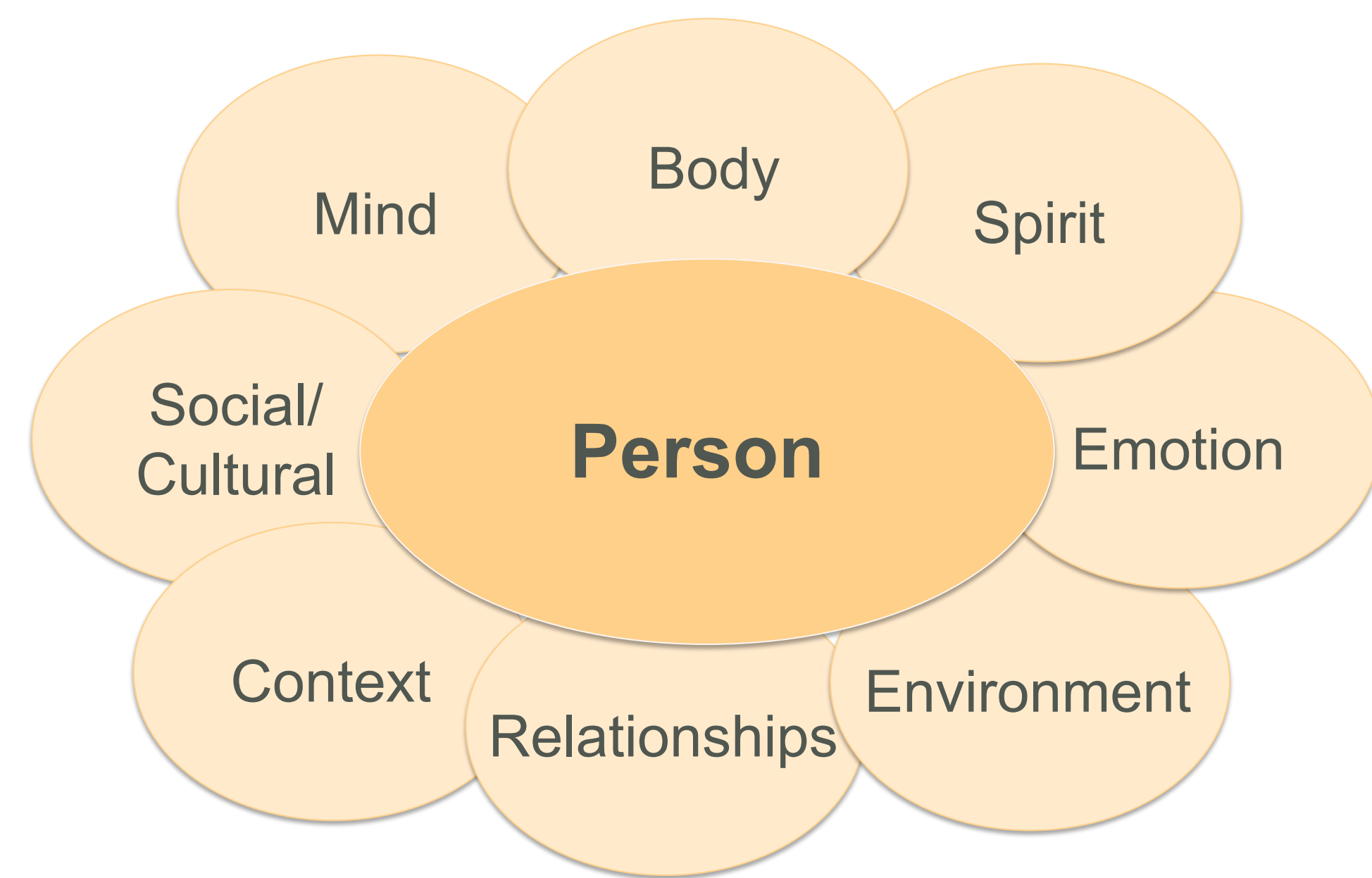
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Introduction



Nursing students face challenging, life-and-death situations in the clinical settings.

Spirituality in nursing is to be understood and practiced within a meaningful paradigm, which includes religious and non-religious system of beliefs and values, and understanding of what gives life meaning, purpose, and connection with others. Thus, faculty-student collaboration is necessary to identify ways to address spirituality in nursing in a practical way to promote holistic concept.

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) has been identified as one of the ways to build competency for addressing spirituality in nursing. NCF is a support group, which yearns to help bring insight and training for nursing students, nurses, and faculty to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals.

Purpose

To describe the faculty-student collaboration in identifying strategies to help address spirituality in nursing, in order to promote holistic concept of nursing through a sense of personhood and individuality.

Learning objectives:

1. The learner will be able to describe the faculty-student collaboration to address spirituality and promote holistic concept in nursing.

2. The learner will be able to discuss the impact of Nurses Christian Fellowship as a support group to help bring insight and training for nursing students to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation.

Method

Faculty and nursing students collaborated to identify ways to address spirituality and promote holistic concept of nursing.



• Literature Review

Keywords:

Spirituality in nursing, spirituality, faith-based fellowship, nursing support group, holistic care, faculty-student collaboration

• Interview

Nursing faculty and students

- To identify the need for an on-campus student-body fellowship to:
 - (a) address spirituality in nursing
 - (b) promote holistic concept in nursing.

• Proposal

- Proposal to establish Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter was submitted to the School of Nursing.
- With permission from the School of Nursing, proposal for Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter was submitted to the university's Student Association Senate.

• Networking

- Establish networking with the Intervarsity Nurses Christian Fellowship ministry to receive guidance in launching the Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter.

• Approval

- Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter launching was approved by the Student Association Senate and the Chapter was fully recognized by the university's Student Association Senate, under Senate Bill No. 02: Forty-Ninth Session.

Results

- Recognizing that nursing students face challenging, life-and-death situations in the clinical settings, the need for the Nurses Christian Fellowship was identified as a support group.



- Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter monthly meetings were initiated.
- Chapter leaders were able to recruit undergraduate and graduate nursing students as well as faculty, for the monthly meetings.
- The fellowship meetings have been designed to promote integration of Christian faith and professional nursing, to engage in evangelism and service, to practice spiritual formation in the context of community, and to be empowered to share faith with other nursing students and faculty.
- The chapter welcomed all nursing students and faculty members at the School of Nursing regardless of their religious or spiritual background.
- Faculty and students expressed the Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter as a tool to be encouraged, to grow in faith in the context of nursing school, and be equipped to integrate faith with nursing through Bible study and spiritual care resource.
- The NCF chapter helped member participants in meeting the holistic needs of their patients.



Main Points

Main point #1: Concept of holistic nursing, spiritual needs of patients, nursing students, nurses, and faculty, importance of competency for spirituality in nursing profession.

Main point #2: Faculty-student collaboration in identifying strategies to efficiently address spirituality in order to promote holistic concept of nursing.

Main point #3: Nurses Christian Fellowship as a support group to build competency for addressing spirituality in nursing and to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation, as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals.

Main point #4: Nurses Christian Fellowship Chapter as a tool to practice spiritual formation in the context of community, to empower for sharing faith with other nursing students and faculty in the context of nursing school and to equip for integrating faith with nursing through spiritual care resources.



Conclusion

• Faculty-student collaborative efforts are vital to identify strategies necessary for addressing spirituality in nursing efficiently in order to promote holistic concept in nursing through a sense of personhood and individuality.

• Having Nursing Christian Fellowship as a support group within a school of nursing is a powerful way for students and faculty to find community with like-minded people in a safe environment; to understand the role of spirituality and faith in their vocation as well as their spiritual care responsibilities as healthcare professionals.