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A Concept Analysis of Innovation in Nursing

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Abstract

Innovation in nursing has become an increasingly important concept in nursing literature. In the concept analysis, definitions of the innovation in different fields as well as nursing were reviewed. To use a common terminology, it is needed to clarify concept of innovation, nursing education programs, and health professionals should pay strict attention to correct use of that concept. This concept analysis provides a greater understanding of the innovation term to help its use in the nursing.

Keywords: Concept analysis; innovation; nursing; nursing care.

1. Introduction

Innovation is not a new concept to the nursing profession. Nurses worldwide are engaged in innovative activities on a daily basis; Activities motivated by the desire to improve healthy person/patient care outcomes and the need to reduce costs. Many of these initiatives have resulted in significant improvements in the health of patients, populations and health systems. However, the nursing contribution to health care innovation is seldom recognized, publicized or shared among nursing and the wider public (Dil et al., 2012).

Nursing innovation is a fundamental source of progress for health care systems around the world. Nurses work in all settings with healthy persons, all types of patients, families, communities, health care personnel and personnel in
other sectors. Nurses are critically positioned to provide creative and innovative solutions that make a real difference to the day-to-day lives of our patients, organizations, communities and profession (ICN, 2009).

2. Organizing Framework

The organizing framework used in this study was adapted from that developed by Wilson and modified by Walker and Avant to include 8 iterative procedural steps. This study’s analysis included 7 stages that are described in Table 1.

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Adapted from the organizing framework developed by Wilson and modified by Walker and Avant.

3. Concept Definition

In literature, there are many definitions of the concept of innovation. Given the history of the innovation concept means “a new and different thing to do”. In Latin, innovation is derived from the root of “innovate” (Dil et al. 2012).

Innovation occurs in order to meet a requirement/to fill a gap. In the concept analysis, definitions of the innovation in different fields as well as nursing were reviewed and it was found out that it is associated with the concepts “novelty, creativity and change”. While the concept of innovation has an important place in the instruction, research and practices of nursing, there are multiple definitions of this concept in the nursing literature. These multiple definitions show that the concept is not clear.

In the dictionary of Turkish Language Association, innovation is defined as “starting the use of new methods in social, cultural and administrative environments to adapt to changing conditions; change and innovation” (TDK 2015). According to the Merriam Webster’s Dictionary Online, innovation is defined as “a new idea, method, or device.”

Innovation is described as ‘to renew the science and technology for the society to benefit from them, to invent, and to make difference (Dil et al., 2012; Mcsherry & Douglas, 2011).

The National Health Service (NHS) Institute for innovation and improvement (2011) state innovation is about doing things differently or doing different things to achieve large gains in performance. It is a myth that most innovations come from laboratories, policy makers or senior leaders. Most innovations, whether in the public sector or the private sector, come from staff working within those organizations (McSherry & Doglas, 2011). According to the International Council of Nurses (ICN), innovation is the process of developing new approaches, technologies and ways of working (ICN, 2009).

Innovation is the application of creativity or problem solving that results in a widely adopted strategy, product, or service that meets a need in a new and different way. Innovations are about improvement in quality, cost-effectiveness, or efficiency (Lachman et al., 2006).
The purpose of this concept analysis was to distinguish the use of the concept of high-stakes testing in nursing education from its use in other fields, such as public education. This process included examining the concept, how it is being used, and its similarities and differences to other related words or concepts. Such an examination can clarify the innovation for both nurses, and nursing students.

4. Literature Review

Innovation is not a new concept in the nursing profession (ICN, 2009). Throughout the world, nurses participate in innovative actions in order to improve the results of the care of health people and patients and to reduce expenses. Most of these actions aim to ensure the health well-being of the society, groups and individuals. The CINAHL, PubMed, Ebsco Academic Search Primer, Google Scholar, and ERIC databases were searched.

5. Uses of the Concept

Innovation is used to describe the latest flat-screen television, the newest computer, and the design of a bottle of water. Innovations often arise out of necessity in order to address a need or a gap in service or technology. Innovation is the useful application to make change to one’s economic or social potential (Weberg, 2009). Innovation is to a large extent considered a social and communicative process, and input from other individuals potentially improves the generation of novel and valuable ideas also in the early stages of idea creation and development (Bergendahl & Magnusson 2015).

It is important to understand that innovation has multiple contexts, but the essence of innovation, whether social, technological, or other, remains that an innovation changes the way an organization interacts with the environment and how organizations view their relationships both within and among others (Weberg, 2009).

Innovation is the process of developing new approaches, technologies and ways of working. It can apply to tools and technologies and processes, or to the way an organization or an individual behaves, works or acts (ICN 2009). As a process, innovation comprises the emergence, development and implementation of ideas which may be distributed within and across organization. It has, however, been questioned whether practices, rather than ideas, are the main source of innovation (Larsen & Bogers, 2014; Xerri & Brunetto, 2009).

Innovation sometimes comes in the form of a major breakthrough with farreaching consequences. Many of the great inventions of history fall into this category. However, innovations can also be incremental rather than radical (Afuah, 1998). Incremental innovations involve a constant process of refinement, review and renewal to constantly improve the outcome or the product. Innovations may be technical, involving the development of a new or improved product or process, or administrative, which involves organizational structures and administrative processes (Afuah, 1998).

To produce qualified nurses who can meets the requirements in the globalized world; nursing education has become imperative to implement innovative strategies (Dil et al., 2012). Accordingly, International Council of Nurses (ICN) and European Union (EU) acclaimed 2009 as the ‘Year of Innovation’ with the aim of introducing it as the ultimate goal in the increase of international competitive capacity and broadening the horizons of the scientific institutions (ICN, 2009; Dil et al., 2012).

6. Characteristics of Innovation in Nursing

Innovation is a frequently used buzzword in healthcare (Weberg, 2009). Innovation is central to maintaining and improving quality of care. Without nurses, health and social care would come to a standstill because nurses are fundamental to high-quality healthcare. Nurses play a key role in determining the quality of health and social care and enabling people to make choices, and in public health, health promotion, and illness prevention-crucial elements
of future health care. It is indicated the excellence in practice and innovation requires leadership teams must take the responsibility for training and development, recruitment, and reward systems that elevate the innovation. For nurses to become sound innovators and entrepreneurs in the future (McSherry & Doglas, 2011).

Nursing innovation is a fundamental source of progress for health care systems around the world. And nurses innovate to find new information and better ways of promoting health, preventing disease and better ways of care and cure (ICN 2009).

According to a report by ICN (2009), innovation in nursing applications is extremely important for improving health, preventing diseases, describing and avoiding risk factors, developing healthy life standard attitudes, and qualifying the care and treatment methods; because innovation helps updated knowledge, method and services be invented and discovered by the institutions. Innovation strategies which are used in the processes of planning, presentation and evaluation of the nursing services are among the most effective elements affecting the quality of the facilities; because nurses bear the responsibility of discovering better versions of nursing services at the best cost and quality in addition to their main role in health system which is the patient care; and their knowledge of what they are doing and their scientific bases; and continuous questioning process of effectiveness of their services.

Innovation starts with a good idea, but it is much more than that. It also refers to the process of turning that good idea into something that can be used, something that is implementable and achievable, and hopefully, will bring about better health promotion, disease prevention and better patient care. In South Africa, nurses use their mobile phones to support people living with HIV/AIDS and to improve adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ARVs). Similarly, nurses in Iceland provided telephone based nursing intervention and reduced fatigue and distress for mothers who received up to five telephone calls over two months from a skilled nurse counselor (ICN, 2009; McDonald, 2005).

Rogers used innovation to describe the services provided by nurses in the future. She also described change as innovative, unpredictable, and unidirectional. Rogers saw the future of nursing as having the power to change the potential of our patients’ health as well as the social potential of the profession. Rogers discussed nursing as being continuously innovative and changing; therefore, by understanding what innovation consists of, it is then possible to begin to look at how nursing can stay innovative and survive as a relevant profession. This use of the concept of innovation is a strong example of innovation being something more than simply something new (Rogers, 1992; Weberg, 2009).

Innovation requires vision, structure, strategy and engagement with associated partners and stakeholders to evaluate the impact of care and services in order to improve care and services (McSherry & Doglas, 2011).

Nurse innovators are opening access to care for the underserved, creating systems to support and enhance the health of elders living independently, designing minute clinics for convenient access, improving the care of mothers and children, and transforming care at the bedside. The challenges of emerging technologies, balancing the cost and quality of care, and a raging nursing shortage necessitate a deeper consideration of the nature of innovation and how it operates, how innovators think and view problems, if and how innovation can be taught, and how organizational cultures foster or suppress innovation (Lachman et al., 2006).

To produce qualified nurses who can meets the requirements in the globalized world; nursing education has become imperative to implement innovative strategies. It is important to draw out attention on the importance of providing a common future visio and integration methods within innovative strategies to support the development of vocational knowledge and skills of nursing students (Dil et al., 2012).
7. Conclusion

The purpose of innovation, move toward innovation in addition gaining competitive advantage thus increase the financial performance by being a strong and successful company. Innovation in nursing is fundamental to ensure and develop the quality of care. In this context, innovation is used in nursing to produce information, protect health, prevent diseases and offer personalized care. For all these innovation processes, it is required to have a well-trained nurse labor and a service management system that will allow such labor force to head towards innovation. It can be seed that some medical terms that are used in the field of health are loan words or they are used in Turkish with an incorrect equivalence. To use a common terminology, it is needed to clarify the concept of innovation, and nursing education programs and health professionals should pay strict attention to correct use of that concept. Accordingly, it should be maintained that nurses are able to participate in innovative actions in their professional lives and reflect them in their professional practices.

References