

THE CONCEPT OF NURSING IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF NURSES IN REGION I

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This research endeavored to describe the concept of nursing in the Philippines from the perspective of Ilocano nurses for the purpose of developing a nursing description which is based on the Filipino nurses' perception on their nursing practice that will contribute to the richness of the concept of nursing in the Philippines. The descriptive phenomenology of qualitative research was employed. The participants of the study were the 16 practicing nurses in Region I (Ilocos Region) who were identified through purposive sampling based on the set inclusion criteria. The researcher utilized the in-depth semi-structured individual interview to gather the data and used the Collaizi's method in data analysis. The findings of the study revealed four (4) major themes: 1) Mangtaraken or Caring, 2) Mangpasantak or Nurturing, 3) Mangipateg or Valuing, and 4) Mangsalimetmet or Preserving. Nurses in the Ilocos Region describe the concept of nursing in the Philippines as mangtaraken which described as the art, science and discipline of caring, mangpasantak which aims to nurture an individual, mangipateg which pertains to valuing the individual, family and community and mangsalimetmet which refers to the preservation of the profession, culture and knowledge generation. The findings revealed that the description of nursing is culture-based that is deeply rooted to their traits as Ilocanos.

Keywords: Concept of nursing, perspective of nurses, Ilocano nurses, Region I, Ilocos Region, caring, nurturing, valuing, preserving

Introduction

The question "What is nursing and what is the function of the nurse?" is fundamental to anyone choosing to pursue the study and practice of nursing (Henderson 1995, as cited by Gordon et. al., 2010). However, as this question appears to be a simple question and it has exercised the argumentative minds of many people throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (Roper, 1994). The description of the concept of nursing varies from practicing nurses. The word concept as defined by Kaplan (1964, as cited by Walker & Avant, 2011, p. 59) pertains to the "mental image of a phenomenon, an idea, or a construct in the mind about a thing or an action."

Historically, the first definition of nursing was coined by Florence Nightingale (1859/1992), the mother of modern nursing who stated that "What nursing has to do... is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him" (Nightingale, 1898 p. 104). She considered hygiene as the central element to health care and is the key to attain good health. In addition, Nightingale considered nursing as a calling from God and service to Him was service to humanity (Calabria & Macrae, 1994). In the past, nursing as a discipline depended heavily on other academic disciplines such as physiology, sociology, psychology, and medicine to provide academic standing in informing practice. However, in recent years, nursing has been seeking what is unique to nursing and developing those aspects

into an academic discipline (McEwen & Wills, 2007). Smith and Parker (2010) noted that “defining nursing in terms of the nursing process or by functions or activities performed is problematic” (p. 3). For instance, a nurse in the hospital will perform activities which are different from the activities carried out by a community nurse or a nurse educator in a nursing school. Therefore, defining nursing based on tasks alone will not provide a universal definition of nursing. Definition of nursing rather should be based on the description on the concept of nursing from different nurses who practice the profession in hospitals, communities, and academic institutions.

In her time, Henderson began to question the concept of nursing as ancillary to medicine (Henderson, 1991, as cited by Gordon et. al., 2010) which might be the reason for her to develop an interest in defining nursing. Nursing has been seen as subservient to medicine, and nurses have delayed in identifying and organizing professional knowledge (McEwen & Wills, 2007). At present, Henderson’s (1966) definition of nursing is most well known internationally which states that:

“The unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge. And do this in such a way as to help him gain independence as rapidly as possible” (p. 87, as cited by Furukawa & Howe, 2002).

The American Nurses Association (ANA) also defined nursing as “the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, preventions of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering

through diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations” (ANA, 2014, p. 6). This definition of nursing may be applied in American setting and also to other geographic locations.

But then, Henderson (1991, as cited by Gordon et. al., 2010) stressed that nursing is varied from country to country and the “nature of nursing” still remains an unanswered question since attempts to define it have been unsuccessful. In Asian region, nursing is wide-ranging. Hisama (2000; 2001, as cited by Pang et al, 2004) and Shin (2001, as cited by Pang et al, 2004) observed some distinctive features of nursing theory development from an Asian perspective. Their observation was based on a survey which revealed that Chinese nurses are more virtue-based, American nurses are more principle-based, and Japanese nurses are more care-based. In Turkey, the word ‘nursing’ is used to define concepts which are all female roles like sister, foster mother and wet nurse. In addition, nurses are considered to be people who give injections and assistants who are bound to doctors (Karaback, et al, 2012). Currently, nursing and medicine are so interconnected which becomes more difficult to set boundaries in relation to each one’s practice (Haylock, 2002) and this situation sets confusion to the society.

In the Philippines, Sotejo and Jackson (1964) posited that there is a growing confusion on the true meaning of nursing. They believed that the question “What is nursing?” should be asked until such time as nurses themselves are able to furnish a satisfactory answer (Sotejo and Jackson, 1964). Although, a person practicing nursing in the country is defined legally in the Article VI, Section 28 of the Republic Act 9173, otherwise known as

the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002 (Republic Act No. 9173 | Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines (n.d.).

“A person is deemed to be practicing nursing when he/she singly, or in collaboration with another, initiates and performs nursing services to individuals, families, and communities in any health care setting ...As independent practitioners, nurses are primarily responsible for the promotion of health and prevention of illness. As members of the health team, nurses shall collaborate with other health care providers for the curative, preventive, and rehabilitative aspects of care, restoration of health, alleviation of suffering, and when recovery is not possible, towards a peaceful death.”

The lack of description on the concept of nursing in the Philippines or any definition of nursing that can be found in the Philippine literature perhaps is the reason that would explain why Filipino nurses embrace the idea of adopting definitions of nursing from Western literature such as the American Nurses' Association (1995, as cited by ANA, 2014) and Henderson's work (1966, as cited by Furukawa & Howe, 2002). These adopted nursing definitions are being taught to nursing students in nursing schools and is widely recognized and accepted by professional nurse throughout the country.

It will be interesting to look into how Ilocano nurses describe the concept of nursing from their perspective and to know if their culture influenced their description. Ilocanos are known to be simple, hardworking, determined, appreciative, and persevering people. They are stereotyped as being thrifty and family-oriented, placing value on

education. While they are often called *'kuripot'* it is understood that they have difficulty earning a living in their territories.

A description on the concept of nursing as it is practiced in the Philippines among the regions should be established until a formalized definition of nursing in the country is developed. Although, this attempt might become a challenge since the government does not prioritize gathering and retaining information about health human resources (Baumann, 2013), nurses should always seek to examine the meaning and discover the nature of the nursing profession. The society which includes even the professional nurses have a hard time describing the nature of nursing. The questions, “What is the practice of Filipino nurses?” and “How do we know that the practice of nursing in the Philippines is nursing and is uniquely Filipino?” if answered, will benefit the nursing profession well in its advancement.

With the lack of description on the concept of nursing in the Philippines, it is therefore essential for Filipino nurses to describe nursing as it is practiced in the country. It will be a good start to look into how Ilocano nurses describe the concept of nursing considering their characteristics and traits and the richness of their culture and tradition that might have influenced their perspective. Indigenous practice values and collective understanding in nursing can be reflected from nurse's experience which can serve as a source of ideas and inventiveness in developing relevant knowledge base to inform practice (Pang, et al, 2004). Exploring the perspectives or the meaning of nursing experiences from practicing nurses particularly in the Ilocos Region due to its uniqueness in its cultural background will bring richness of that experience to be shared and be integrated into the wholeness of nursing

in the Philippines. This action can provide Filipino nurses the ability to recognize nursing which is a unique and distinct profession as practiced in the Philippines.

Objective of the Study

This study aimed to describe the concept of nursing in the Philippines from the perspective of practicing nurses in the Ilocos Region.

Methodology

This study employed the descriptive phenomenology research method which involves “direct exploration, analysis, and description” of the concept of nursing from practicing nurses in the Ilocos Region in the Philippines, “as free as possible from unexamined presuppositions, aiming at maximum intuitive presentation” (Spiegelberg, 1975 as cited by Streubert & Carpenter, 2011, p. 81) and to arrive at a description of the concept of nursing that is based on this common understanding. By utilizing phenomenology, it is assumed that there is an essence that can be understood (Polit & Beck, 2004) on the lived experiences of the participants in this study. Since the purpose of phenomenology is to describe particular phenomena, or the appearance of things, as lived experience (Speziale & Carpenter, 2007, as cited by Penner & McClement, 2008), the use of this research approach provided description on the concept of nursing as perceived by the practicing nurses in the region. Moreover, the use of phenomenology as research approach in this study made the participants share their experiences as practicing nurses since questions about their perceptions on the concept of nursing based on their experiences were asked and were collected in the form of

data that were analyzed and were described into an exhaustive narrative description.

Locale and Participants of the Study

A total of 16 participants have been selected based on the following inclusion criteria: 1) Nurses who were at least twenty-five (25) years old and employed as a hospital nurses, rural health nurses, and nurse educators in nursing schools for at least three (3) years. Patricia Benner’s (1984, as cited by NSW Health, 2011) Novice to Expert Theory states that after three (3) years of experience in the practice, the nurse becomes a proficient nurse who perceives situations as a whole rather than divides the parts or aspects. Proficient nurses understand a situation as a whole because they perceive its meaning in terms of long-term goals. The proficient nurse learns from experience what typical events to expect in a given situation and how plans need to be modified in response to these events; 2) Nurses with varying positions/designations hold and educational attainment; 3) ‘Information-rich’ nurses, that is practicing nurses who have a clear idea on the concept of nursing in the region and who can provide the greatest insight into the research question; and 4) Nurses from the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan.

The 16 participants for this study consisted of four (4) staff nurses, three (3) nurse supervisors, two (2) chief nurses, four (4) nurse educators, and three (3) public health nurses. Among them, five (5) have been in the nursing practice for more than three (3) years, four (4) for more than 10 years, two (2) for more than 20 years, three (3) for more than 30 years, and two (2) for more than 35 years. Three (3) nurses are from Ilocos Norte, seven (7) are from Ilocos Sur, four (4) are from La Union, and two (2) are from Pangasinan.

Purposive sampling has been utilized to identify the participants. Purposive sampling selects individuals to participate in the study based on their particular knowledge of a phenomenon for the purpose of sharing their knowledge (Streubert & Carpenter, 2011). The 'maximum variation sampling' (Patton, 2002 as cited by Polit & Beck, 2004) as a strategy in purposive sampling was utilized to select cases with a wide range of variation on dimensions of interest and included participants with diverse backgrounds. Interviewing several samples from a variety of backgrounds, age ranges and cultural environments maximizes the likelihood of discovering the essences of phenomena across groups (Streubert & Carpenter, 2011).

Procedure for Data Generation

The researcher performed bracketing which attempted to achieve the state of transcendental subjectivity (neutrality) by putting aside prior understanding or preconceptions about the phenomenon under investigation (Wall, Glenn, Mitchinson, & Poole, 2004, as cited by Wojnar & Swanson, 2007).

After identifying hospitals and institutions where to invite participants, the researcher forwarded a letter to the Hospital Directors, Deans, and Medical Health Officers for the conduct of the study. Upon their approval, the researcher introduced himself to the participants, explained the nature and purpose of his study, the method of data collection, and allowed them to ask questions regarding his study.

The interview started with a general question "As an Ilocano nurse, how can you describe the concept of nursing based on your experience?" The researcher prepared questions with probes, or additional questions designed

to elicit further information such as "How did you feel then?", "Can you explain more?", and "What did you think then?" Follow-up questions were asked as appropriate to elicit more information and to clarify narrations provided by the participant. The researcher conducted individual interview in a form of conversation on the selected participants utilizing the interview guide and utilized active listening skills in the process. Through in-depth conversations, the researcher strived to gain entrance into the participants' world and to have full access to their experiences as lived (Polit & Beck, 2004).

The interviews were tape recorded, transcribed verbatim and the transcriptions were reviewed for accuracy. After the interview was completed, the researcher replayed the tape while listening carefully to the content as well as to the questions asked and the participant's responses (Morse & Field, 1995). The researcher then transcribed the tape as verbatim and did not paraphrase the data. Also, pauses during the interview were indicated by using dashes and ellipses in the transcription. The audio recorded interview and the transcript file was stored in a flash drive that was only accessible to the researcher.

Analysis of Data

Colaizzi's (1978, as cited by Wonar & Swanson, 2007) phenomenologic method was used as an approach to data analysis which includes: 1) Reading and rereading the participants' descriptions of the phenomenon; 2) Extracting significant statements that pertain directly to the phenomenon; 3) Formulating meanings for these significant statements; 4) The formulated meanings were then categorized into clusters of themes; 5) The findings were integrated into exhaustive description of the

phenomenon being studied; 6) The findings were validated by returning to some participants and; 7) Any changes offered by the participants were incorporated into the final description of the essence of the phenomenon (Colaizzi, 1978, as cited by Wojnar & Swanson, 2007).

Ethical Considerations

Ethical principles were considered in the conduct of the study. The participants were informed by the researcher what the study is about, including possible benefits and risks. The key informants' privacy, confidentiality, anonymity and self-determination were assured. The researcher asked them for their consent to participate and permission to use audio-recording during the interview.

A copy of this proposal was submitted to the Research Ethics Committee of Saint Louis University, Baguio City for review and approval. Approval was granted from the SLU-REC with certification number 2014-013.

Discussion

With a rich historical background and culture, nurses in the Ilocos Region describe the concept of nursing in the Philippines from their perspectives on different aspects. For them, the concept of nursing is described as '*Mangtaraken*', '*Mangpasantak*', '*Mangipateg*', and '*Mangsalimetmet*'.

Mangtaraken is described as rendering care to address the needs of an individual. Ilocanos are known as caring persons. They care for their family, loved ones, and friends. They also care for their work, lands and farms, crops, and animals. Everyone and everything around them is treated with proper care. It is in this context that Ilocano nurses are also caring by nature. The love and compassion of Ilocano nurses towards

their clients are the main reason for the quality care they render. The scientific and evidence-based nursing care that they give leads to an unconditional care for those in need. Although generally Ilocanos are known to be thrifty (*nakermet* or *naimut*) when it comes to management of financial and other resources, the Ilocano nurses do not hesitate to help people with health needs. Their dedicated service is evident in their long duration of nursing practice in the Ilocandia despite some challenges and despite the glamor of overseas employment.

Mangpasantak on the other hand refers to nurturing the person to help him or her feel important and fulfilled. When nurses serve as counselors and spiritual advisers to the patients with emotional and spiritual needs, this can lead to the patients' peace of mind, spiritual growth, self-fulfillment and also trust in the nurses.

Ilocano people always brighten the feelings of their loved ones. When a friend has a problem, they listen and give them advice. When a neighbor is in need of something, they share whatever they can despite how little they have. When a co-farmer needs assistance in his farm, they lend their hands. Ilocanos do this to help others and it makes the person in need feels better. The same thing is done by Ilocano nurses while rendering their service to individuals. Ilocano nurses continue to dedicate themselves in their work despite the treatment that they receive because what matters to them is to look after the patients' emotions. This Ilocano nurses' characteristic is connected to their attribute of loving other individuals who are important to them regardless of their status in life. They make sure that at the end of day, they will leave their workplace leaving a mark on their client's life making him or her feel inspired or elated.

Interacting and gaining trust are important factors in the nurturing capability of the nurse. When nurturing is rendered, the patient becomes more open to the nurse. When an openness from the client is achieved, it will create an opportunity for the nurse to render a better nursing care. Locsin (2010) posited that knowing the person occurs only when the person allows the nurse to enter his or her world. When this happens, the nurse and the nursed become vulnerable as they move toward further continuous knowing. Allowing the nurse to enter the world of the one having nursed is the mutual engagement of “power with” rather than having “power over” through a created hierarchy (Daniels, 1998 as cited by Locsin, 2010).

Conversely, *Mangipateg* pertains on how one treasures or cherishes someone because of his or her value. Ilocano nurses value individuals, families, and communities. As part of valuing individuals, it is expected that Ilocano nurses provide voluntary services which means that nursing care is rendered to all individuals regardless of their age, sex, religion, creed, or status. Part of this service is to aim towards promoting and restoring the health of individuals they suffer from illness, that leads to his or her restoration of wellness. Additionally, they act as catalysts of change and advocates for the individuals. They instill positive change so that the health status of their patients are greatly improved. At the same time, Ilocano nurses stand for the rights of the patients by being their advocates. Furthermore, they value their co-workers by being a manager to them making sure that their fellow nurses are supervised and assisted in every action they take. Ilocano nurses also value families by making sure that they have an enhanced family dynamics through helping them modify their lifestyle and promote optimum health.

Since they also value their community, Ilocano nurses look towards the implementation health programs to help the government attain its goals of providing the community the proper health it needs. Ilocano nurses are expected to promote a healthy global community by addressing the health concerns of individuals in every part of the world. They make sure that the community is empowered by identifying the health needs of the community, providing health education to its residents and leaders. Participating in community activities is one of the activities that Ilocano nurses do wherein they make themselves involved in community immersion, outreach programs, and services towards the community people.

The Ilocos Region is situated in between the barren lands of the Cordillera mountain ranges and the South China Sea. Although their rich land is blessed with agricultural benefits, making a living in Ilocos is very difficult. Unlike in the urban area, it is harder for Ilocanos to make money since they are very far from the center of trade and industry. For these reasons, they learn to treasure the things that they have so much that other people regard them as stingy when in fact they value their belongings. Ilocano nurses also imitate this characteristic of Ilocano people but on a different aspect which means that instead of valuing tangible things, Ilocano nurses value the worth of the individual, family, and community. They perform things that will make the life of their clients better and easier so as to show how nurses value them.

To show that Ilocano nurses value their clients, they render compassionate care and aim to restore their health. By educating the client, the nurse provides information that can help the individual become self-actualized and empowered. These actions by the nurse establishes a communication between her and the

client. In addition, the nurse makes an impact into the client's life when the latter witnesses that he or she is being valued by the nurse.

In nursing education, valuing may also refer to the desire of the nurse educator to make a change on the life of every nursing student. The nurse educator likes to mold students to become professionals and competent nurses someday that will make a difference on the life of every individual in the society. In nursing practice, nurses cherish and treasure the value of clients and the whole community by improving their lives through attending to their health concerns and needs.

Lastly, *Mangsalimetmet* is the act of preserving something because of its dignity or good purpose. Ilocano nurses try to preserve their profession, culture, and knowledge generation. For them, nursing is a noble profession which provides them a sense of self-fulfillment thus preserving it is intrinsic to them. As part of an indispensable workforce, they recognize that nurses as being the greatest in number among the health care providers have an important role to play in the provision of care to every individual. Regardless of the compensation they receive or factors such as weather condition, they dedicate themselves to their work to make sure that their duties and responsibilities are properly accomplished. One way of preserving the profession is for Ilocano nurses dedicate themselves in their work to provide a holistic and compassionate care to individuals regardless of their status. Also, for Ilocano nurses accomplishing challenging tasks preserve the good name and dignity of their profession.

Ilocano nurse also preserve the culture of their clients and the tradition of knowledge generation. They preserve and enhance a culturally-sensitive nursing

care making sure that the culture of the person being served is taken into consideration. At the same time, Ilocano nurses are expected to generate new knowledge for the nursing profession which will provide scientifically-grounded interventions and consequently result to better client health outcomes. The trait of Ilocano nurses as *mangsalimetmet* is related to the trait of Ilocanos who preserve the things that they have because of its dignity and good name such as their culture, traditions, beliefs, and values.

Ilocanos preserve their culture and tradition and pass them unto the next generations. Literature like *burburtia*, *daniw*, *dallot*, *dung-aw* are still practiced today. The Ilocano cloth, *abel Iluko* or *inabel* which reveals the Ilocano creativity is still worn today. Songs like *Duayya ni Ayat*, *Ti Ayat ti Maysa nga Ubing*, *Bannatiran*, *Manang Biday*, and *Pamulinawen* always bring pride and joy and a sense of nostalgia to Ilocanos in foreign countries. To this day and age, an Ilocano birthday party is wanting without the flower-giving ceremony to honor the birthday celebrator while *Padapadakam* is being sung by all. Ilocano nurses also reflect these characteristics by making sure that in rendering care to their clients, the nursing profession, the patient's culture, and the practice of generating knowledge is preserved and maintained.

To be able to maintain and preserve the nursing profession, Ilocano nurses possess honesty in their work and the dedication to care for clients from all aspects of life. Because of the noble work that nurses do as part of preserving their profession, the nursing profession has been widely recognized as an indispensable workforce. However, the nurse is faced with the different challenges in the workplace. The amount of paper works and many non-nursing tasks that need to be accomplished is recognized by the nurses as costs of

giving unconditional care. But despite the challenges mentioned, the nurse becomes self-fulfilled when she has rendered the best service her clients deserve.

Nurses in the Ilocos region have a varied range of perspectives on the concept of nursing in the Philippines. Although some of these concepts are influenced by Western literature, Ilocano nurses have provided viewpoints that are distinct to their own perspectives. The concept of nursing in the Philippines from the perspective of Ilocano nurses can be described as the act of caring and nurturing for the person wherein the nurse values individuals, families and community while preserving the nursing profession and the client's culture.

The description on the concept of nursing is culture-based since it is linked to the Ilocano culture, beliefs, values and traditions. Although the concept of nursing in the Philippines from the perspective of Ilocano nurses may likely or unlikely reflect the perception of nurses in the country, it is worthy to note that nurses in this region have deeply embraced their profession which led them to give descriptions on the concept of nursing of their own. It can be realized that their descriptions are connected to their roots as Ilocanos. The description of the concept of nursing that they have provided can be considered as unique that may represent the Filipino nurses.

It is always viewed that nursing is connected with caring and that the findings of this study also reveals this same notion. However, it can be postulated that nursing particularly in the perspective of Ilocano nurses is culture-based that includes caring, nurturing, valuing and preserving as compared to Chinese nurses who are virtue-based, American nurses who are more principle-based, and Japanese nurses who are more care-based (Hisama (2000; 2001, as cited by Pang et al, 2004) and Shin (2001, as

cited by Pang et al, 2004). With the fact that the concept of nursing is described in differently from country to country, Ilocano nurses have their distinct way of describing it. Nurses in Region I have taken the initial step to describe the concept of nursing from their perspective towards the journey of developing a description on the concept of nursing based on the common understanding of every Filipino nurses in the country.

Overall, the Ilocanos' concept of nursing is unique with the vernacular used to describe its cultural context, but at the same time reflects the universal concepts of nursing which focus on the provision of promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative quality nursing care to individuals, families and communities. It is also assumed that nurses from the different regions in the country can provide other descriptions of nursing that is based on their regional culture in the same way that Ilocano nurses have their own.

Conclusion

Nurses in the Ilocos Region describe the concept of nursing in the Philippines as *mangtaraken* which described as the art, science and discipline of caring, *mangpasantak* which aims to nurture an individual, *mangipateg* which pertains to valuing the individual, family and community and *mangsalimetmet* which refers to the preservation of the profession, culture and knowledge generation. The findings revealed that the description of nursing is culture-based that is deeply rooted to their traits as Ilocanos. The presence of Ilocano nurses' description on the concept of nursing may start the foundation of constructing and organizing a description of nursing in the Philippines that is based on the common or unanimous understanding of Filipino nurses in the country.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby forwarded:

1. In the academe, this study should be included as a reference to be used in the nursing education and findings of this study should be incorporated in the course syllabus and classroom discussion to provide the nursing students a description of nursing in the Philippines from the perspective of Ilocano nurses.
2. In nursing administration, the findings of this study can serve as basis in enhancing the practice of nursing in the country through revisiting and/or developing policies that will assist the nurse in performing challenging professional tasks and protecting them from performing non-nursing tasks at the barest minimum.
3. In the field of nursing practice, nurses should continue to render selfless, unconditional, nurturing, and compassionate professional nursing services to individuals, families and communities or groups despite the challenges that they experience in the workplace.
4. In nursing research, a similar study can be conducted on the concept of nursing in the different regions of the country which can eventually be consolidated to develop a unified concept of nursing in the Philippines.
5. A follow-up study can also be conducted utilizing the quantitative method to look into the agreement of the findings of this study with the other nurses in the region.
6. Nurses must continue to promote the profession by protecting the image of the profession,

participating in research and knowledge generation to provide scientific bases of nursing practice, and to render nursing care in consideration of the cultural needs of the clients that they serve.

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