**Week 7 A - Initial Discussion Prompt:**

*Ask five nurses the following question. Ask the question without explanation or expansion. Tell them you are doing a class project and need the following question answered. There are no right or wrong answers. “What is the purpose of nursing?” Ask five lay persons the exact same question in the exact same manner. Summarize your findings and report to the class. When you complete this project, you will have just completed your first qualitative research project. Albeit an abbreviated one, but nonetheless, a qualitative study.*

**Peer response**

**What is the purpose of nursing By Bethan**

The purpose of nursing is a definition that cannot be established by a set of words and is constantly evolving just as the profession of nursing is constantly evolving.  Nightingale (1969) describes the art of nursing to be clearly established to unmake what God had made disease to be, or in other words a reparative process.  This is a very abstract principle of nursing but one that is so general that is encompasses the spectrum of nursing.

To identify what modern individuals felt the purpose of nursing was, a brief survey was conducted. Two groups of individuals, five nurses and five lay individuals, were asked the question “What is the purpose of nursing?”.  The responses received from both groups, had some similarities but also some vast differences as well.

The responses to this question from the nurses were surprisingly briefer than that from the lay individuals.  This may be contributed to the understanding that nurses know their purpose and have trouble defining the purpose for the vast roles that nurses play.  The responses from the nurses were also geared more toward specific indications such as prevention, healing, education, catching mistakes and assessment.

The responses from the lay individuals were more generalized but more elaborate as well.  These responses were geared towards addressing what the patient needed.  Words such as caring, advocating, loving and educating about the patient were brought up.

The differences in responses were interesting. The lay individuals were likely thinking about the purpose of the nurse as a patient and what to expect a nurse to provide.  The nurses' responses were related to what the purpose of their job is in terms of their patients and duties.  The similarities in the responses that no one indicated the nurse's purpose to be anything other than positive.

 Nightingale, F. (1969). Notes on Nursing What it is and what it is not. Dover P

**Week 7 B - Initial Discussion Prompt:**

*Using any resources that you can find, identify the difference between nursing practice and advanced practice nursing. Support advanced practice nursing by identifying nursing theories that can be applied to advanced practice nursing.*

**Peer response**

**What is Advanced Practice Nursing? By Tiffany**

Registered Nursing (RN) and Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) have many differences. Both are originated from the same goal, safe and efficient patient care for all. Registered Nursing became a growing career over time from the need to manage wounded soldiers in the Crimean War and the Civil War (Nursing School Hub, 2021). This was the start of the growing career that many have flocked to over the years. As the career has continued to evolve, nurses again sprung into action when a physician shortage became apparent in the mid-20th century. “Advanced nursing practice began in the United States in the 1960s, following the passage of health care legislation (Medicare and Medicaid) that guaranteed citizens over age 65 and low-income citizens access to health care services” (Britannica, n.d., para. 1). This provided Registered Nurses with the ability to obtain more training to expand their knowledge and ability to manage patients on their own. As an RN, we have a great amount of autonomy in most of our roles. When you look at the responsibility of APNs, their autonomy is at a higher level than RNs as they “practice independently in most states with limited physician supervision” (Feeney, 2020, 4 section). APNs can also provide a diagnosis to their patients and order a treatment course where RNs cannot.

When reviewing nursing theories that support APNs, I was intrigued by King’s Conceptual System and Theories. This theory “focuses on the continuing ability of individuals to meet their basic needs so that they may function in their socially defined roles, as well as on individuals’ interactions within three open, dynamic, interacting systems” (King, 2018, para. 1). This theory focuses on three interacting systems: a personal system, an interpersonal system, and a social system. Within the personal system, self-growth and development speak to the career of an APN. Under the interpersonal system concepts, interactions and communication are also right in line with nursing. Both of these concepts are vital to their daily interactions with patients. The last concept of King’s theory is social system concepts. This concept encompasses authority, decision-making, and organization. Again, when considering an APN and their role, these are valuable concepts when managing patient care.

**References**

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