**Madeleine Leininger’s Theory of Cultural Diversity and Cultural Universality**

Beauty O. Eule

School of Nursing, Old Dominion University

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Ms. Wyche

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Leininger's theory of cultural diversity and universality or culture and transcultural nursing is also referred to as the theory of transcultural nursing (Alligood, 2022, p. 337). Transcultural nursing is one of the most comprehensive and inclusive theories among all nursing theories. The theory emphasizes the importance of having transcultural knowledge as nurses because one's cultural, spiritual, religious, and societal backgrounds play an important role in choosing and receiving nursing care. Leininger formulated her theory based on her understanding and knowledge of Anthropology (which studies humans, social relations, and development over time). One of the tenets of Leininger's theory is that understanding cultural and social structure factors were necessary to provide meaningful and satisfying care to people and predicted that they would be powerful influencers on culturally based care (Alligood, 2022, p. 342).

**The Goal of Transcultural Nursing**

The purpose of transcultural nursing is for nurses to acquire and build professional knowledge rooted in transcultural care to ensure that nurses can provide safe and culturally competent care in harmony with people of different cultures. To understand cultural beliefs and how transcultural care must be provided, Leininger identified the knowledge needed. For Leininger, inductive and deduction knowledge is essential in understanding people of diverse cultures. She also identified the concepts of emic and ectic (inside knowledge) knowledge. By emic knowledge, cultural information is obtained from inside the culture or indigenous of the culture. While ectic (outside knowledge), on the other hand, information is obtained from outside the culture or non-indigenous.

**Key Concepts in Leininger's Theory**

Leininger's theory has four key concepts: cultural diversity, cultural universality, culture-specific care, and culturally congruent care. Among these concepts, importance is placed on cultural diversity and universality as it relates to Leininger's theory. Cultural diversity focuses on the difference and commonalities between other cultures.

Cultural care diversity refers to the variabilities or differences in cultural care beliefs, meanings, patterns, values, symbols, lifeways, and other features among human beings related to providing beneficial care for clients from a designated culture (McFarland et al., 2015, p. 14, as cited in Alligood, 2022, p. 340).

While cultural university refers to cultural values, and phenomena that are shared or are common among diverse cultural groups.

**Nursing Journal Article Analysis**

The journal article on ethical issues titled Ethics and Defining Cultural Competence: An Alternative View. The journal discussed potential ethical questions surrounding the concept of culture and possible implications for education and practice from a theoretical nursing perspective (Milton, 2016). This article used the theoretical model of culture (Leininger's theory and the sunrise model) to explore ethical issues and alternative ethos. They collected large amounts of big data within specific categories or groups in a geographic location or by attaching a label according to ethnicity; persons are known to others by what is labeled; a cultural pattern and judgments about group health status can be made (Milton, 2016).

**Relating Theory to Clinical Practice**

In clinical practice or healthcare, Leininger's theory plays a vital role because understanding the client's culture is essential to provide holistic care to the client. The concept of culture was derived from anthropology and the care concept was derived from **nursing (**Leininger, 1988). It is because culture involves elements of personal identification, language, thoughts, communication, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions that are often specific to ethnic, racial, religious, geographic, or social groups, and their choice or acceptance of care is influence by their culture. The culture care theory provides a framework for assessment, decision, action, education, and or making a positive difference in this culturally diverse society (Jeffery et al., 2018).

**Relating Theory to Personal Philosophy**

My philosophy is that nursing care must be individualized to ensure that each patient is cared for with respect to their individual beliefs, strengths, and weaknesses, not excluding their cultural, spiritual, religious, family, and community. Being able to deliver such care implies being culturally and transcultural competent. A culturally competent nurse who prioritizes the client over the diagnosis. Nursing care is not pre-determined based on bias and stereotypes but by assessing for authentic information from the client and the family. Nurses should not and ought not to define people by their medical definitions of health by pre-determined definitions of culture (Milton, 2006).

**Conclusion**

Leininger's view of the theory of transcultural nursing is to promote a better understanding of the universally held and shared understandings of care among humans and the culture-specific caring beliefs and behaviors that define any context or interaction. The objective of transcultural nursing is for nurses to have proficient knowledge of transcultural care to ensure that nurses can provide safe, culturally competent, and culturally congruent care to diverse clients. Having inductive and deductive knowledge helps the nurse to understand the emic and ectic of the client's culture.

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