

The Influence of Poststructuralism and its Impact on the Family Nurse Practitioner

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Poststructuralism is a rather complex theory to define when its application in theoretical and applied sciences is considered. The whole perspective of poststructuralism focuses on truth, power, discourse, and the various interpretation of the context of a literary text or research. It opposes the idea of a single meaning and context of any subject in existence and questions the validity of one truth (Mambrol, 2016). The poststructuralist paradigm is applied to different fields to change the course of interpretation and analysis of knowledge in the sciences. It has garnered attention in nursing science and other fields of applied sciences to consider alternative approaches for conventional research and methodologies of their area. This approach has helped nursing practitioners to explore new dimensions of the existing practices.

The Poststructuralist Concepts in Nursing

The poststructuralist school of thought deconstructs the existing perception of reality associated with evidence-based nursing skills, diagnoses, nursing models, and practices. The rigid explanation of the ideologies and methods in nursing practices has kept the coming generations from developing critical ideas. For elaboration, Holmes & Gagnon (2018) stated that the existing nursing conceptual models included in the training program and curriculum of the nursing practitioners are unable to incorporate the diverse phenomenon that these practitioners study. The independent thought process required to consider alternative practices and methodologies is restrained in the conventional practices questioning their power to practice as they deem appropriate for the given situation of a patient. Moreover, The poststructuralist theory is crucial for practitioners to shift from a discursive to a subversive approach to resist the traditionally bounded methods. The practitioners are influenced to resist the ideological concepts

of limited growth in the nursing practice and to ask new questions about possible practices and their outcomes.

Poststructuralism critique of discourse and discipline

The early nursing practices were structured or imposed on claims of moral responsibility instilled by senior practitioners due to a lack of critical understanding of their position and power. Nursing practitioners were conditioned to act upon a fixed course of action in their practice. McIntyre et al. (2020) stated that nursing practices in modern training institutes for practitioners had been passed on from traditional motherhouse nursing systems. Scientific knowledge has particularly taken over the research methodologies in all applied sciences and is still prevalent in every research model. Nursing researchers also imply these estimation models for hypothesis testing, which is why traditional self-determination and self-management principles based on the morality and responsibility of these practitioners continue to a great extent even today. The reason for reiterating the importance of modern nursing practices for practitioners is that this profession is linked to their social, personal, and economic well-being as well. There are two experiences associated with the rise in the cost of nursing care in recent decades with the contemporary control system of nursing practices. People hire caregivers for home nursing from unprofessional and unlicensed yet trained personnel, which can lead to a decreasing role of nursing practitioners. On the other hand, Sandelowski (2000) elaborated on the increasing number of nursing practitioners indulging in different fields such as policy-making, education, clinical practices, and administration as well. Poststructuralism allows nursing practitioners and researchers to critically review the impact of such changes on nursing practices. The technological advancements in the nursing profession are viewed as a simplification and ease to nursing practitioners in their profession. However, the perspectives of

people such as Michel Foucault and Deleuze initiated a critical thinking process for nursing practitioners well as researchers to reflect on the real impact of this technology on the knowledge, power, and discourse of nursing practitioners and their growth as professionals.

Poststructural Discourse Analysis for COVID

The subjectivity of nursing practitioners was exacerbated in the times of COVID-19 when doctors, nurses, and other caregivers were on the frontline to withstand the global healthcare crises. Mohammed et al. (2021) analyzed the 'hero discourse' for nursing practitioners during the pandemic. The author explained the discourse as a contemporary cultural tool to normalize overworking in nursing practitioners while being exposed to the virus constantly. This discourse forced the nursing practitioners to work in harsh conditions and discursive practices. The predetermined model of nursing practice unable the practitioners to choose and define their conditions for working in such situations. The already prevailing cultural norms and barriers to nursing practices due to gender inequalities, financial constraints, and lack of support from the government worsened the situation for nursing practitioners. Although the public acknowledged the sacrifices and efforts of nursing practitioners, it could not justify the challenges imposed on them during the pandemic. Therefore, a poststructural perspective to highlight these challenges, including uncertainties of job during the pandemic, mental stress and pressure for managing the overload of corona patients, and constant fear of getting the viral infection in nursing practitioners, is important for questioning this 'hero discourse' (Maben & Bridges, 2020).

Conclusion

In brief, the poststructural perspectives of Foucault and Deleuze challenge the single interpretation for any subject along with the validity of one truth linked with these interpretations. This theory is being used to analyze the knowledge and discourse in applied

sciences, including nursing. This allows the nursing practitioners to decide independently on the discourse and consider an alternative to conventional practices. The traditional models of nursing practices bound nursing practitioners to self-discipline and responsibility, restricting the power of these practitioners. Similarly, discourse for nursing practitioners during the COVID has been challenged by poststructural ideas because of the interlinked subjectification of practitioners as heroes.

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