ABSTRACT

Title: 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 which are: 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.

The findings of 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. Also, it 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. 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. In addition, 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. 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. Lastly, nurses must continue to promote the profession by protecting its image, 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.